

allow the goods you require to carry on these public works to come in duty free and leave more of your money available to pay wages? Why not do it? You have precedents all over the world to warrant it.

Mr. RALSTON: Mr. Chairman, just before recess I asked the Prime Minister with regard to assistance to encourage mining operations. At the moment I had not Hansard in front of me. I now find the reference which I had in mind in Hansard of yesterday. The Prime Minister said:

An effort will be made through another clause, to which I direct attention, to ensure mining operations being carried on upon such a scale as will ensure employment for miners, coal miners, at any rate.

I understood my hon. friend this afternoon to say that this other clause to which he referred really meant an order in council for the extension of the test rate from west to east.

Mr. BENNETT: We have not passed any order in council. What page was my hon. friend reading from?

Mr. RALSTON: Page 84, near the bottom of the first column.

Mr. BENNETT: I thought I had read the clause, but apparently I had not.

Mr. RALSTON: Is it in the bill?

Mr. BENNETT: Yes.

Mr. RALSTON: Would it be in order for my hon. friend to read it now?

Mr. BENNETT: I think it is in the resolution about assisting in defraying the costs of distribution.

Mr. RALSTON: It is not in the resolution.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: It is "etc." in the resolution.

Mr. LAPOINTE: It is included in the "etc."

Mr. BENNETT: Here it is:

Assisting in defraying the cost of distribution of products of the field, farm, forest, sea, lake, river and mine.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: That is in the bill?

Mr. BENNETT: Yes.

Mr. RALSTON: Is there any other form of relief covered by the "etc." which is not referred to specifically in the resolution?

Mr. BENNETT: I would suggest in view of all that has transpired that the quicker we get to the bill the more readily we shall understand its terms.

Mr. RALSTON: I submit, with deference, Mr. Chairman, that we are concerned to know whether this measure relieves those engaged in various vocations throughout this country. My hon. friend has quite rightly suggested that it is relief as a whole. At the same time, we are all concerned in the different vocations of the people in the localities from which we come. I am referring at the moment to the mining population.

Mr. BENNETT: The mining, or the coal mining population?

Mr. RALSTON: The coal mining population particularly. My hon. friend referred before recess to the order in council which had been passed. There was an order in council passed, but I understand it simply extends the test rate on coal moving from west to east. Do I understand that the assistance in transporting natural products referred to in the bill will be assistance of that sort, that is, a cheaper rate for moving fuel from the east to central Canada and the west?

Mr. BENNETT: I tried to make it fairly clear, Mr. Chairman, that I was not undertaking to exhaust the means by which efforts would be made to relieve the situation. The situation as a whole is being considered, and whatever may be necessary or requisite to meet that situation, we will endeavour to do. I tried to make it clear that I was not attempting to indicate all those avenues of effort; to do so would be absurd.

Mr. RALSTON: But I want to ask about one avenue of effort, that is, whether one of the means to be adopted to assist coal mining will be the inauguration or the continuance of cheap rates from the east to the west. I think that is a fair question.

Mr. BENNETT: It might or might not be, depending on whether some other means might be preferable to that.

Mr. RALSTON: I asked my hon. friend if it was the intention of the government to adopt that as one of the means.

Mr. BENNETT: I have answered that question.

Mr. RALSTON: I submit, Mr. Chairman, that my hon. friend has not answered it. He has simply intimated that it might or might not be.