

The Budget—Mr. MacInnis

and when it was competitive. Far be it from me to stand here and suggest that we could make Cape Breton coal competitive with United States production. I do not see that this is possible but I do say that the answer lies in Ontario because 10 per cent of that market is all that we need. If the entire market were at our disposal we could not produce the necessary amount of coal but just 10 per cent of the market now supplied by imported coal would provide us with what we need to keep three mines in Cape Breton operating and the result would be that 2,500 men now faced with dismissal from their employment would be able to continue working.

I place emphasis on the province of Ontario simply because Nova Scotia provides Ontario with a considerable market for her products. I might elaborate by reference to the car industry. In Nova Scotia people pay anywhere from \$150 to \$300 more for the same model car as people in Ontario pay. This is a tremendous difference, and the same thing is also true with regard to many other kinds of manufactured goods for which Ontario finds a considerable market in Nova Scotia.

The same situation applies to Quebec to a lesser degree but as the automotive industry operates primarily in Ontario, Nova Scotia provides a greater market for Ontario than for Quebec. If Ontario industries were to take it upon themselves to purchase Nova Scotia coal even at a price two or three dollars a ton higher than the United States product and passed on the extra cost to the consumers it would only mean two or three million dollars more on the million tons and, when passed on to the consumers in Ontario I am quite sure it would mean less than \$1 per year to each consumer. This is not a great price to ask when you consider the fact that, as I said, Nova Scotians are paying from \$150 to \$300 more for cars manufactured in Ontario and are also paying more for other goods produced in Ontario.

Any comparison between the situation in Nova Scotia and that in other coal producing countries such as Belgium, France, England, Germany and so on is not a true comparison. It has been said that coal is obsolete. In making that reference I am referring to a statement made by the potential leader—I understand that all that is necessary to make him so is a snap of the finger—of the new party. Mr. Douglas made that remark at a recent seminar in Montreal. Mr. Douglas is the potential leader of the party in which a lot of miners in Nova Scotia hope to place their faith. So far as union activities in Cape Breton are concerned it would appear that the stepping

stone to union office has always been the C.C.F. party, and this is one reason why throughout the years I have often found it necessary to take exception with some of their representations. Yet here we have a bunch of Cape Breton miners who hope to place their faith in a man who has referred to coal as being obsolete.

As I was saying, it is not a true comparison to compare the situation in the Cape Breton coal fields with that in any other coal producing nation because these other nations are all exporting nations while in Canada the coal miners are engaged in the production of a product that cannot supply the Canadian demand. We could not supply our own domestic requirements if called upon to do so.

The situation we are faced with today is that Canadian miners are going to be side-tracked or whatever you wish to call it when the company sees fit to close collieries while at the same time this nation is importing far more coal than we produce. This is one reason why the situation in Canada cannot be compared with that in other coal producing countries which are faced with problems of an entirely different nature.

We in Nova Scotia are faced with the problem today that as a coal producing province we cannot market our production in our own country, and to me that does not add up to Canadian people supporting in every way goods produced in Canada. Probably I should not say it but it is true that if Nova Scotians and the people of the Atlantic provinces generally had the opportunity to deal with their American neighbours and were free to buy from them the lucrative market that we provide for Ontario cars would possibly not be available. We have a situation where we do not have the protection for the coal industry that we might desire. I am not suggesting for a moment that there should be anything in the way of a duty or quota placed on United States coal because this would be unfair.

If we were in a position to service the Ontario market fully we might have an argument for calling for further duties or controls over United States imports. This we cannot do, so all we are asking is that 10 per cent of the market in Ontario and Quebec be made available to the Nova Scotia miners in order that they may maintain their employment. As I pointed out, even if this 10 per cent were sold to the consumer at \$2 or \$3 more, it would not mean much to the individual. I am quite sure that Canadians across this country would be willing to accept something of this nature if, in turn, the miners would be provided with employment.

In closing these remarks, I must say that I have to take exception to the attitude of