

Supply—Mines and Technical Surveys

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| 1955 | 901 |
| 1956 | 949 |
| 1957 | 909 |
| 1958 | 781 |
| 1959 | 913 |

Mr. Comtois: Yes, Mr. Chairman, the fact is that it is \$1.5 million for this year.

Mr. Pickersgill: Only.

Mr. Comtois: I did not say "only". I said for this year. Do not go adding other words.

Mr. Robichaud: At no time has the minister stated this amount would be set aside annually?

Mr. Comtois: No.

Mr. Robichaud: I think the minister should answer the definite questions I asked of him yesterday before we allow this item to pass.

Mr. Comtois: Yes, Mr. Chairman, there are a few questions that were raised by the hon. member for Gloucester. I have taken some notes on them.

The hon. member asked for information on the number of men employed and the number of days worked per year in the Nova Scotia and New Brunswick mines over the last 10 years. These figures are taken from the dominion bureau of statistics and are as follows: The number of employees in Nova Scotia in 1950 was 11,712, representing 274 days' work; in New Brunswick, 1,034 employees for 257 days' work; in 1959, Nova Scotia, 7,535 employees and 214 days' work; New Brunswick, 913 employees and 272 days' work. I have the figures for the intervening years between 1950 and 1959.

Mr. Robichaud: Does the minister have the figures for 1960?

Mr. Comtois: No, the dominion bureau of statistics has not reported as yet, so I do not have them. I would certainly have produced them if I could have obtained them.

Mr. Robichaud: Perhaps if the minister finds the report too long, he could give the number of employees only year after year, leaving the man hours aside.

Mr. Comtois: Just the number of employees?

Mr. Robichaud: The number of employees.

Mr. Comtois: This is the number, and I am speaking of Nova Scotia:

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|------|--------|
| 1950 | 11,712 |
| 1951 | 11,952 |
| 1952 | 11,602 |
| 1953 | 11,231 |
| 1954 | 10,637 |
| 1955 | 10,073 |
| 1956 | 9,983 |
| 1957 | 9,181 |
| 1958 | 8,892 |
| 1959 | 7,535 |

In New Brunswick:

| | |
|------|-------|
| 1950 | 1,034 |
| 1951 | 866 |
| 1952 | 900 |
| 1953 | 919 |
| 1954 | 916 |

Is the hon. member satisfied with these figures?

Mr. Robichaud: Yes.

Mr. Comtois: The hon. member also asked the following question. What is the reason why there may be an increase in metallurgical coal? It appears reasonable to assume that the steel industry in Canada will continue to expand with increasing population and demand for goods. That is the normal forecast. Another question he asked was this. What proportion of this increase will be supplied by mines in the maritime provinces? It is not expected that there will be any substantial increase in the supply of maritime coal. The amount of coal produced in Nova Scotia for this purpose is very limited and New Brunswick coal is not suitable because of high sulphur content.

The hon. member for Gloucester also asked for information on the imports of heavy fuel oil in the eastern provinces. The dominion bureau of statistics reported as follows:

Imports of Heavy Fuel Oil into the Maritime Provinces

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|------|-------------------|
| 1958 | 732,400 barrels |
| 1959 | 1,583,700 barrels |
| 1960 | 1,704,400 barrels |

The hon. member also asked about the changes in production in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick between 1950 and 1959. The production in these years has been as follows: Nova Scotia 1950, 6,478,000 tons; 1959, 4,391,000 tons. In New Brunswick, for 1950, 607,000 tons; in 1959, 1,003,000 tons. These figures represent a decrease of some 33 per cent in Nova Scotia and an increase of some 65 per cent in New Brunswick. I think those are the figures for which the hon. member asked. Is he satisfied?

Mr. Robichaud: I wish to thank the minister for these figures which I was anxious to have on the record. I will not elaborate on the figures which have been given by the minister. However, I will bring to the attention of the committee the fact that in Nova Scotia alone the number of employees in the coal mines decreased by 700 during the last seven years of the previous administration while it went down by 1,600 during the first two years of the present administration. I hope the hon. member for Cape Breton South will not say that I am again trying to misinform the committee as he did last night when I quoted the figures from the dominion bureau of statistics.