

In a report tabled in the House of Commons on June 12, 1940, I find set out the value of output of Canadian coal mines from 1929 to 1939, and these figures show a steady decrease. In 1929 the value was a little over \$63,000,000, but by 1939 it had gone down to about \$48,000,000. There was a gradual decrease in those ten years, showing that the value of coal mined in Canada was decreasing, and the inference is that the miners were having less work all that time. In the very same report we find figures as to importations of coal entered for consumption in Canada in the same years. Between 1929 and 1939 the values of United States importations decreased from \$50,000,000 to \$27,000,000. But then, after 1939, there is a jump to almost \$49,000,000. The amount was almost doubled. Yet at that time of increased importation we received a resolution from these miners, in one of the greatest mining districts of Canada, complaining that they are on relief. The Minister of Trade and Commerce is in the committee, he is from Alberta, and he knows that what I say is true. No doubt it is also true of mining districts in Nova Scotia.

Nevertheless we have double the importations of coal from the United States. I say that was not necessary. The minister may reply that we have to keep up our end of the agreement with the United States. But when we think of the tremendous amount of trade taking place between the United States and Canada, and the tremendous amounts we are buying from that country, we must conclude that in view of the trade the United States is getting from Canada, that would be a poor argument. To-day they are doing more business with us than they ever did before.

Here is an essential industry: coal mining. The government have gone so far as to put the industry under the National Resources Mobilization Act. They are going to make it an offence for miners to go on strike. Yet these miners are appealing to the government to give them work. All this time, when they have been begging the government to make a thorough survey of the coal situation, so as to make it possible for the miners to stay in those districts, the government have been overlooking the industry. The result is that more than double the amount of importations are coming from the United States. In the last four months of 1940 close to \$10,000,000 worth of coal was imported from that country.

The same report shows that importations from other countries between 1929 and 1939 ranged from \$5,500,000 to \$8,000,000. It is clear, therefore, that importations from countries other than those of the north American continent have increased in those

ten years. I can see no good reason for that. Of course there were plenty of ships available in those years. Then, from 1939 to this date the importations have dropped off materially, no doubt due to the hazards of ocean transportation. Instead of using our own coal mines to produce that difference in supply, after the war broke out, we adopted other means. Did the government have foresight enough to see that the time was coming when it would have to demand that Canadian miners should do everything possible to produce more coal? No; they just sat back, idly.

When war broke out and the importations of coal from across the ocean dropped off, the only increases in importations or supplies have been from the United States. That, in itself, certainly does not look good to the coal miner. There are many people in Canada who are materially interested in the coming situation. I hold in my hand an excerpt from the *National Home Monthly*. It is headed "Patriotism and Coal," and in part reads as follows:

What are we thinking of, if we continue this wastage at such a time as the present? It was bad enough in relatively quiet years to send so much money out of Canada, for a benefit in great measure illusory; it meant that we had to provide a livelihood in idleness for large bodies of miners who, but for our habit of thus buying abroad, would have been sustaining themselves by their own labour. But it is many times worse now, when there is so much that we cannot produce at home to meet our war needs, so much for which we are bound to draw upon the United States manufacturer, and for which we must pay in such American dollars as are obtainable only at high discount in exchange for our own. We cannot too soon bethink ourselves of how to maintain a tolerable balance of trade, and each practicable reduction of imports makes the task easier. Coal is our most obvious product on which to become, as the Germans in their four-year plan say, "self-sufficient".

To learn from a resourceful enemy is a valuable practice, especially during war.

The article would show that the question is being widely discussed, and that others have seen the practicability of the suggestion I make. I believe the government would be well advised to look into the feasibility of producing by-products of coal. I have in mind particularly fuel oil, which can be successfully and commercially produced from coal. That is not illusory by any means, because in Germany it has been done for years, and they are doing it now.

These are matters of particular importance, especially when we read in the press articles such as that which appeared in the *Ottawa Journal* of June 13, 1941, under the heading: "U.S. to build world's biggest oil pipeline." We find this expression in the text of the