

*Alberta Coal*

privilege. The Ottawa Citizen in its issue of February 13, referring to myself, has this heading on an article: "Asks Freight Rates out of Board's Hands." May I state that a careful reading of my remarks will indicate that I stated the Intercolonial rates should be taken out of the board's hands, rather than the whole question of rates over the railways in Canada.

## TRANSPORTATION OF COAL

## SEVEN DOLLAR RATE ON ALBERTA COAL

## On the Orders of the Day:

Mr. A. U. G. BURY (East Edmonton): I would like to call the attention of the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Stewart) to a telegram that has just been received from the Milnes Coal Company, Limited, Toronto, as follows:

Wire what the prospects are for obtaining further supply Alberta coal on seven dollars freight rate. Citizens of Toronto in large numbers inquiring for this coal. Immediate action necessary if situation is to be relieved.

I would ask the minister if he is prepared to try and make similar arrangements with Sir Henry Thornton for a further shipment of Alberta coal at the \$7 freight rate to relieve the apparent necessities of the citizens of Toronto.

Hon. CHARLES STEWART (Minister of the Interior): I thought I had made it perfectly clear to the House on a previous occasion that I did not have anything to do with the \$7 freight rate. If my hon. friend will look up the Journal of Saturday, he will note that the arrangements were made by the Ontario government with Sir Henry Thornton. So far as I know, the rate is still in existence; I have not heard of it being discontinued. I wish to make it perfectly clear, however, that this government had nothing to do with the inception of that rate. That rate was put on by Sir Henry Thornton to meet an emergency, and I understood, in conversation with him, that it would remain on so long as the emergency existed. I note from what the Journal had to say the other day that there had been conferences between Premier Ferguson and Sir Henry Thornton with reference to this matter; but the fuel controller of the province of Ontario, Mr. Ellis, is the man who ascertains the necessities of the case, and who makes the arrangements with the railway company for the shipping of the coal.

[Mr. Foster.]

## INQUIRY INTO COST BY RAILWAY COMMISSION

## On the Orders of the Day:

Mr. J. E. ARMSTRONG (East Lambton): I should like to draw the attention of the government to an article which appears in the Montreal Daily Star of February 12. It is headed "Ottawa government to investigate the actual transportation rate" and reads as follows:

The government has under its immediate consideration a programme of instruction to the railway commission to examine into and report on the actual cost of moving coal from the Maritimes and from Alberta to central Canada it was learned to-day. Hon. E. M. Macdonald, Minister of Defence, intimated this morning to a group of Alberta and Maritime members who had met to discuss the fuel problem.

Has the government instructed the railway commission to take action along the lines suggested, and if so what is the nature of the instructions given to the commission?

Mr. STEWART (West Edmonton): Perhaps I can best answer that by laying on the table of the House to-morrow the order in council dealing with this matter. Yes, we have passed an order in council asking the board to investigate.

## IMMIGRATION

## ARRIVAL OF JAPANESE TEACHERS

## On the Orders of the Day:

Mr. A. W. NEILL (Comox-Alberni): May I ask the Minister of Immigration (Mr. Stewart) if his attention has been called to the fact, apparently thoroughly authenticated in our western press, that four young Japanese ladies, graduates of the Tokio Normal College, have arrived in this country and are going to Mission City, and to Ocean Falls, B.C., to give instruction to Japanese public school students after their regular daily classes? And if that is so, I would also ask under what section of the gentleman's agreement these ladies came in, either as agricultural labourers or as married women, the only two classes for which they are apparently eligible?

Hon. CHARLES STEWART (Acting Minister of Immigration): This is the first I have heard of the matter, but I will inquire and find out the facts.

## ARRIVAL OF FOREIGNERS AT ST. JOHN

## On the Orders of the Day:

Mr. J. A. CLARK (Vancouver-Burrard): I draw the attention of the government to a despatch from St. John, N.B., dated February 14, as follows: