

government to take hold of this matter and to bring down and introduce such measures and such resolutions as they believe in themselves, such measures as will get us coal, not merely resolutions which are introduced for the purpose of being withdrawn, resolutions which they do not believe in unless we say Amen to them.

We have had a delay now since the 15th of March; nothing has been done since that date, and what we would deprecate more than anything else is a further shelving of this question. If the government will make use of this committee, and if the committee will get busy at once and the government will put into effect their recommendations at this session of the House, the committee will be a very good thing, but if the government uses this committee as they have used committees in the past simply for the purpose of delay and shelving a question, then indeed it is a bad thing for the householders of the province of Ontario and of the province of Quebec, and for the miners of Alberta and Nova Scotia, that this motion is introduced.

Mr. JAMES MALCOLM (North Bruce): Having spoken in support of the resolution of the hon. member for East Lambton (Mr. Armstrong) when this question was up before, I desire to make an observation or two.

The committee does not need to study the problem of disposing of Nova Scotia coal in the central provinces, for I believe that every hon. member of this House has come to one conclusion, that Nova Scotia coal as a domestic fuel can be successfully used in the central provinces only by one method, and that is by the establishing of coking plants at centres in Ontario and Quebec. I believe that the government can take action on that point without a committee.

Secondly, with regard to Alberta coal, there are just two problems. The first problem is the cost of mining the coal. Hon. members from Alberta have admitted that over-production, too many mines and lack of full time work for the miners, are causing the cost of Alberta coal to be higher than it should be. That question will have to be in some way regulated, or else the cost of Alberta coal will be too high to the users in Ontario and Quebec.

The second problem is whether Alberta coal of a grade that will meet the competition of American coal can be brought to the central provinces without the imposition of a duty against anthracite. That becomes a question of fiscal policy for the government.

The hon. member for East Lambton is quite right in what he says as to the method of handling

[Sir Henry Drayton.]

ling coal. I know something of the cost of lake transportation, but all grades of Alberta coal cannot be handled by boat at Fort William, thence to Ontario ports, and transhipped by rail to Ontario points. The scheme is feasible, but it is feasible only with certain grades of Alberta coal, and there comes in the question whether you are going to ask domestic users in Ontario to take all grades of Alberta coal when some grades will so slack in handling as to be unsuitable.

My feeling is that this committee should confine itself entirely to the control of the supply of Alberta coal, the cost of transportation, and the methods of handling. If the supply of Alberta coal is regulated in such a way that the better grades which can be handled without slacking will be able to be brought east, I believe, as I said in a former speech, that the railways should make more money on a \$4 rate to Fort William than on a \$7 rate right through to Toronto. The better grades can be handled from Fort William for \$1 a ton to all ports on lakes Huron, Erie and Ontario. That policy is one which I believe the government can adopt, and I have myself pressed the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Stewart) to take up that matter at once. It means the establishing of certain docks at lake ports to handle this coal; but it also means control of the supply in Alberta.

In this regard may I say: A great many men entertain fear of the word "nationalization". I do not. We have demonstrated in Canada that the attitude of the Canadian public towards a nationally owned project is the attitude of good citizens. We have not had strikes on our national railways and we have not had trouble with those railways; we have had success. The province of Ontario has further demonstrated that an intelligent people can have a public utility and administer it well. I do not believe that the province of Alberta is going to get one hundred per cent efficiency out of its coal mining so long as new coal mines are being opened up indiscriminately. I also believe that the province of Ontario is going to pay too high a price for Alberta coal and will receive some low grades, without some control. Every additional thousand tons of coal ordered may mean the opening up of some new mine and a consequent increase in competition. I point out to the Minister of the Interior that the greatest problem he has to face in connection with marketing Alberta coal in Ontario is the controlling of the supply. If the best mines only are operated in such a way that the miners will get full pay the cost will be kept down. If that can be