

of coal consumed in Hamilton as compared with that consumed closer to the point of origin in Nova Scotia. What is the policy of the department?

Mr. CRERAR: Subventions are not paid on the movement of Nova Scotia coal by water up as far as Montreal. When you come to consider the city of Quebec, keeping in mind the principle of the subvention, that it is to enable Canadian coal to compete with United States coal, the cost of United States coal delivered in Quebec is very much greater than the cost of United States coal delivered in Montreal, and the cost of delivering Nova Scotia coal to Quebec is less than the cost of delivering the same coal to Montreal. Consequently the rate of subvention paid to Quebec, if subventions were paid there, would be very much less than to Montreal, because the need for it is less.

Mr. MacNICOL: And in the case of Toronto the need is greater.

Mr. CRERAR: In the case of Toronto it is greater.

Mr. HARRIS (Danforth): Not sufficient to make up the differential.

Mr. CRERAR: It is estimated very carefully by those in charge of the administration of the Dominion Fuel Act so that no more will be paid than is necessary to enable Canadian coal to take the place of United States coal. That is the general principle upon which the subventions are administered, and I do not know any sounder principle upon which they could be administered.

Mr. MacNICOL: Has the minister any idea of the number of men who have been given employment in the Nova Scotia coal mines as a result of these subventions?

Mr. CRERAR: In 1939 it was estimated that 4,403 men obtained employment in the coal mines of Nova Scotia as a result of the subventions paid.

Mr. POULIOT: It seems to me there are two branches that should work together, the dominion fuel board and the combines investigation branch of the Department of Labour. There was an investigation some time ago into the exorbitant profits made out of coal, but in Rivière du Loup we still pay \$17.50 a ton for anthracite. We did not get any help from this or any other board; and in addition to that price there is now a tax of ten per cent. The situation is not so bad here in Ottawa, because this city is closer to the American mines, and anthracite is a little

[Mr. J. H. Harris.]

cheaper here. People who burn ten, twelve or fifteen tons of coal during the winter, and must pay \$17.50 a ton for it, consider this price really exorbitant.

I wonder what is the remedy. I see there is to be an increase in these subventions this year, but it is not a question of money; it is a question of power to deal with the situation. We should have redress of some kind. What was the use of that costly inquiry by Mr. McGregor? I wonder if the Department of Labour has worked in cooperation with the Department of Mines and Resources in this regard. As a result of that investigation a huge report was prepared, but no one read it and as a matter of fact I think only one copy was made available to members of this house. The joke of it all was that the man who was responsible for all that exploitation of the Canadian people sold out his interests and is now free in the other place, considered by many to be a great citizen. This reminds me of the case of a lawyer who was disbarred; I am sure the Minister of Justice will remember him. He is dead now, so I need not mention his name, but he would force his clients to pay him twice if they could not produce receipts. He was stealing hundreds of dollars; yet because occasionally he gave \$5 to charity he was considered a good Samaritan and a public-spirited Canadian. That was the position of the controller of the coal business in this country. What he did was shameful, yet apparently there was no remedy. What is the use of having boards, boards, boards? It is of no use at all. Here we have the cult of the golden calf. When a man is rich he is supposed to be a great citizen, but often it happens that a man becomes rich by exploiting the Canadian people, as has been done in connection with coal.

I wonder if it is too late for us to have some sort of sanction. The way the Canadian people at large have been treated in regard to coal is a d— shame; I could use some very profane language when I think of it. I believe everyone agrees with me in this statement. We have cold winters here. We see some of these people go on tours around the world while the rest of us freeze here and have to pay tremendous prices for coal. I should like to have an investigation that would give results, not a pink investigation; and I would like those responsible for the suffering of our fellow citizens during the cold weather to be hanged naked in the fiercest cold of winter. That is the penalty I think they deserve. The minister has had long years of experience in this department; he has a wide knowledge of the coal situation, and I wonder if he cannot do something real