

and allowed his friends in Nova Scotia to feel that while he had not succeeded in having that recommendation implemented he was working with that end in view. They would have appreciated the opposition he would have to meet from certain of his colleagues in the cabinet. One of the western statesman in the cabinet, the Minister of Railways (Mr. Dunning), was credited with having made the statement in a western town that the maritime people had only three ambitions; to be born, to get married, and to have a free ride on the Intercolonial.

Mr. RALSTON: Is the hon. member aware that the minister has publicly denied having made that statement?

Mr. MacDONALD (Cape Breton): As far as I know he has never denied it in the house, but if he has done so I am prepared to accept his denial. I thought at the time that it was a very foolish statement for any politician to make, particularly a politician having ambitions for further political preference and requiring the assistance of the maritime provinces to carry them out.

Mr. BENNETT: Do not forget the statement which the Minister of Finance made last year.

Mr. MacDONALD (Cape Breton): We will come to him in a moment. There is another gentleman representing a western province, the Minister of Mines (Mr. Stewart). He was the author of the coke legislation which was supposed to confer such benefits on the coal industry in the east. He is the gentleman who, after attending some banquet in London, generously threw open the coal market of Canada and invited them to send their coal over here. Those two gentlemen in the cabinet, colleagues of the Minister of National Defence, could be depended upon to oppose any effort to have that recommendation implemented. And last but not least, the genial and gentlemanly Minister of Finance, whose opinion of the maritimes was crystallized in the epithet, "whiners", could be counted upon as being opposed to this measure. We in Nova Scotia realize quite well the opposition the Minister of National Defence would have met with in trying to have this recommendation implemented, but did he attempt it? He did not. We have the statement of the Minister of National Defence, which appears at pages 1032 and 1033 of Hansard. He devoted three columns of Hansard in an attempt to defend the government's want of action in connection with the steel industry.

[Mr. Finlay MacDonald.]

My time will not permit me to read his statement, but I will digest it and put my statement on record and leave it to the opinion of this house whether or not I am doing him an injustice.

From the beginning to the end of his defence of the government's want of action in this connection, the Minister of National Defence did not make one relevant remark. His first statement was that the interests of steel and coal in the maritime provinces were almost inseparable and were absolutely interwoven. It is true that they are allied industries, tied up together pretty well, but they are not interwoven.

Mr. RALSTON: Does the hon. member know that both the coal and steel industries, that is, the receiver and the company, are applying for the same relief? The coal industry is asking that a bonus be paid on coal, and the steel industry is asking that a bonus be paid on steel. Does the hon. member suggest that they are not bound up together?

Mr. BENNETT: The fact that they are asking for the same relief does not mean anything.

Mr. MacDONALD (Cape Breton): I will deal with that. The minister's statement continues:

At the present time the coal industry in Nova Scotia is operated by a company under the control of those who own the bonds, and the steel industry is in the hands of and being operated by a receiver.

They are two separate organizations at the present time. Even though his statement be true, what would that have to do with the government implementing this recommendation?

Mr. RALSTON: Does the hon. member know that the coal industry has applied to the tariff board for that?

Mr. MacDONALD (Cape Breton): The tariff board has absolutely nothing to do with it.

Mr. RALSTON: The coal industry has so indicated.

Mr. BENNETT: They were sent there.

Mr. RALSTON: It appears in their brief.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order.

Mr. GEARY: Take your medicine.

Mr. MacDONALD (Cape Breton): The bonus question is not before the tariff board. I do not care if three or four companies have put it in their briefs; it should never have been there.