

to give us at least a fair, proportionate and reasonable adjustment of duties, so that our lead products, at all events, would be on the same basis as other products of Canada. If the Government decides to grant us a bonus, I wish to point out that if it is to be of any practical value, it will have to be an adequate one. There are two things we should not lose sight of in this connection. I wish you, Sir, to bear in mind that the Province of British Columbia contributes to the Dominion treasury more per capita than any other province and three times as much per capita as the average of the other provinces. I would also point out that it contributes in revenue to the coffers of this Dominion some \$2,000,000 per annum more than is expended in that province. I do not mention this to say that it should be the policy of the Government to expend in any one province all the money paid into its treasury by that province. But I merely wish to show that in asking for a large bonus, the Province of British Columbia is not drawing from the revenue or resources of any other province of the Dominion. Some two years ago there was an Act placed on the statutes providing for the payment of a bounty for refining lead. The purpose of this was to have our home product refined at home, that it might not be sent abroad to San Francisco or some other point, and freight charges and smelting charges paid upon it. That bounty ran for five years, and was \$5 per ton for the first year, \$4 per ton for the second year, \$3 per ton for the third year, \$2 per ton for the fourth year, and \$1 per ton for the fifth year, but in no year might the bounty exceed \$100,000. In order to gain the whole bounty the first year, it would have been necessary that 20,000 tons of lead should be mined in Canada. That bounty, so far, has cost very little to the country from the fact that the establishment of refineries cost considerable money. The only parties who took advantage of it was the Canadian Pacific Refining Company at Trail, a town near the silver-lead mining district. They have expended some \$40,000 or \$50,000 in a plant, and in an experiment in refining lead which was then tried for the first time outside a laboratory. The system experimented with has been demonstrated to be successful. It is known as the electrolytic system. The plant at the present time is capable only of turning out some 8,000 or 10,000 tons per annum. When the mining conditions again become normal in British Columbia, that plant will have to be largely increased. In view of the fact that the company have shown enterprise and have introduced this new system which is successful, and is in furtherance of science, and in view of the fact that probably only about \$10,000 of the bonus for the year ending 30th June, has been earned, I would ask that the time be extended for one year, within which they may earn bounty at the rate of \$5 per ton. Now, this bounty that already exists and the bounty that we propose asking must be treated separately. It will not answer the purpose of the producer of lead for us merely to have a modification in some way of the existing bounty paid to the refiner. What we will ask for, what we shall require in order that this industry may be stimulated by way of bounty, will be a bounty payable directly to the

producer of the lead. Here is the man to whom, we claim, if we are to receive assistance, by way of a bounty, that bounty must be paid. Taking the average price of lead for the last twenty years, and taking our settlement at the London prices, it brings to the producer about \$1.75 per hundred weight. By the closest and most careful figuring, the gentlemen who have had the matter in hand have decided that it is impossible for the mine owners in that district, outside of a very few whose quota would be small, to operate their mines successfully for less than a return of \$2.50 per hundred weight for their lead. So allowing for the price of \$1.75, the bonus should be such as would give to the producer the difference between \$1.75 and \$2.50, or 75 cents per hundred weight, or \$15 per ton. That is the bonus that will be asked. I may say that, since the speech of the Finance Minister was published throughout the country, I have received numerous telegrams, and resolutions from boards of trade both in the Territories and throughout the entire Province of British Columbia, urging upon me that I should ask the Government to reconsider the question of the adjustment of duties, so far as lead is concerned. I am only a young parliamentarian, and I do not know whether this can be done or not. I see no reason why not. At all events, I am going to ask that it be done, that the Minister of Finance reconsider the question in regard to the readjustment of the duties and the bonus to be given us. As to duties, I will only ask them to touch one item, this item of corroded lead. We are assured by two separate concerns that, if a duty of 30 per cent. is put on corroded lead, they are prepared to establish corroded works in the East here. If they do so—and they are responsible people—it means the establishment of a new industry in Canada, the expenditure of money in Canada, and the employment of labour in Canada; and it means the securing the white or corroded lead market for the Canadian producer of lead. It is something, I think (worthy of consideration. And if it is possible or in accordance with the rules to reconsider that and bring it down by way of what we may term a supplementary budget, I would ask the Finance Minister and the Government to do so. We in that country are placed in a position where, if adequate relief is not afforded us, either in one way or another, we can see the destruction of those erstwhile live businesslike towns that have sprung up in that country. We do not want that to occur. The people of my district are excited over the matter as it is now; and I urge in all earnestness upon the Government and, if the Government bring in any measure of relief I will urge in all earnestness upon the members of the House, to give this matter all due consideration. I hope I have made it clear enough that we are in dire need of assistance in one way or the other in regard to that great industry. We do not wish to see an industry of such magnitude perish; we do not wish to see our country supplied with the products of other countries while we have within our own border an industry of this kind more than capable of supplying our wants. I care not how the Government reach it, so long as they reach it.