

rights. If we have a right to speak we should be able to speak without getting the unanimous consent of the house or of the committee.

The CHAIRMAN: That matter has been settled. It is not debatable now.

Item agreed to.

General.

68. To provide, subject to allocation by the treasury board, for annual salary increases in accordance with the terms of order in council P.C. 9/628 of January 26, 1942, \$500,000.

Mr. CASTLEDEN: I should like an explanation of this item from some member of the treasury board.

Mr. ILSLEY: This is for certain statutory increases. Normally statutory increases are given to permanent civil servants, but by this order in council they were discontinued in regard to those receiving salaries of more than \$3,000. Those who receive salaries of less than \$3,000 are to get their statutory increases as usual, and this is to provide the money for the increases.

Mr. CASTLEDEN: I notice in almost all the departments a considerable item for the cost-of-living bonus. I thought that would take care of these cases.

Mr. ILSLEY: No, that is different.

Mr. NOSEWORTHY: What is the ceiling at which the government ceases to pay the cost-of-living bonus?

Mr. ILSLEY: \$2,100.

Item agreed to.

Office of the coal administrator.

Coal subsidies and subventions.

70. Payments in connection with the movements of coal under conditions prescribed by the governor in council, \$4,500,000.

Mr. MacNICOL: I would crave the indulgence of the committee while I say a few words in reference to these subventions. This year I doubt whether half this amount will be required; and while I am quite in accord with having the money voted, I hope the portion which is not used will be put to one side for the purpose of which I am going to speak for a moment or two.

The question of subventions has been before this house for many years. I believe that in order to encourage the use of Nova Scotia coal in the two central provinces we have already spent something like \$18,000,000. I have always been in accord with that policy; I believe Ontario and Quebec should buy all the coal possible from Nova Scotia and also from the western provinces. But this year, owing

[Mr. O'Neill.]

to the fact that Nova Scotia cannot supply coal to either Quebec or Ontario in the amounts required, we will have to buy a great deal of our coal in the United States. The market for Canadian coal which has been built up here will be lost unless the money which is saved out of these subventions is placed to one side for use, when normal times return, in once more opening up the market in the two central provinces for coal from both east and west. I am told that while Nova Scotia supplied Quebec with 3,400,000 tons of coal last year, this year it will be able to supply Quebec with only 1,600,000 tons, and that while Ontario purchased 1,000,000 tons from Nova Scotia last year, this year it will not be able to get any. The same thing applies in western Canada. I have always been a strong advocate of Alberta coal. I use Alberta and Nova Scotia coal wherever they can be used in my own buildings. I firmly believe that the great province of Ontario should buy every possible dollar's worth of the natural products of the other provinces in order to create a better inter-provincial feeling. Last year at Estevan in Saskatchewan probably a million tons of coal were produced, of which several hundred thousand tons were sent to Manitoba; I do not think any of it came to Ontario. There is no reason why some of that coal could not come to Ontario, maybe not as it comes from the mine but after it is briquetted. I hold in my hand a briquette made at Estevan. I have seen these briquettes burned. They give excellent satisfaction, and there is no reason why they cannot be transported to Ontario for use here. In a word, I hope some effort will be made by the government to see that the production of briquettes at Estevan, where now they are producing only 60,000 tons a year but where they could be producing half a million tons, is encouraged, and that some of these briquettes are brought to Ontario. Among the by-products of the briquetting are many valuable products required by Canada, such as coal tar, creosote, and so forth.

I want to take only another moment, for I should like to say a word about Alberta coal where they have perhaps some of the largest coal deposits in the world. I will speak of only one district there, because I have seen and used the coal; that is, the Drumheller coal. I have two samples of coal from Drumheller in my hand. They look the same; they look like hard coal, though they are not, and they burn like hard coal. I have used quite a number of tons of this coal; I believe one sample is from the Monarch mine and the other is from the Midland mine, though they look so much alike I could not tell them apart. Both, however, give excellent results.