

will burn and that will keep our industries going. With fourteen per cent of the world's coal deposits we were not able to keep our small population of twelve million people warm last winter and our industries are liable to break down this winter. I will tell the minister why we are not on a self-sustaining basis, and this is easy to say. It is because over the years we have had too much old-line party stupidity administering the affairs of this country. That is easy to say because it is true.

Mr. ROSS (Souris): Did I understand the minister to say that schoolteachers are not being granted postponements?

Mr. MITCHELL: They are in the same category as persons in industry. They would have to prove their cases before postponements would be granted. Of course the boards have been giving special consideration, but schoolteachers must make out a case for postponement before it is granted.

Mr. ROSS (Souris): There is a distinct shortage of teachers in the province from which I come, and I think the mobilization boards are seriously considering the matter.

Mr. MITCHELL: That is the reason why the order was issued the other day under my direction. In view of the representations which had been made by the various ministers of education, it was decided to move all teachers through selective service under direction. I do not think my hon. friend would want to go so far as to take them outside the realm of the call-up machinery.

Mr. ROSS (Souris): This afternoon the hon. member for Cape Breton South (Mr. Gillis) was trying to straighten out the hon. member for York-Sunbury (Mr. Hanson). The hon. member for York-Sunbury does not need anyone to speak for him. I understood the hon. member for Cape Breton South to state that while they were only a small group, seventy-five per cent of their members were ex-service men. I have been looking over the records of the C.C.F. members, and I find that there are three members out of nine who are ex-service men. That is not seventy-five per cent of their membership. I do not know that any one group in this house has any particular claim on having ex-service men in its membership, and certainly no group should endeavour to capitalize on our armed services. I am surprised that a group with so many schoolteachers and ministers of the gospel in its membership should not have made a greater attempt to get their facts straight.

[Mr. Hansell.]

Mr. CASTLEDEN: The hon. member for Cape Breton South—he is not in his place at the moment—told me that he did not intend to say seventy-five per cent.

Mr. CRUICKSHANK: What was he talking about then?

Mr. CASTLEDEN: That is his concern and he will tell you that to-morrow. I think it will be found that the matter will be corrected, either in *Hansard* or by a statement by the hon. member.

Mr. STIRLING: He said it in the hearing of all of us, and he cannot alter what is in *Hansard*.

Mr. CASTLEDEN: I said he would make a statement on it.

Mr. SHAW: I should like the minister to give us a break-down of the 104,743 persons who were granted permits to leave the farm in order to engage in other types of work during the past winter. When I referred to this matter some time ago the minister endeavoured to ridicule a statement I made that no individual who had spent such a short period of time in industry could become essential to that industry.

Mr. MARTIN: To what item is the hon. gentleman referring?

Mr. SHAW: I am referring to the farmers and farm workers to whom permits were granted last winter in order to engage in work other than farming. On June 23, this year, the minister stated that a total of 104,743 persons had been granted permits, but only 23,960 had been cancelled. Later on in his remarks he asserted that in certain instances these individuals had not been obliged to return to agricultural industry because they had become essential in the work in which they had been engaged during the winter time. To-day the minister said that one or two permits had not been cancelled. In checking over the statements which have been made during the last four months, I find that there is little conformity between them.

Mr. MITCHELL: It has been raining for a long time and my hon. friend will appreciate that that would tend to make the season late. Then it is no use in cancelling permits unless conditions are right for these men to go back on the farm.

Mr. SHAW: They were granted permits for winter work.

Mr. MITCHELL: I appreciate that, but what is the use in having a farmer or a farm labourer—I hope I shall not be criticized for using this language—lying around a farm