

whole matter was discussed, and some questions to which the hon. member referred were brought to our attention. But while the matter was under discussion, while it was being debated, while we were trying to find ways and means of keeping that industry in the town of Dartmouth and at the same time safeguarding the interests of the fishermen of the maritime provinces, a telegram was received and read at our meeting from the vice-president of the Consumers' Cordage Company stating that they were prepared to guarantee that, in the event of a duty being imposed on rope from one and one-half inches downwards, the price to the fishermen of the maritime provinces would never be greater than the price of rope to the fishermen of the United States.

Mr. RALSTON: Was that guarantee accepted as satisfactory by the gentlemen who were present at that caucus?

Mr. QUINN: It was a guarantee from the vice-president of the Consumers' Cordage Company, and I consider it binding.

Mr. RALSTON: Was it considered a sufficient guarantee by the fishermen?

Mr. QUINN: My hon. friend is a good lawyer. I am not; and he need not think he is going to inveigle me into any legal question.

Mr. RALSTON: I thought perhaps the fishermen might be interested; that is all.

Mr. QUINN: The fishermen are interested. My hon. friend comes from a fishing constituency, Shelburne-Yarmouth and he well knows that the fishermen of Nova Scotia will buy American rope in preference to Canadian, and the same thing applies to other articles.

Mr. RALSTON: But I do not know that the fishermen of Nova Scotia will accept the guarantee of the vice-president of a company expressed in a telegram to some private individual.

Mr. QUINN: It was not expressed to a private individual. That telegram was sent—

Mr. RALSTON: To whom?

Mr. QUINN: To be handed over to the maritime committee.

Mr. RALSTON: To whom was it sent?

Mr. QUINN: It was sent to a representative here of the Consumers' Cordage Company for the purpose of being read at this meeting. I have the telegram in my possession if the minister wants to see it.

Mr. RALSTON: Oh, I have seen it. I thought it was poor protection for the fishermen, that is all.

Mr. QUINN: Why does not the minister come out and state exactly where he stands in this matter?

Mr. RALSTON: I am waiting to hear my hon. friend; he has the floor. I have stated that I am not for imposing a duty on fishermen's rope, if my hon. friend wants to know.

Mr. QUINN: Even at the sacrifice of 500 people in Dartmouth?

Mr. RALSTON: I was not speaking of any sacrifice.

Mr. QUINN: That is what I am asking about.

Mr. RALSTON: That industry is going on in Dartmouth, and the head of the industry has declared they are going to stay in Dartmouth.

Mr. QUINN: No thanks due to this government.

Mr. RALSTON: We are not asking for thanks.

Mr. QUINN: I will tell you why they decided to stay in Dartmouth.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): We have heard these bluffs before.

Mr. QUINN: It is no bluff. I will tell this house why the Consumers' Cordage Company has decided to stay in Dartmouth. It is because the town of Dartmouth has relieved them of all taxation. There is a sacrifice on the part of the town of Dartmouth.

Mr. RALSTON: For a limited period.

Mr. QUINN: Yes, and at the end of that period they can take the matter up again.

Mr. RALSTON: But perhaps, they might come and threaten to close down again.

Mr. QUINN: Perhaps. Suppose they do make a threat. I have no interest in the Consumers' Cordage Company, absolutely none, but I have an interest in 500 people in Dartmouth. My hon. friend might play fair and let us know just where he stands as between the fishermen and the people of Dartmouth.

Mr. RALSTON: I have told my hon. friend once; I cannot make it any clearer. But I do object to my hon. friend suggesting that I am not playing fair. I do not think that is parliamentary.