

when a commission brings in a report setting out the remedies, as they see them, for the situation in the Maritimes, I believe that every western member will be prepared to support legislation that will ameliorate those conditions.

Mr. MACDOUGALL: May I ask the hon. gentleman this question: If a commission investigating, for example, the coal industry in Nova Scotia should report back that the thing needed is increased protection, would the hon. gentleman be prepared to support that recommendation?

Mr. MEIGHEN: Hear, hear.

Mr. BOTHWELL: I would not want to answer that question just in the bald way in which it was put, but I would say this: So far as we in the west are concerned the protection on coal that is asked for by the Besco Bulletin will not affect us. There is no reason that I can see why I would not support protection of that kind if it was going to benefit the Maritimes.

Mr. MEIGHEN: Hear, hear. Will the hon. gentleman permit another question? He said he would support the finding of the commission as respects Maritime railway rates. He also said that the matter was before two commissions. If the two commissions report differently, which one will he support?

Mr. BOTHWELL: If my information is correct, the Board of Railway Commissioners are studying the question of freight rates. That will be a matter, as I understand it, of finding out whether the rates should be lowered or increased. That is the purpose so far as the railways are concerned. The other commission appointed to inquire into Maritime rights will be supposed to bring in some recommendation that will provide a solution of the difficulties in the Maritimes.

Mr. MEIGHEN: Including railway rates. Now, I ask the hon. gentleman this question: If they differ in their reports, which one will he support?

Mr. BOTHWELL: I think my right hon. friend is a lawyer. He must know that I am not able to say, before reading the report, which one I should be prepared to follow. You cannot come to a conclusion until you have before you the facts to base a conclusion upon.

Mr. MEIGHEN: The hon. member told us he would follow the commission. I just wanted to know which one he referred to.

[Mr. Bothwell.]

Mr. BOTHWELL: I think the right hon. gentleman is mistaken when he states I said I would follow the commission.

Mr. MEIGHEN: On railway rates, yes.

Mr. BOTHWELL: I stated—at least I intended so to state—and if I made a misstatement I will correct it now—that when that commission brings in a report—

Mr. MEIGHEN: Which one?

Mr. BOTHWELL: Either one—any commission which will give us a statement as to what should be done in order to remedy the conditions in the Maritimes—I believe the members from western Canada will be prepared to support legislation that will be in the interests of the Maritimes as shown by the report.

Mr. MEIGHEN: That is not the question.

Mr. BOTHWELL: In addition to the coal industry there is the iron and steel industry in the Maritime provinces, and in this connection I have been much interested in reading the publication known as the Besco Bulletin. I have endeavoured by a study of that publication to find out, to some extent, what the trouble is in the Maritimes. I find from the issue of April 24th that they have four serious disappointments in the budget. They are as follows:

No. 1. Failure to adjust the specific duties on the basic forms of iron and steel so as to bring their ad valorem effect up to the general level of duties on other materials.

No. 2. Failure to correct the mistake made last year when the duty on bituminous coal was lowered three cents instead of being raised, and failure to make anthracite screenings dutiable at the same rate as soft coal with which it competes.

No. 3. Failure to take up the matter of dealing effectively with the importation of materials produced in countries whose currency is greatly depreciated, which was dropped in a moment of weakness last session, and which is now of greater urgency than it was a year ago.

No. 4. Persistent adherence to the pernicious policy of encouraging the importation of finished goods by lowering the duties, and of partly finished materials by refunding the duties specified in the customs tariff.

"Disappointment No. 2," dealing with the duty on bituminous coal, has to do with the very question which was raised by my hon. friend opposite a short time ago. That is one of the "disappointments", apparently, in so far as Besco is concerned, that we hope to have remedied through the commission on Maritime rights.

Mr. MEIGHEN: The hon. member is omitting No. 1.

Mr. BOTHWELL: No, I have not omitted it.