

Mr. RALSTON: All I say to my hon. friend is that after the assurance which he gives I am sure that he will welcome the investigation, and I am sure the Prime Minister will grant it now. That is all I am asking for. My hon. friend seems satisfied with that, and I am.

Mr. CANTLEY: Under the act to which I have referred and under the conditions existing I understand that he is not entitled to an investigation. I saw his affidavit. He denies doing certain things, but there are many other things which he does not deny which he did do.

Mr. EULER: There is an amount of \$350,000 in this item which constitutes an increase under the Income War Tax Act. I think that is an increase over anything that we have had in the last four years, and I should like to know what is the reason for it.

Mr. BENNETT: That \$350,000 is provided for the purpose of enabling the auditors to carry out the very work that was suggested by my hon. friend to-day in connection with the income tax and other revenues. It is thought that closer investigation will bring to the government of the country greater revenue. The officials assure us that with the expenditure of this sum of money they will be able to recover this year ten times the amount thus appropriated. They did ask for half a million dollars. There are only seven months left of the fiscal year, and this amount of \$350,000 gives them \$50,000 a month to carry on their investigations. One matter alone in which they are now interested would net to the treasury a sum at least three times the amount thus appropriated.

Item agreed to.

Miscellaneous—to provide for payments in connection with movements of coal under conditions prescribed by the governor in council and for the cost of administration thereof, \$1,428,000.

Mr. NEILL: Under this item a bonus is to be paid on coal mined on Vancouver island for export and the bunker trade. I wish to ask whether it provides for a bonus at the rate originally contemplated of 25 cents per ton, or at the rate of one dollar per ton which I had some reason to hope the Prime Minister might agree to on further consideration.

Mr. BENNETT: Twenty-five cents a ton is the sum provided for under this estimate.

Mr. NEILL: Then I must take up ten minutes of the time of the house. I have seen a lot of time wasted to-day and this

is not going to be wasted. It will take me a great deal longer if there are interruptions. This is one of the occasions, Mr. Chairman, when you can show yourself by keeping order.

The CHAIRMAN: It is pretty hard in certain circumstances.

Mr. NEILL: What does that mean?

The CHAIRMAN: The circumstances the hon. member referred to.

Mr. NEILL: When this matter was up before I was particularly careful to make no kind of political or other attack or criticism on the government. I merely pointed out that their policy was such and so, and that it apparently stopped short when it came to Vancouver island. Now that the government have definitely decided against us I still do not propose to waste the time of the house in reproaches against the government. It is a local matter, and while constituting a very bitter grievance it does not interest the members in the east. Also I want to lose no possible opportunity and to close no door through which we may still get relief.

I want to refer to three or four items. The Prime Minister, speaking the other day, said that it was one thing to be asked for aid to prevent an industry going to disaster, and another thing to encourage a new and thriving industry. I would point out that the coal mines on Vancouver island will average some forty years in age. Ten minutes before the Prime Minister made that remark his supporter from Cape Breton South, where the coal mines have been in operation for something like two hundred years, made the remark that the industry in his district was a dying industry—I have the Hansard here but I shall not take the time to quote his exact words—and must be rejuvenated or it would perish, and he congratulated the government on taking steps to prevent it dying; that was the word he used. If his argument is good and sound, and I admit that it is in regard to Nova Scotia, the same argument should be equally applicable to mines not one-fifth part of their age in British Columbia.

There are two matters which give me still some hope that the Prime Minister may give us at any rate some relief, in the matter of which I am speaking. While speaking of these coal mines at Nanaimo and in Cumberland he commented on the fact of how hard up these miners would be this winter. He said that the tales of poverty and destitution that had been told to him would almost justify the bonus of one dollar per ton which we were