

comfort, peace and encouragement with respect to a problem that confronts the fishermen along our seacoast in the little province of Nova Scotia. I refer to the hon. Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Michaud).

I want to congratulate the Minister of Fisheries upon the progress his department has made in bringing about certain reforms since he became the minister. Those reforms have been sound. Certain policies have been put into effect that have proved beneficial to a certain class of our fishermen. But we who come from the maritime provinces would be unfair to the fishermen of Nova Scotia if we did not acknowledge that they are poor and are suffering privations. The people of our province were visited last December by an act of God, through a gale which swept away their lobster pots and equipment and left the fishermen on the beach, as they say of a sailor when he loses his post aboard a ship. Our fishermen in Nova Scotia are to-day on the beach. But it is not so in New Brunswick or in Prince Edward Island because the governments of those two provinces, in collaboration with the Minister of Fisheries, relieved the fishermen of those two provinces of that worry; it has not, however, been removed from the fishermen of Nova Scotia. This is no fault of the hon. Minister of Fisheries. The federal money is there, ready to be spent. The fault lies, not, I would say, through indifference, but through procrastination, in the failure to come to a conclusion as to what policy to adopt in reference to the one-third to be contributed by the province of Nova Scotia.

I had rather thought that the premier of Nova Scotia, when he was in Ottawa not very long ago with reference to subventions for the coal and steel industries of the province, would have taken up with the government the plight of the lobster fishermen. The plight of the miner is not as bad as that of the fisherman. The miner works for a wage, and the company sells the coal he mines; but the fisherman goes to sea, catches the fish, and then has to sell them. When the coal that has been dug by the miner has been brought up to the pit's mouth, his work is ended. The company then takes charge of the coal, sells it through its sales managers, and makes a profit; and their profits, I am sorry to say, are in some instances not disclosed.

I was nearly seventeen years in the legislature of Nova Scotia, my happiest days under the late Hon. George H. Murray, and I was in the government of the day when the British Empire Steel Corporation was incorporated under the Joint Stock Companies Act of the province of Nova Scotia, with a

[Mr. Finn.]

capitalization of half a billion dollars. The company could not obtain a charter from the legislature of Nova Scotia, nor could they obtain a charter here in Ottawa. They incorporated it with these limited powers; the president, the late Mark Workman, after his journey's end so far as that corporation was concerned, retired from the presidency, and two gentlemen, Mr. Wolvin and Mr. Norcross, came in and took charge. When they came, the city of Halifax gave them a banquet which I attended, and at that banquet Mr. Wolvin said that he came to Nova Scotia to help the province, to build a shipyard, to mine coal and to give the province everything, and that he wanted nothing in return. The next day as I was asked by one of my colleagues what I thought of that speech, I said I was a bit suspicious of a man who came to give you everything and wanted nothing in return.

Under the presidency of Mr. Wolvin the British Empire Steel Corporation was thrown to the wolves. To-day we find that the parent organization is called Desco, and in Pictou county it is the Nova Scotia Steel, Coal and Car Company. It seemed to me that they were doing everything possible to build up Desco at the expense of the Nova Scotia Steel, Coal and Car Company, I believe it was only when they came to a realization that the public mind of Nova Scotia was aroused and that the legislature and government of Nova Scotia were the trustees for the people who own the mines, while the company is only a lessee, that there has been a reformation. To-morrow the minister of mines for Nova Scotia, Hon. Michael Dwyer, takes charge as president of the Nova Scotia Steel and Coal Company. But he is under the president and directors of the Dominion Steel, Coal and Car Company. The president to-day of the Dominion Steel and Coal Company is a gentleman. I believe he wants to do what is right. But there are men who are associated with that company who through stock transactions have got the company into a position in which it should not be.

To-night, while it is not my direct business, it is my duty to suggest that in considering subventions or further subventions to these companies the government must see that the miner is not detrimentally affected and, with that object in view, see that disclosure is made by these companies of their assets, their stockholdings, their prices; so that this government and this parliament should be in possession of the facts in order to be able to do the right thing; that in future there shall be some control over the development of these rich mines, and that a proportion of the profits shall go by way of wages to the miners who