

That other ambassador of empire—the honourable the Minister of Mines (Mr. Stewart), built on generous and substantial dead weight lines, while on pleasure bent last summer was reported by the British press as having been right royally entertained in the great metropolis, when, after dining—let us assume wisely and well—he took occasion to advise the British coal masters to look alive and arrange to ship more of their coal to Montreal, where a great market awaited them, or words to that effect. Such, Mr. Speaker, are some of the efforts of a minister of this government whose duty is to aid, foster, protect and extend the Canadian mining industry. Mention peat, and the minister is alert—ready to spend forty, fifty, sixty thousand dollars in any year at that sink hole, the Alfred peat bog, into which we have already thrown \$335,408.92, with no practical result worth mentioning or in prospect.

Canadians had recently the experience of seeing in action our lately created ambassador to Washington. What, Mr. Speaker, was his first diplomatic problem?—what the first great Canadian or international question to be discussed with our adequately protected friends of the United States? Simply this, Mr. Speaker, an abject appeal for charity; an appeal to the United States to allow some thousands of our Canadian citizens to enter that country and obtain from their manufacturers the employment denied them in their own country. Surely every Canadian worthy of the name was ashamed and felt humiliated by the thought that our country's accredited representative should approach our rich and powerful neighbour with so contemptible a request, and hang around the door of the Washington minister for a week or more reiterating his request that our people should be given an opportunity to work in American factories to produce, in many cases, goods which were afterwards exported to this country. Surely, Mr. Speaker, a national policy is needed, and a government that will provide it.

Now, we have the product of Soviet Russia pouring into the cities of Quebec and Ontario—coal mined under Soviet conditions of virtual serfdom in the Donetz basin, and sent here to buy food for their rationed miners who must work for a dog biscuit bread ticket. This coal, on which the railway freight from the mines to the sea is absorbed by the so-called government of Russia, freighted six thousand odd miles through the sea of Azof, the Black sea, the Dardanelles, the whole length of the Mediterranean across the Atlantic to Portland, and thence nearly 250 miles

[Mr. Cantley.]

to Montreal, is then admitted duty free into Canada in competition with the labour of our Nova Scotians and Alberta miners. I would point out that the first cargo of this coal that came across the Atlantic was destined for and went to the port of New York. It was not allowed to be landed because the government imposed a duty of \$3.42 per ton on it. The ship was turned around and sent up the St. Lawrence to Montreal, and there the cargo was discharged, and no duty paid.

A few days ago I asked the Minister of Mines a question regarding the quantity of Russian coal that had come in. He gave me some figures which I do not think are reliable, because my information is that the tonnage particularly the quantity which entered the port of Montreal is more indeed nearly 50 per cent greater than the figures he gave me. Be that as it may, the fact is that a large quantity of that coal has come into the country. The other day I saw a letter to a coal dealer from one of the prominent coal importers in Montreal, in which he pointed out that he was handling this coal and that he could assure the dealer that he would be in a position to supply it regularly throughout the entire coming season. Is this government to sit still; are all the resources of this government of no avail to deal with this matter? Canada is said to possess one-tenth of the total coal resources of the world, yet with many of our coal miners idle to-day our beneficent government allows coal to come into Canada from a Soviet-controlled country, transported over a distance of about 6,000 miles to enter into competition with Canadian coal, in direct disregard of all business economic principles. I appealed to the Minister of Mines, the Minister of Trade and Commerce and the Minister of Customs, and was told that the government is powerless. Each appeared quite unconcerned; they could not or they would not act.

Mr. BENNETT: Did you try the Minister of Agriculture?

Mr. CANTLEY: No, I did not. I exempt the Minister of Finance from criticism; for he did exhibit some interest, some concern, and I think he will make some inquiry into the facts. As for the others, they are hopeless.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I point out that no tariff consideration is given the Canadian coal and steel industry. The excuse of the Minister of Finance for ignoring applications from other Canadian producers for adequate protection is the thread-bare assertion that they are still being considered by the tariff