

Supply—Mines and Technical Surveys

number of miners thrown out of work, a difficult situation arises. May I say that, as far as I am able to determine, those mines are closed and there is no prospect of their reopening in the foreseeable future. I have talked with one of the officials of that mine, and as a matter of fact he told me that if he was a worker for that company he would take any job that came along. Therefore, when I met all of the unemployed at Blairmore back during the first week of April I was careful to point this fact out to them. To help correct this situation I went to the president of some 10 companies that are now building that \$20 million plant west of Coleman and also companies laying pipe lines for the export of gas, and I asked them to give priority to the miners who have been thrown out of work through the closing of the mines at Blairmore and Bellevue. I received very fine co-operation but I find also that most of those companies which are building the pipe line bring their employees in from the outside and that the local people are not getting the jobs. I should like to read part of a letter I have received from the town of Blairmore with regard to this matter.

The council also wish to draw to your attention the fact that very few of the local unemployed persons are being hired by the pipe line construction company or the gas plant construction company and it was understood by the council that the hiring of local labour would be one of the first considerations of these companies, but this does not seem to be the case. Could this matter be brought to the attention of these companies and placement authorities through your office?

I have brought this matter to the attention of the Department of Labour. I have asked that job requirements in the Pincher Creek area be referred to the Blairmore office so that the unemployed in the Crowsnest pass will receive priority with respect to the jobs that become available.

South of Pincher Creek a \$20 million Shell plant will be constructed this summer and a railway line 10.8 miles long is to be built leading to the plant. Then there is the \$20 million British American Oil Company plant. I might add for the information of hon. members that from this very area south of Pincher Creek comes a large percentage of the gas that warms the homes of Ontario. The new petrochemical industries are constructing plants in that area for the purpose of separating the gas, separating sour gas, separating methane, which will be transported through pipes to eastern Canada and also exported to the United States. I hope that the Minister of Labour will give every possible consideration to the question of employment in the Crowsnest pass area.

I want to say a few more words about the coal industry. Yesterday the minister said

[Mr. Kindt.]

that the shipment of coal to Japan was an experiment. To be sure, we all recognize that it is an experiment in that \$4.50 per ton by way of subsidy is being paid to move the coal. As he told us, work is being undertaken to reduce the mining costs, transportation charges and the loading charges at the bulk loading facilities at Vancouver. All of these attempts to lower the subsidy are very commendable. If it were possible to decrease it to \$2.50 a ton I would have every confidence that it would put the coal industry in the Crowsnest pass area on a sound and economic basis in relation to the Japanese market. That is what we want. That is the objective toward which we should be working. These are the points that the coal board and other people who are studying these matters should bring to the attention of all concerned and all should work towards making it economically possible to ship coal to supply the Japanese market.

I know that at the end of April there were some 750 to 800 people still unemployed in the Crowsnest pass area. That is why I am so concerned that, with respect to jobs available in my constituency, the first chance should be given to the people of the Crowsnest pass area. There were three mines operating in that area but the number has now dwindled to two. I hope above all that the minister in his wisdom and the coal board in its wisdom will look with favour upon the continuation of the present subsidy in order to maintain the movement of coal to the Japanese market.

I should like to say a word or two about the Rand report. We in western Canada want nothing whatever to do with that report. I make that flat statement. There is not a thing in it that is of any value to us. So far as we are concerned, you can take it and throw it in the nearest garbage can and you would be applauded by us for doing so. Whoever wrote the report knew nothing of the coal industry in the west and I say without fear of contradiction that he certainly knew nothing about the coal industry in my area.

So far as the dominion coal board is concerned, I understand that the board is going through a period of reorganization and that certain changes will be made because of the retirement of some of the officials. At this time I should like to join the minister in complimenting the late Mr. Uren, the former chairman of the board, and also Mr. O'Brien who has spent much of his life as a civil servant in the service of the board. These two fine gentlemen are to be highly complimented and they deserve the thanks and appreciation of all members of the house