

In looking over the coal statistics I was somewhat surprised to find that we have 111,169 square miles of coal areas, comprising 8,845,900,000 tons of semi-anthracite coal, 313,573,000,000 tons of bituminous coal, 932,053,000,000 tons of sub-bituminous coal, and 111,286,000,000 tons of lignite. In other words, we have within Canada all the coal necessary to prevent a shortage of fuel among our people, and the point to be emphasized is that it is one of our natural resources that should be developed to the fullest extent. Therefore, while supporting my hon. friend (Mr. Meighen) in his endeavours to get coal to the West, I do hope that the Government in its plans for the immediate future will see to the development of our coal resources to their fullest extent, in order that Canada may be independent of the United States in the matter of fuel.

Mr. J. H. BURNHAM (West Peterborough): Mr. Speaker, a couple of months ago I brought this question before the House by way of resolution, and on investigating the matter I was immensely surprised to find that, notwithstanding the fact that Ontario was in a most perilous position in regard to its coal supply, nobody had seen fit to investigate the cost of bringing coal into Ontario either from the West or from the East.

When I made some inquiries at headquarters I found that they knew nothing about it. Then I proceeded to carry my examination further, and at last I found out from the Canadian Pacific Railway Company that so far as they were concerned it would cost about \$12 a ton to bring a car, say, from Calgary to Toronto. However, they said they could not say that if a very large business was developed it would not cost less. In any event, this fuel question has to be solved for Ontario. As stated by the hon. member who has just spoken we have immense supplies of coal, both east and west, yet here we are in Ontario on the very brink of perishing from lack of coal. The matter is extremely serious for Ontario. The people feel very keenly indeed about it; they are continually asking us why we do not do something with regard to it. We have the coal, but apparently we have not the brains to get it here.

Some time ago, in a resolution which I introduced with regard to the cost of the necessities of life, I used the word "desperate." That did not please the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Meighen) and he moved an amendment to the resolution. I accepted the amendment and the resolution was car-

[Mr. Devlin.]

ried, and we were to wait for revelations with regard to it. Now, in that resolution the fuel question was involved, and I think, with all due respect to the minister and his great administrative powers, that he ought to take up this question of the solution of the difficulty for Ontario, because Ontario—we cannot repeat it too often—is in a most serious position. Wood is altogether out of the question. In fact I was so discouraged with regard to coal that I began to turn to the alcohol question to see what could be done about that. No doubt in a few years we shall have alcohol as a fuel. The people of Ontario have been groping in the dark, as it were, to find out some means of furnishing themselves with heat and motive power throughout the year, chiefly in the winter, but they have not got anywhere. It would not be too much to say that some special legislation will have to be enacted or some special effort made to provide the people with fuel, because they have to have it. It is absurd, when you think of the vast stores of coal that we have in Canada, that we cannot do better than we have been doing. Lately the Research Council has found out that briquettes, which are about fifty per cent coal, and twenty-five per cent petroleum and so on, furnish something of higher efficiency than even anthracite coal. If so, why can they not have that industry developed? I have had letters from a great many people in the West, from coal users and coal companies, asking why it is that these things cannot be looked into and the development of the coal industry proceeded with. If the West concludes that it is possible, and the East wants it, it is about time that we proceeded to get it. Certainly something will have to be done.

Mr. W. D. COWAN (Regina): I would like to ask the Minister of the Interior (Hon. Mr. Meighen) if he can give us any information with regard to the opening up and development of what is known as the Sheep's Creek Mine located in District No. 18 with which he is now dealing? As I understand it, the Pat Burns Company, with headquarters at Calgary, have had a lease of this mine for a great many years—a mine, which it is said, contains millions of tons of the very finest anthracite coal that can be obtained anywhere in the world. They have been building a railway in connection with this mine, I understand, by a slow process for a number of years back, and we in the West have been looking forward to the opening up of this mine, because through the production of that coal we would meet the aristocratic tastes—and we have very aristo-