

may enter that country. As Mr. Morrison made clear to the British House of Commons, among these people are many who have suffered more than any others have suffered under the heel of fascism and nazism. They are much more the enemy of Hitler than even the bitterest of our own people could be, and there is no doubt as to their loyalty to the allied cause.

In closing, I would add that I know, of those who have been returned to England, some hundreds are to-day serving in the army or doing other essential war work as chemists, scientists, technical men and so forth. A few days ago there came to my desk a letter from a man who was allowed to enter this country, I think some two or three years ago, a German who had fled from Germany to Austria, thence to Czechoslovakia, thence to Switzerland, thence to Belgium, thence to England and finally to Canada. To-day that man is in his majesty's uniform and is urging all his compatriots who have likewise suffered, or who have made their homes in Canada, to follow his example and defend the cause of democracy. Therefore I do not think our people should get the idea that all those who knock at our gates, or any large proportion of them, are enemies in disguise. No doubt there are some blacksheep among them, but I believe that in the main those who have represented themselves to be refugees are genuinely fleeing from the terrors of nazism and fascism.

Mr. JOHNSTON (Bow River): I notice that item 172 provides \$10,000 for the relief of distressed Canadians outside Canada. In view of the fact that we have so many distressed Canadians in Canada who need relief and cannot get it, would the minister explain this item? What qualifications would these people require to have in order to obtain this assistance?

Mr. CRERAR: This is a small vote required in many cases to bring Canadians back to Canada from enemy countries. A country such as Roumania, for instance, may be threatened with German invasion. Before the invasion actually occurs, a Canadian resident may go, say, to Greece, where he will be stranded. This fund is designed to meet cases of that kind, distress arising through no fault of the individual concerned.

Mr. JOHNSTON (Bow River): No one permanently residing outside Canada could get any of this assistance?

Mr. CRERAR: No.

Items 169 to 172 inclusive agreed to.
Coal subsidies and subventions.

173. Dominion fuel board administration and investigation, \$27,415.

[Mr. Coldwell.]

174. Payments in connection with the movements of coal under conditions prescribed by the governor in council, \$4,500,000.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ross, Moose Jaw): These two items both deal with coal, and perhaps we might take them together.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Agreed.

Mr. JOHNSTON (Bow River): I have purposely refrained from taking part in the discussions of the last few days in order that the house might make rapid progress with its business, and in order that when we came to this question of coal the Chairman would understand that I have not held up the business of the house at all within the last week or so. I believe the coal situation in Canada needs a thorough going over. We all realize that the coal industry is going to play a vital part in our war effort, and I think this matter should be given a great deal of consideration at this time even though we are in a hurry to get through.

I represent a constituency which has suffered perhaps more by reason of conditions prevailing in the coal industry than any other constituency in Canada. Even to-day in the city of Drumheller there are hundreds of miners unemployed. I should like to read part of a resolution which I have received from the miners' union of sub-districts 1 and 2, district 18 of the United Mine Workers of America. It states:

That this meeting protest strongly against continued importations of United States coal and that we demand that steps be taken immediately to provide additional markets for Canadian-mined coal, so as to conserve Canadian exchange during war time, and to eliminate the necessity of Canadian miners applying for relief. In the meantime, until these markets are made available, we demand the dominion government bear its fair share of necessary relief.

The government of the day should be ashamed to see qualified miners having to bring up at this time the question of relief. As I understand the minister, in the coming year there is going to be a great shortage of fuel. He is now going to appeal to these miners. He is going to appeal to their patriotism, and from various other angles, so that they will get busy and produce coal. That is exactly what those men have been wanting to do for the last three or four years. They at least had the foresight to see that the time was coming when their services would be required. Apparently, however, the government has not taken that attitude. It has not had the vision to see that that time was coming, and coming very fast.