

closing, Mr. Burrell said that he would bear in mind the suggestions which had been brought out by the debate.

Hon. Arthur Meighen replied to the statements of Mr. Armstrong in respect to the escape of natural gas on Dominion lands in Alberta. Mr. Meighen denied that there was any laxity on the part of the Mining Lands Branch of the Interior Department, and indicated the steps taken to prevent any waste of natural gas. Regulations to control Dominion mining lands, Mr. Meighen said, had been in effect for the last four or five years.

W. A. Buchanan (Lethbridge) felt that Western mines could meet the needs of the Western provinces and some of the needs of Eastern Canada. He was not quite sure, however, whether it was feasible to ship Western coal to Eastern markets. He thought the question of storage might well be taken into consideration by the Government, as it would go far towards solving the problem in Alberta.

J. C. Douglas (South Cape Breton) declared that the three greatest questions of the day were those of continued reinforcements for the troops in France, increased food supplies and increased coal production. He said that if the Fuel Controller was appointed mainly with a view to increasing production in Canada, and not to borrow coal from the United States, then he had been unsuccessful in his work. Since the appointment of Mr. Magrath in July, last, there had been a decrease of 600,000 tons in the production of coal in Eastern Canada.

To remedy the situation, he proposed that a reduction in the overhead charges of collieries should be effected, underpaid employes should receive increased wages, mining machinery in Nova Scotia should be improved, and companies should be made to spend excess profits in improving conditions at the mines generally. He also urged the appointment of an energetic man as a "speeder-up," the appointee to be given wide powers.

Dr. Clark (Red Deer) advocated the lifting of restrictions on the entry of mining implements to this country, declaring that only a nominal duty on such tools had existed in Argentina for a great many years. He urged the removal of the duty, but cautioned the Government not to give money away where the tariff had failed.

Alex. McGregor, Pictou, suggested that the Dominion Government should co-operate with the Provincial Government of Nova Scotia and take over the mines

of the Acadian Coal Company, operating them in such a way as to benefit the public. He did not approve the way these mines were being operated by the company.

Dr. Edwards argued that Dr. Michael Clark's assumption that the removal of the duty from coal would tend to solve the fuel problem was incorrect. The kind of coal which was used for domestic purposes and to heat houses was anthracite coal, on which there was no duty. He maintained that the trouble last year was due largely to a shortage of cars and inclement weather, which made it impossible to move the fuel.

Sir George Foster devoted the major portion of his remarks to a vindication of the Fuel Controller and an explanation of what his duties actually are. He said that the Government, in making the appointment, did not have in view the enhancing of coal production in Canada, so much as making it definitely sure that the allotment of 16,000,000 tons of coal from the United States should be obtained and equitably distributed at a fair price in Canada. He maintained that Mr. Magrath had successfully carried out his part of the programme, with the help of the United States authorities, who had been eminently fair and sympathetic in their dealings with him.

"His duty was to get the coal to Canada, but not to transport it after it had been brought across the border. The bad situation last winter, in connection with the transportation, was responsible for a great deal of the suffering throughout the country. Some people fear that we shall suffer privations again this year. If things go on ordinarily well and the transportation difficulties are not so great as last year, we shall get out allotment of 16,000,000 tons as usual."

With regard to the Western lignite coal, Sir George stated that the Government, in co-operation with the Provincial Governments of Manitoba and Saskatchewan, proposed to establish one or two units for making briquettes near Estevan. If this experiment proved a success, the Government could then choose whether it would continue the manufacture of briquettes for public consumption or leave this to private enterprise. A start on the installation of the Estevan plant would, said the Minister, be made at once, but it would be a year before manufacture of briquettes could be started. Briquettes could be manufactured at a cost of between six and seven dollars per ton and the supply of low-grade lignite coal in the West was practically inexhaustible.

CANADIAN PRODUCTION OF COAL IN RECENT YEARS.

	1915		1916		1917	
	Tons	Value	Tons	Value	Tons	Value
Nova Scotia.....	7,463,370	\$16,659,308	6,912,140	\$18,514,662	6,324,684	\$23,740,176
New Brunswick.....	127,391	309,612	143,540	386,016	188,660	705,673
Saskatchewan.....	240,107	365,246	281,300	441,836	355,304	662,228
Alberta.....	3,360,818	8,283,079	4,559,054	11,386,577	4,723,139	14,197,756
British Columbia.....	2,065,613	6,455,041	2,584,061	8,075,190	2,418,929	8,308,581
Yukon Territory.....	9,724	38,896	3,300	13,200	4,872	29,232
	13,267,023	\$32,111,182	14,483,395	\$38,817,481	14,015,588	\$47,643,646

IMPORTS OF COAL IN 1916 AND 1917.

	1916			1917		
	Tons	Value	Average	Tons	Value	Average
Bituminous, round and run of mine..	9,504,552	\$12,368,679	\$1.30	12,407,486	\$33,712,894	\$2.72
Bituminous, slack.....	3,505,236	3,704,624	1.06	3,129,776	8,739,877	2.79
Anthracite, coal and dust.....	4,570,815	22,216,363	4.86	5,320,198	28,109,586	5.28
Total.....	17,580,603	\$38,289,666	\$2.18	\$20,857,460	\$70,562,357	\$3.38

CANADIAN MINERAL PRODUCTION BY PROVINCES 1916 AND 1917.

Province	1916		1917		Increase (.) or Decrease (—)
	Value of Production	Per cent. of Total	Value of Production	Per cent. of Total	
Nova Scotia.....	\$20,002,262	11.31	\$25,333,643	13.13	5,291,381
New Brunswick.....	1,118,187	0.63	1,372,620	0.71	254,433
Quebec.....	14,406,598	8.13	17,115,161	8.87	2,708,563
Ontario.....	80,461,323	45.41	88,821,815	46.02	8,360,492
Manitoba.....	1,823,576	1.03	2,539,393	1.32	715,817
Saskatchewan.....	590,473	0.33	832,335	0.43	241,862
Alberta.....	13,297,543	7.50	16,426,154	8.51	3,218,611
British Columbia.....	39,969,962	22.56	36,161,528	18.74	3,808,434
Yukon.....	5,491,610	3.10	4,380,188	2.27	1,111,422
Dominion.....	\$177,201,534	100.00	\$192,982,837	100.00	15,781,303