

in the interests of the working classes of this Dominion. With the permission of the House, Mr. Speaker, and, of course, with your permission, I would rather do that than weary hon. members by reading the correspondence that took place between the leader of the Opposition and the then member for Pictou county who was supporting the Laurier Government.

Mr. SPEAKER: Under exceptional circumstances documents containing tabulated figures have been inserted in Hansard without having been read. In my experience, however, I cannot recall an instance in which correspondence of this character has been submitted by a private member and been incorporated in the Official Report unread. If it has any bearing on the subject before the House, I think it would be well for the hon. member to read it. I doubt very much, however, whether it is relevant to the question under consideration.

Mr. BUTTS: Of course, Mr. Speaker, we obedient members of the House must always bow to your ruling. Perhaps the next expedient would be to show that the members of this House who were first baptized as the dark lantern brigade, of which we have heard something during this session, were Mr. Macdonald, who then represented Pictou county, Mr. Johnston, who represented Cape Breton county, the present member for Halifax (Mr. Maclean), Mr. Carvell, and Mr. Kyte. That was the original dark lantern brigade. Correspondence was carried on between these gentlemen and the present leader of the Opposition (Mr. Mackenzie King), then Minister of Labour in the Laurier Government, and it was finally determined that no part should be taken by the Department of Labour on behalf of the miners who were on strike in Nova Scotia for ten months. The only part they did take was to send a regiment of soldiers down there who set up a machine gun at the door of the Bridgeport chapel in the county of Cape Breton, and defied the men to pass a given line.

Mr. SPEAKER: I must remind the hon. member that the subject under consideration is the amendment moved by the hon. member for Shelburne and Queen's (Mr. Fielding), which is as follows:

That all the words after the word "that" to the end of the question, be omitted and the following inserted instead thereof:

In the opinion of the House, the Government should bring in a measure to approve,
[Mr. Butts.]

ratify, and confirm the agreement respecting reciprocal trade between the United States and Canada signed at Washington on January 21, 1921, by Hon. P. C. Knox, on the part of the United States, and by Hon. W. S. Fielding and the late Hon. William Paterson, on the part of Canada, which agreement remains of the statute books of the United States.

The hon. member is not speaking to the question.

Mr. BUTTS: Perhaps I am astray, Mr. Speaker, and I am glad to be called to order. Now, coming back to the matter of reciprocity, I can remember an occasion, when I was very young, on which I heard my hon. friend from Shelburne and Queen's make a speech in the city of Sydney in which he said that if the coal trade of Nova Scotia could not stand without protection, then he would let it fall. I wonder whether my hon. friend would repeat that to-night. If the hon. gentleman will read that journal called *The Coal Age* for the month of February he will find that in that month, in Pennsylvania—and the same is true in regard to other states—they were producing and selling coal at the pit mouth at \$1.90 per ton. Let my hon. friend go back to the year when he and the late Mr. Paterson went down to the United States to negotiate the reciprocity pact. In the month of April previous to that, the Dominion Coal Company tendered on a contract for 50,000 tons of coal for the city of Montreal and they were beaten by American companies by 31 cents per ton, notwithstanding the fact that the duty was then 54 cents per ton. I do not altogether feel like absolving the present Government from all blame, although perhaps I cannot saddle it on their shoulders; but during the war the coal trade of Nova Scotia was practically crippled owing to the fact that the Imperial Munitions Board took over all our shipping and our St. Lawrence coal trade dropped from two and a half million tons to less than half a million tons. Our shipping had been practically confiscated and we had no means of transportation.

If ever there was a time when this House was in duty bound to do justice and to right a wrong it is now. We should be given an opportunity to regain the St. Lawrence market, which is our only one. My hon. friend from Red Deer is looking somewhat askance at me. In 1868—that is some time back—the United States Government imposed a duty on steel rails, on nails, on I-beams, and on structural iron generally, of \$20 a ton, and they found that in spite of that duty England was sending nails