

of the hon. members from Nova Scotia happen to be on the opposite side of the House, the names of Nova Scotia members would be handed in from his own side of the House. I am informed that there is one representative of Nova Scotia on that committee, in the person of the hon. member for South Cape Breton (Mr. MacDonald).

Hon. R. B. BENNETT (West Calgary): I desire to add a very few words to what has already been said with regard to this matter. On March 15 the hon. member for East Lambton (Mr. Armstrong) moved a resolution which was seconded by the hon. member for Frontenac-Addington (Mr. Edwards), asking that attention of the House be given to the development of the coal resources of Canada and the delivery of this product at the lowest cost, in order to meet the urgent need for this fuel for manufacturing and domestic uses, and that a committee be appointed for this purpose. In consequence of that resolution the Prime Minister has to-day moved that the names of those who compose that committee be Messieurs Armstrong, Bury, Campbell and so on. May I point out that the purposes alleged in this motion are somewhat different from those set out in the motion proposed by the hon. member for East Lambton. The special committee named in this motion is to investigate our present sources of supply of anthracite and bituminous coal, the dependability of such sources, whether the prices are fair and reasonable, and other matters in relation thereto. The proper course to pursue in regard to the motion would be to recognize the fact that in 1923 a committee investigating this question made a report, and I would suggest that the present committee take up the work where it was left off in 1923, in order that there may be no duplication or unnecessary expenditure of public money with respect to this matter.

Might I also point out that the report made on that occasion was very, very definite. The report is printed on pages 8 and 9 of the Journals of the House, No. 6, Mines and Minerals, and the reference to that committee dealt not only with the question of mines and minerals in a general way, but also with the coal supply in a very definite way, particularly with respect to our dependence upon the United States. I would suggest that following the preparation of that report, and the hearing of witnesses at considerable expense, this new committee should not duplicate that effort. All that need be done is to amend the motion in such a way as to make it clear that the committee is to report upon the matter from the report of the last

[Mr. Mackenzie King.]

committee up to date, or in other words dealing largely with the question of transportation. It must be common ground with every member of this House that we have already established beyond question our sources of coal supply. We know what they are, in a general way, and further than that, we know in a particular way in what provinces they are and their extent, and the particular difficulty under which we labour at the present moment is the cost of transportation.

In that committee this matter was dealt with at some length and the government was recommended to take certain definite action. The hon. member for Kingston (Mr. Ross) has complained, and it seems to me very properly, that the government has failed to carry out those recommendations. I would suggest that this examination be held for the purpose of ascertaining the cost of transporting coal from the great coal regions of Alberta to central Canada, and from the Maritime provinces to Montreal and other cities of eastern Canada. That is the real difficulty confronting us. It is not necessary to waste time determining the extent of our coal resources; we need not waste time ascertaining whether or not the fuel is good, because its quality has already been established, and it has largely been used in Ontario during the past season.

In this regard, despite what has been said by the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Stewart), I should like to place on record the great sense of obligation the people in Alberta have to the hon. member for Toronto Northwest (Mr. Church). In season and out of season he has urged the desirability of the use of Alberta coal by the citizens of Ontario, and most of the people of Alberta realize that no better friend of the development of the coal areas of Alberta can be found anywhere than in the person of the hon. member for Toronto Northwest. I do deprecate this matter being made a political football, and being treated purely as a matter of politics. This country is confronted with what may become a very serious situation with regard to fuel during the coming winter. If, peradventure, there should be difficulty in the mining of coal in the United States, added to the difficulties now prevailing in Great Britain, I am sure every member of this House would feel that he had neglected some part of his duty if he did not, at this time, do everything in his power to assist in bringing to light every possible suggestion whereby the coal of Alberta may be used in Ontario during the coming winter.