

*Industrial Activity in Maritimes*

has yielded the floor so that I may criticize him and his government a little bit more.

Within recent days we have been greatly discouraged by statements made in the Nova Scotia legislature regarding the steel industry in Nova Scotia, located particularly in Cape Breton. These statements have been made by the former minister of trade and industry in the province of Nova Scotia, Mr. E. A. Manson. I have before me the *Chronicle-Herald* Friday, March 18 which carries the headline "Immediate Cure for Steel or Sydney may Die—Manson". For the benefit of the Minister of Industry (Mr. Drury) and the Minister of National Health and Welfare, I should like to read extracts from this article because, as the hon. member for Cape Breton South, I feel that the Minister of Industry does not seem to realize what is going on outside of Montreal and the immediate surrounding area. Apparently there is no liaison between the Minister of Industry and his colleague, the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Had there been some liaison he would have known that there is worry and concern in Cape Breton and throughout Nova Scotia regarding the future of the steel industry there. They would also be aware that telegrams have been sent out about this matter expressing grave concern.

The Minister of Industry is showing extreme interest at this time and I hope that he and his colleague will listen carefully to this quotation from the issue of that newspaper to which I referred. Mr. Manson is reported as having said:

Steel city Sydney could "whither and die" in the next 20 years if there was not an immediate cure found for a sick steel industry, the legislature was warned yesterday.

The article then continues as follows:

Cape Breton South MLA, E. A. Manson, a former minister of trade and industry, and mines, took a swipe at the huge Dosco empire, and predicted that the Sydney steel works would have nothing more to do than fill orders at busy periods or when there was a short supply from the huge Quebec province steel complex, if the downhill trend was not rapidly reversed.

He was speaking in the opening day of debate on the first report of the Voluntary Planning Board. He outlined recommendations to save the Sydney steel mills.

I hope that the temporary government we have here will listen intently to what Mr. Manson suggested should be done, and then come forward with their own ideas and suggestions as to what can be done to assist Dosco and thereby assist the steel workers in the province of Nova Scotia.

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As reported in this newspaper, Mr. Manson made the following recommendations:

Appoint a steel economist to co-ordinate efforts of organizations working to better the economy and that industry;

Make a thorough study of transportation to central Canada, with the idea of subsidies from the Atlantic Development Board;

Establish a plate mill to take up the slack and offer new steel products;

Ask the VEP board to establish whether or not it is too late to move a sheet and strip metal mill to the Sydney site;

Concentrate more production on small and medium structural steel;

Call on Dosco to take on its responsibilities as a citizen of this province.

On this latter point Mr. Manson said it was difficult to sit down and work out a program with a company owned and operated by people outside the province. "We are mystified where we are going," he said.

He said he was not making a direct attack on Dosco.

"But they should be called to account!"

Later on in this same article the following is reported, and I wish to bring this particularly to the attention of the Minister of Industry:

Mr. Manson told the House that the labour force in the Sydney mill had dropped 2,000 in the last 20 years—to a total employment figure of 3,160 in 1964, at full plant capacity.

This cutback, he said was due to the increased use of oxygen in the open hearth, and technical advances. And, he predicted that in another 20 years, 2,000 more could be lopped off the steel plant payroll.

"There is a danger we are getting ourselves in a complacent attitude about steel, saying steel's all right," he said.

The Monday, March 21, edition of the *Chronicle-Herald* reported that telegrams had been sent to Premier Stanfield and the Minister of National Health and Welfare regarding this very serious situation. The headline is "Sydney Steel Union Seeks Intervention" with a subheading "Stripping of Mill Opposed". I hope the Minister of National Health and Welfare will listen and take note of this article, and advise us when he replies what action he intends to take to provide some relief for the steel workers in Sydney. The article states:

James C. Nicholson, district director for the United Steelworkers of America has sent telegrams to Premier Stanfield and National Health and Welfare Minister Allan MacEachen urging the immediate consultation be held with heads of Dosco, to end the "stripping" of the Sydney plant's wire mill.

• (9:30 p.m.)

In the telegrams, Mr. Nicholson said the general manager of the Sydney works of Dosco has informed the Sydney steelworkers that the management will shortly order the dismantling of two