

Supply—Mines and Technical Surveys

mines in the province of Nova Scotia which were closed between 1946 and 1956 under a Liberal administration that did not even see fit to call a coal conference.

I might even go further and say that when the former prime minister, Mr. St. Laurent, decided to call the premiers to Ottawa for a dominion-provincial conference Mr. Henry Hicks, the then premier of Nova Scotia, did not even attend the conference for the purpose of discussing coal problems or any other problems. He saw fit to go to a Liberal rally at Lunenburg. When the miners were faced with a problem in 1956 the same Mr. Hicks referred to them as wildcatters and told the miners at a meeting the following day that they could not expect him to forgo his election commitments to meet with them. That is the type of treatment we got from the Liberals between 1946 and 1956. The hon. member for Gloucester likes to refer to 1958 but I will bring him up to date with respect to what happened during that period.

Broughton mine closed in December, 1949. Dominion No. 1B closed in July, 1955, Dominion No. 2 in December, 1949, Dominion No. 11 in November, 1949, Dominion No. 24 in October, 1953. I might say that among these were some of the biggest producers in the coal fields. Lloyds No. 7 closed in April, 1956, Sullivan closed in March, 1946, Bras d'Or No. 5 in February, 1946, Franklin in May, 1957, Springhill No. 1 in July, 1954, Springhill No. 4 in November, 1956. May I say here that I am not referring to the Springhill closures in the same sense as other closures primarily because these mines were forced to close as the result of very serious and sorrowful disasters. Hillcrest closed in March, 1947, Filor in March, 1955, Jubilee in October, 1951, River Hebert in October, 1948, Riverside in August, 1951, Strathcona No. 2 in March, 1947, Waddell in November, 1952, Chignecto in May, 1948, Acadia No. 7 in October, 1947, Albion and McGregor in January, 1957, Allan in June, 1951, Wadden in January, 1953, Milford No. 2 in February, 1957, Campbell No. 1 in January, 1958, Chimney Corner in October, 1952, Inverness in September, 1951, Macdonald No. 1 in March, 1952, Macdonald No. 2 in January, 1953, Macdonald No. 3 in April, 1955, Macdonald No. 5 in March, 1953, MacEachern in December, 1953, Mabou in October, 1951, McLellan in December, 1957, Rosebank No. 1 in May, 1946, Rosebank No. 2 in April, 1957, Rosebank No. 5 in March, 1957, McDonald (Ches-tico) in March, 1949 and Kemptown in November, 1947.

That list clearly answers the reference of the hon. member for Gloucester to closures in 1958 and proves once and for all that the Liberals were the ones who laid down on

[Mr. MacInnis.]

the job and did nothing whatsoever to prevent any of those mines closing. I apologize for repetition but perhaps I might say something about the coal policies of the former administration. The hon. member for Bonavista-Twillingate likes to take exception to this but he was asked to apologize publicly in a front-page editorial. On a number of occasions he asked for the reference to this editorial and I gave it to him some time ago. He can clearly see for himself that he has been asked to apologize publicly for taking exception to the remarks of the Prime Minister.

Mr. Pickersgill: I wonder whether I could ask the hon. member a question. He has just said that he gave me that editorial. Can he tell me when he gave it to me?

Mr. MacInnis: The hon. member has quite purposely misinterpreted what I said. I did not say I gave him the editorial. I said that I gave him an indication of where the editorial was to be found, the reference.

Mr. Pickersgill: It was in a newspaper.

Mr. MacInnis: I gave him the date. I might point out to the hon. member that it cost me approximately \$2.50 to get it for myself and he has the same opportunity. I was interested enough to get it in the form of a wire.

Mr. Pickersgill: I got mine free.

Mr. MacInnis: I notice you got it the cheap way. I was going to refer to the former prime minister's policy on coal. He wanted to leave it in the ground for future generations in order to manufacture synthetic materials.

Mr. Pickersgill: That statement is false.

Mr. MacInnis: He said to leave it in the ground. I might also point out to the hon. member something that was carried in the public press, that the former minister of fisheries received threats that he would be ridden out of a Nova Scotia town on a rail because of his remarks about the coal industry. I should like to hear the hon. member defend that.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I realize what I have said here this evening has not done anything on behalf of the Nova Scotia miners. However, I am quite sure hon. members opposite would not dare go down to Cape Breton and tell the miners what they did because the miners are well aware of what they did not do. These remarks I have made have done nothing to alleviate the situation.

I am very sorry to hear that the colliery in which I worked prior to coming to Ottawa has been closed down. I should like to say that at all times I have put forth every effort to prevent the collieries from closing.