

Atlantic Provinces Power Development

but not so mean that I feel like crawling out on my hands and knees and never being seen again.

The minister is not going to question my Canadianism; I am not so foolish as to want to take bread from the mouth of any person, no matter whether he lives in the extreme eastern part or the extreme western part of Canada. However, I represent a constituency that produces coal, a constituency where the coal miners are out of work and where the coal mining industry, having invested millions upon millions of dollars in past years, is now having to close up shop. Here is a bill which involves the use of coal and I am going to pull for the coal mining industry of my constituency if it is possible for me to do so.

I know it may sound a bit foolish for one or two members to jump up and say that to transport coal from Alberta to the maritimes is like taking coal to Newcastle and so on, but I would like to know something about the price of this coal. According to my information they are going to burn slack coal; according to my information there are certain parts of Alberta where they can produce slack coal from a strip mine at about 80 cents a ton.

I understand that the coal to be used in the maritimes is seven, eight or nine times that price. Now that is something to be considered when it comes to competition, and do not believe that I am not sincere in making this amendment. The only reason someone may have suggested I was not sincere is because he does not understand the coal mining industry.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): I did not say the member was not sincere; I said he could not be serious.

Mr. Hansell: Serious; well I suppose there is a difference. I am serious, very serious, in presenting this amendment because I do know something of the coal mining industry. I have given it considerable study over the years and I have fought for that industry on the floor of this house for more than 20 years. Whether it has been the present government or their predecessors, they have never yet come up with a national coal policy. That is the thing we have been trying to get. Either the coal mining industry of the entire country has to be saved or it is going completely by the board and that is why I was interested in proposing this amendment. Believe me, I will go back to my constituency, do not think I am not serious—

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Harkness: You had better.

[Mr. Hansell.]

Mr. Hansell: And they will welcome me back, too, and send me to Ottawa again.

Mr. Nesbitt: Perhaps they will keep you there.

Mr. Hansell: I will go back to my constituency and tell them that I put this amendment on the record. Surely I will. And I will let them judge as to whether or not I am serious and as to whether or not this is a plausible amendment. I will not say anything more on that point. Surely, however, the coal miners and the coal mine operators of this country are going to expect something different from the new government from what they got from the old one. The previous government gave the industry the run around year in and year out over the past 20 years.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Hansell: Thank you for the applause, but I am going on to say that it does not appear as if this government is going to act any differently and the coal mining industry will wake up to that fact very shortly.

Mr. Richardson: Mr. Chairman, may I ask the hon. member for Macleod a question. Residing as I do in Montreal, of course I do not have any coal mines in my constituency and I bow to the knowledge of the hon. member for Macleod with respect to the coal industry. May I ask him what would be the b.t.u. relative value in respect of the slack coal in Alberta and the slack coal in Cape Breton? How much does the hon. member know about what the transportation cost would be of a ton of slack coal from Alberta to, let us say, the pit head at Glace Bay?

Mr. Hansell: I do not know that I can completely and accurately answer that technical point.

Mr. Richardson: You are a coal expert.

Mr. Hansell: However, Mr. Chairman, I will say that as far as the b.t.u.'s are concerned I am given to understand that there is very little difference. I do not know how much, but there is a very little difference.

An hon. Member: How many per pound?

Mr. Hansell: When a coal mine bids for an order for coal all that sort of thing is gone into and when the purchasing agency buys coal it wants to know the test as to the b.t.u. All that is done in the negotiations but under this bill there is no possibility of any negotiations of that kind.

Mr. Thompson (Edmonton-Strathcona): Mr. Chairman, it appears that figures are asked for and perhaps I can help a little. I do not think any one could be exact but the b.t.u. rating of the best bituminous coal is 14,000