

Q. We used to count 10 cents or 25 cents as sufficient to turn business.—A. Naturally. I honestly believe that the Western coal operator is deserving of every help that we or anybody else can give him, and I think it is our duty to give him help, but I do not think it should be applied in the wrong direction. I do not think you are going to give any help by taking \$500,000 or \$1,000,000 or \$2,000,000 out of one pocket and hauling coal at a loss to a market you cannot retain; but if you can develop his local market for him you give him a permanent market and help him in a way that will really do him good. At the same time I think, if I may say so, sir, that the Government should do like the Lord,—help those who help themselves. There is no use in helping a man if his proposition is an impossible one, or if his costs are outrageous. They tell us—I do not know why it is, but any Hungarian or any Italian or man of any other nationality working in and about those mines makes a wage double what a man working on a farm makes; not for underground work, but on the surface. Why should he? Their answer is that he gets only 150 days' work in a year. My answer to that is that the best miners that I have ever seen have been fishermen and farmers. The Lord put that coal there and it is necessary to burn it in the winter. Why cannot that coal be mined in the winter and why cannot the miner help the farmer in the summer, and, instead of working 7½ or 8 hours a day, and loafing half the year, work like the farmers the year round and earn a living? I think that the mine operators have been up against it because the union fixes a maximum wage for a minimum amount of work, and they want to make enough money in 150 days to live for 365 days. Now, if that is correct, sir, I cannot see that any assistance that the Government is going to give them will do any permanent good.

*By Hon. Mr. Webster:*

Q. Is there any reason you know of why their coal should cost \$4.50 f.o.b. cars at their mines, as has been indicated by some previous witness?—A. None excepting the reason that the mines are operated from the headquarters of the union in the United States and not by the operators, and that our Governments have not given the operators protection. They have allowed picketing and allowed men who wanted to work to be prevented from going in. I think that is really the root of the trouble.

Q. Are there too many coal mines operated in Alberta?—A. To run steadily?

Q. Yes.—A. I think there are undoubtedly.

*By the Chairman:*

Q. That of course is a thing that has gone through every coal field.—A. Every coal field.

Q. It was true in Cape Breton. It is very true in the United States.—A. The cure for that, it seems to me, Senator Webster, is two-fold. If they can cut their price of producing coal—I was going to say, cut it in half, and there is no reason why they should not—they are certainly going to be able to come farther East. If the Government can help in two ways, by settling the country and by developing their local market for them, that overdevelopment will be rapidly overcome.

*By Hon. Mr. Webster:*

Q. If their mine costs were equal to those of the American operators, there is no reason why they should not have a greater market for their coal?—A. If their mining costs on their coal were the same, and if we assume that both make the same profit, well, they would be selling their coal for \$2.75 a ton less than they are to-day.

Q. According to your information are there any physical differences that call for that extra cost of mining?—A. Not outside of the Crows Nest and some