

Mr. HEAPS: Then the minister cannot give us an approximate idea as to the basis of his figures? Did he take Ontario as an example, for instance?

Mr. DUNNING: There are 54,000 pensioners in the province of Ontario.

Mr. HEAPS: Is the minister basing his Quebec figures on Ontario?

Mr. DUNNING: Partly; population, character of population; character of institutions, character of family relationships, and so on. There are a good many indeterminate items, and really I must confess that I have not pressed the officers of the department to try to come very close with regard to the matter, because the statute is there and the cost must be met, whatever it is,

Mr. BENNETT: But it is important to know. The minister's estimate would cover only about 25,000 people.

Mr. DUNNING: Yes.

Item agreed to.

To provide for payments in connection with the movements of coal under conditions prescribed by the governor in council and for the cost of administration thereof, \$1,950,000.

Mr. CAMERON (Cape Breton): Mr. Chairman, I am very much interested in this item, but at this late hour I do not intend to say all that I was going to say if it had come up at an earlier stage of the session. This item has to do with subventions in connection with the movement of coal, and I wish to express my appreciation of the attitude of the government towards these subventions for the present year. These subventions have been provided by successive governments since 1924, and they have increased to some extent until the present year. I had intended to make an appeal to the government still further to enlarge the amount of the subventions to be voted, on the ground that I believe this would be probably one of the most productive investments we could make in the way of solving our unemployment problem. I have now made up my mind, however, that instead of going into the matter as fully as I had intended I shall submit a statement to the government in writing, because the argument I intended to present to-night would have had for its purpose only to ask the government to look into the question of subventions more fully during the recess in the hope that a permanent policy might be evolved for submission to parliament at the next session.

The other matter I had in mind has to do with the question of coal from another angle, that is, supplying our Canadian needs from

[Mr. Bennett.]

our Canadian mines. We have sufficient coal in Canada to supply all our needs, but unfortunately these coal deposits are so situated geographically that it is somewhat difficult to overcome that handicap and sell our coal in competition with the American products in the markets of central Canada. The most serious problem with regard to unemployment with which we have to contend in Nova Scotia is the industrial centres around the coal producing areas of that province. It is estimated that if we could market an additional two million tons of coal per annum we would be able to take care of the unemployment situation in those centres. According to the returns of the bureau of statistics there are about two million tons of coal used in the manufacturing industries of Ontario over and above the coal supplied by the Nova Scotia mines. There are about nine million tons consumed in Ontario in all, over and above the coal supplied from Nova Scotia and if, with the aid of subventions, we were able to provide the entire coal requirements of Ontario we would be keeping within the country something like \$60,000,000 annually.

I believe we could do that with a comparatively small expenditure, probably not more than \$5,000,000, and my first submission is that as a national investment we would be furthering our own best interests if we broadened our coal policy in that regard. I believe that would go a long way towards solving our railway problem. It would take up the slack in respect to labour as far as unemployment on our railways is concerned.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Carried.

The CHAIRMAN: Order.

Mr. CAMERON (Cape Breton): I want to say, Mr. Chairman, that if I am not interrupted I do not intend to take many minutes, but if there is any man in this house who thinks he is going to prevent me from expressing my opinion by calling "carried," he does not know to whom he is talking.

What I am particularly concerned about to-night is not so much placing my opinions with regard to coal subventions before this committee as it is with regard to a question which was asked here the other evening concerning the possibilities of a trade treaty with Russia. One of the items which undoubtedly will be made the subject of discussion in regard to a treaty with Russia will be the matter of coal, and every ton of Russian coal that will come into Canada by virtue of any agreement which may be entered into can have only the effect of displacing a ton