

return tabled on June 12 in answer to a question asked by the hon. member for Battle River (Mr. Fair). This return shows that in 1938 the Canadian coal production was valued at \$43,982,171, and the preliminary estimate of the 1939 production was \$48,258,199. I should like to compare this production with the value of the importations from the United States and from countries other than the United States. In 1929 the importations from the United States were valued at \$50,439,329 while the importations from countries other than the United States were valued at \$5,573,939. In 1938 the importations from the United States were valued at \$27,329,477 and from other countries, \$8,496,437. The figures for 1939 are \$33,284,251 for importations from the United States, and \$8,294,434 for importations from other countries. The importations by months are as follows:

	From the United States	From other countries
1939—		
September	\$6,644,720	\$1,076,191
October	3,469,782	701,396
November	3,091,195	548,668
December	2,406,712	234,633
1940—		
January	2,895,051	87,563
February	2,197,463	138,174
March	2,136,850	57,797
April	2,134,974	57,490

That is a tremendous amount of money. Up to September, 1939, the value of the importations of coal from the United States was greater than that of the total production in Canada. That is almost unbelievable in these times. I could not help but recall the speeches which the governor of the Bank of Canada delivered in Montreal and Toronto on April 22 and April 26 respectively. He was pointing out the urgency of conserving exchange. I cannot think of a better way of conserving exchange than to use Canadian coal. It would not create a hardship for the United States; in fact it would be just the other way round, because we should be able to use the exchange we saved to buy war materials from that country.

The governor of the Bank of Canada pleaded with the Canadian people to conserve exchange in order that we might have Canadian dollars with which to buy ships, shells and other forms of munitions from the United States. The Canadian production of coal offers a source of supply of Canadian dollars which could be turned into munitions of war. Every month we could save from three to four million dollars, and up to September, 1939, we would have saved about 33½ million dollars.

The governor of the Bank of Canada went on to say that the real cost of this war must be carried on out of current production. If

we follow the argument of the governor of the Bank of Canada the Canadian market should be saved for Canadian coal. The Minister of Mines and Resources has said that this might raise the cost a little, but I think that would be offset by the added benefit to the Canadian people. We would save ten or eleven per cent on exchange right away, without considering the increased employment which would be given. We have about 750,000 unemployed employables in Canada, and if these people could be put to work to produce about 33½ million dollars worth of coal, think what a tremendous help it would be to this country! An additional 2,000,000 tons of coal would have to be produced, 1,000,000 tons of which could be allotted to Nova Scotia and the other 1,000,000 tons to Alberta and the Crowsnest mines. I venture to say that that one step would do away with our present unemployed of 750,000. Millions of additional ton miles would be moved on the railways, which would necessitate the employment of more trainmen. Certainly we would require more miners as well as truckmen to deliver this coal around. Taking it all in all, with the situation as it stands now in war time, I think this matter should be looked into immediately.

If in all practicable ways we follow the advice of the governor of the Bank of Canada, to conserve our Canadian dollars, funds will be available to buy from the United States the war supplies we so greatly need. The governor pointed out that the need of saving our dollars is imperative, because the treasuries of Britain and France—he spoke at that time of France because it was then one of the allies of Great Britain—were not bottomless; sooner or later the bottom of their treasuries would be reached, and he appealed to the people of Canada to save. If he meant what he said, if we must save every dollar we can, and if the cost of this war is to be met from current production, obviously one of the most necessary avenues is the saving of money on importations of coal. We should be killing two birds with one stone.

People all over the country are very much concerned about this matter. I have not had any communication from Nova Scotia, because that is not my riding, but I have received many letters from Alberta in which the writers have referred to this very matter. Whether their motives are patriotic or not, I am not going to discuss, but they say: "The government is pleading with us to buy war savings certificates, and we have not any money with which to buy them. If the government will give us the opportunity to go to work in these mines and produce coal for Canadians and save the exchange, we shall be only too