

Redistribution

million tons represent our total import requirement. There are practically no imports of anthracite from either the United Kingdom or Europe, and there is no possibility of obtaining such imports. The supply of domestic coal this winter will depend upon anthracite supplemented by briquettes from western Canada, coke from the steel industry, such substitutes as can be made available from the western mines, and from certain other coals that are obtainable.

Mr. MacNICOL: Does the minister not mean 22 million tons of bituminous and 3½ million tons of anthracite?

Mr. HOWE: About that, as far as imports are concerned.

OPERATION OF FISH CREEK MINE, ALBERTA

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. H. BLACKMORE (Lethbridge): May I ask the Minister of Reconstruction and Supply whether he has yet answered the question I asked him on Wednesday, June 5, with reference to the Fish Creek coal mine, Alberta?

Right Hon. C. D. HOWE (Minister of Reconstruction and Supply): I apologize for not having answered the question. I obtained the information, which is that no steps are being taken. The reason is that the nature of the coal, its quality, and the lack of transportation make it unlikely that the particular mine will contribute to the solution of the present problem to an extent that would warrant the dominion government in taking steps to open it up.

Mr. BLACKMORE: Can the minister be specific and indicate whether he refers to sub-bituminous or bituminous coal?

Mr. HOWE: I regret that I have not the documents here. I had them the other day, but the orders of the day were not called until late, and I was absent. If the hon. member will regard his present question as notice of a further inquiry I will undertake to answer it to-morrow.

REDISTRIBUTION

AMENDMENT TO BRITISH NORTH AMERICA ACT
AS TO RULES FOR READJUSTMENT OF
REPRESENTATION

The house resumed from Wednesday, June 12, consideration of the motion of Mr. St. Laurent for an address to His Majesty the King praying that a measure be laid before the parliament of the United Kingdom to effect an amendment to the British North America Act with respect to readjustment of

[Mr. Howe.]

the representation in the House of Commons, and the amendment thereto of Mr. Diefenbaker.

Mr. A. J. BROOKS (Royal): When I moved the adjournment of the debate at six o'clock yesterday I was discussing the assertion of the hon. member for Moose Jaw (Mr. Thatcher) that if and when the C.C.F. party obtains power in this country one of its first acts will be either the reform or the abolition of the senate, and I was pointing out what effect that eventuality would have upon representation here of the maritime provinces, or if any other party felt the same way. According to the proposed amendment to the British North America Act, the maritime provinces must depend upon their representation in the senate for their minimum representation in this house. If the suggestion of the hon. member for Moose Jaw were an isolated case, possibly we would not need to pay much attention to it, but I should like to quote also from a statement made by the hon. member for Peace River (Mr. Low), the leader of the Social Credit party. I do not use this quotation to cast any reflection on the hon. member for Peace River, as I may say I have always found him fair in debate and possibly one of the most broad-minded men in the house. However, he had this to say, as reported at page 2254 of *Hansard*:

It is pleaded, of course, that we must not reduce the House of Commons representation for any province below the number of senators that the province enjoys at the present time. My answer to that is this. Let us then reduce the number of senators to the rightful level while we are at it.

As I said yesterday, we know what effect it would have in the maritime provinces if the senate were again reduced and the representation in our province were based on the number of senators.

I wish to give another quotation which was used by the hon. member for Lake Centre (Mr. Diefenbaker) when he spoke a few days ago. He was quoting from a speech made by the late Mr. Woodsworth. I should like to say here that I wish to cast no reflection on the memory of this man for whom I, and, I know, every member who knew him, had great respect. Mr. Woodsworth said on November 25, 1932, as reported at page 2299 of *Hansard* for that year:

There cannot be two or three different classes of Canadians in this country, with certain classes having superior rights to others. If a mistake was made in giving a fixed number of representatives to Prince Edward Island there is no reason why we should follow a bad precedent. The way to get away from that is to amend the British North America Act so that Prince