

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stirling): The item was pronounced carried.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: The motion was that the item be reduced to \$1. That motion was lost but there was not a subsequent motion put that the item be carried.

The CHAIRMAN: I had just asked the question, "Shall the item carry?"

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I did not hear it.

Mr. DUFF: Even when items have been declared carried, the custom in the past has been to allow an hon. member who wished to speak to go on.

Mr. DONNELLY: I want to ask the minister this question. This bounty applies only to home-grown hemp, does it not?

Mr. STEVENS: Yes.

Mr. DONNELLY: Is there any way of checking up on the amount of home grown hemp that goes into the manufacture of binder twine used in the different factories?

Mr. STEVENS: An official of the government checks every pound, not at the moment of weighing it but through the records, books and so forth of the company. He checks every pound that goes into the manufacture of goods.

Mr. VALLANCE: Can the minister say how much binder twine is made from Canadian hemp?

Mr. STEVENS: I have not those figures.

Mr. VALLANCE: It is not made.

Item agreed to.

An act to place Canadian coal used in the manufacture of iron or steel on a basis of equality with imported coal, administration of, \$1,000.

Mr. RALSTON: I wish to call the minister's attention to an item which appeared in the Gazette of February 13, in which the Shipping World, a trade magazine in England, was quoted with regard to a suggested exchange of trade between Great Britain and Canada whereby timber would be exchanged for coal. The item closes with this statement:

Timber importers and coal exporters can open negotiations through the Canadian government's representatives at London for placing a contract for wood and securing an undertaking from Canada to purchase an increased quantity of anthracite and bituminous coal.

[Mr. Donnelly.]

Has the minister heard anything of these representations, or have any representations been made either to his department or to his representative in London?

Mr. STEVENS: No.

Mr. RALSTON: The matter of the taking of British coal has come up frequently in the past and I presume it will be referred to frequently in the future. I desire at this moment to reiterate the stand I have always taken, that before British coal is admitted every possible effort should be made to use Canadian coal.

Mr. STEVENS: I quite agree with that statement.

Mr. RALSTON: We should not consider that we have done everything when we take British coal instead of American coal; every effort should be made to replace American with Canadian coal. I am particularly fearful of this item when I notice that it suggests the taking not only of British anthracite but of British bituminous coal, and I hope the minister will give appropriate consideration to this matter.

Mr. STEVENS: My hon. friend's anxiety for the stimulation of the use of Canadian coal is heartily reciprocated by myself and by the government. Everything has been done and will be done to stimulate the use of Canadian coal. As far as I know there are no grounds, either officially or semi-officially, for the statement which has appeared in the press. We have no hesitancy in saying that we have encouraged the importation of British anthracite to replace American anthracite, but no steps have been taken, as far as I know with regard to the importation of bituminous coal.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): Has the operation of this act tended to increase the use of Canadian coal?

Mr. STEVENS: I cannot answer that question offhand. However, I can say that every possible effort has been made to increase the use of Canadian coal. During the past year or two the consumption of coal has fallen and I would imagine that the data would show a decrease over that period.

Mr. YOUNG: What would it cost per ton to put Canadian coal on a basis of equality with American coal, say, at Hamilton, Ontario?

Mr. STEVENS: I have not that information immediately before me.

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