

Supply—Mines and Technical Surveys

There is another problem. The Social Credit members of the legislature come down to Drumheller and talk about the coal that is brought in from the United States. They refer to 20 million tons a year being imported. Twenty million tons were imported when the Liberals were in office, but this amount has been reduced because we believe in doing our own processing and developing our own industries. The amount imported from the United States has fallen to 10 million tons.

There is one thing I should like to make very clear. When we are dealing with the Drumheller coal mines we are dealing with subbituminous coal, which is a soft domestic coal. It is not to be confused with the bituminous and anthracite coal that is imported, or the high bituminous coal of the Crow'snest pass. This subbituminous coal is not suitable for coking coal. It is not used in an industrial way. Therefore the coal that does come in from the United States has nothing to do with the market, even if it were economical for this coal from Drumheller to be shipped east. This coal is a domestic fuel. However, as I said at the beginning of my remarks, by proper scientific processing it can be broken down into many by-products. In fact all the by-products of natural gas exist in this coal and some day, as I said, there is no doubt it will be used to produce natural gas which can be piped to the industrial centres in the east or used in industry in Calgary and elsewhere in Alberta.

With respect to the development of our resources, and coal certainly is a very important resource from the point of view of energy, I took quite a lot of abuse in the debate on the Aurora pipe line bill. In fact I think the hon. member for Assiniboia, and I am sorry he is not here, said that I was one of the buccaneers, or words to that effect. I should like to say that when you are developing a resource naturally you have to develop corporations if you are going to have industry. That is true of the coal industry also. But when the hon. member talks about buccaneers, may I say that I think there is a new group of buccaneers appearing on the political scene, the buccaneers who are emerging from the province of Saskatchewan.

So far as the encouragement of companies that can develop an industry is concerned, we have heard a lot recently about the Saskatchewan bill that cancelled certain contracts with respect to mineral and petroleum rights in that province. As far as I am concerned the federal government took the right step in that matter, but when you are dealing with these contracts it is interesting to note that these farmers in Saskatchewan, I am quite convinced, were induced to sign them

by duress, but probably because of the processes of law the courts were unable to come to that conclusion.

Of course the courts of appeal are bound by a finding of fact, but it is interesting to note that the syndicate that accumulated these contracts was very friendly to some of these buccaneers. In fact some of these buccaneers were a part of it. As we are dealing with the development of the resources of this country I should like to place on the record a part of the cross-examination—

The Chairman: Order. I must say that the hon. member seems to me to be getting away from coal.

Some hon. Members: No.

The Chairman: I am willing to accept the views of the committee, but I would say that if the hon. member continues in this direction he will soon be discussing something else than coal. The item before the house deals only with coal.

Mr. Woolliams: I would ask you to bear with me. Possibly I came to the facts too quickly. You cannot develop petroleum or coal or minerals of any kind without some promotion, and I am talking about the promoters who endeavoured to develop the mineral resources of western Canada. I want to deal with this matter because I think it is very important, and I would point out that in the same Pincher Creek area where we have bituminous coal we also have gas wells of which one by-product is condensate. In fact every one of the by-products of natural gas is found in coal. In order to promote secondary industry you have to have these promoters and that is why I should like to place this on the record.

One of the promoters of this syndicate was a man by the name of Broughton. I would also point out that Mr. Shumiatcher was well connected with Mr. Fines, the former provincial treasurer of Saskatchewan. I am going to drop that point for the moment, but I should like to refer to certain questions that Mr. Broughton was asked in the action brought by certain farmers who alleged that there had been fraud with respect to these contracts. As found on page 160 of the appeal book filed before the Supreme Court of Canada there is the following passage:

Q. Had you any connection with the government of Saskatchewan at that time?

A. None other than I was living in the premier's constituency and at that time I was his organizer.

I would think that one of the buccaneers tried to bail himself out by means of a piece of provincial legislation with reference to the development of the resources of this country. I do not want to press this too far because