

THE EVENING TIMES-STAR, SAINT JOHN, N. B., TUESDAY, APRIL 13, 1926

EVANS URGES MORE DEVELOPMENT FOR N.B. COAL INDUSTRY

Says Minto Mines Employ 600 With \$1,000,000 Payroll a Year

OUTPUT IS 250,000 TONS IN 12 MONTHS

Production of Pits Could Be Much Increased if Public Used This Fuel

BY JOHN J. DUNLOP

Special Correspondent to The Times-Star

FREDERICTON, N. B., April 12.—More extended development of the coal industry in New Brunswick was advocated by W. Benton Evans, government member for Queens county, in his maiden speech in the house this evening, continuing the budget debate.

Mr. Evans declared the people of the province did not generally realize the importance of the coal industry at Minto, which, he said, gave employment to 600 men directly with an annual payroll of \$1,000,000 and an output of 250,000 tons a year.

The output there, he declared, could be greatly increased if the people would use the coal produced in their own province. It was not claimed that this was a first-class quality but it was held to be a good average bituminous coal which gave good results when used with equipment adapted to its use.

Mr. Evans said the member for Queens advocated a coke plant being erected at Minto.

Touching on prohibition Mr. Evans declared for enforcement of the law. The chief inspector, he asserted, had a difficult job on his hands.

EVANS SPEAKS.

Mr. Evans, continuing the debate, said that the honorable leader of the Opposition when addressing the House spoke at length on the race and religion propaganda which he claimed was carried on during the recent election campaign. It was his (Evans) humble opinion that in doing so he (Veniot) was guilty of the very thing which he condemned in others, and he (Evans) spoke of it himself only because the honorable member had read a letter which he claimed had been written by a gentleman in the county of Queens, and which contained the names of his colleagues and himself. It was evidently intended that the general public should infer that they had inspired this and other alleged letters and propaganda. Mr. Evans said that on behalf of his colleagues and himself he wished emphatically to deny any connection whatsoever with such propaganda. He said they were entirely ignorant of the existence of such a letter or any of a like nature which the honorable leader of the Opposition said were circulated in the county of Queens. He did not think that the honorable gentleman had any proof of the circulation of such letters, or that he had any proof that the letter he received was genuine. He thought it was quite possible that this letter was written by one of their political opponents with the idea of doing them harm.

QUESTIONS VENIOT.

He wished to ask the honorable leader of the Opposition how this letter had come into his (Veniot's) possession, if he had any proof whatever that this letter was genuine, any proof that it was actually written by the man whose name was attached to it.

He would like to ask the honorable gentleman if he had read the whole of that letter, if that letter did not contain another reason why, in the writer's opinion, the Government should be opposed, and if that reason was not that Mr. Gardiner McCrea was wasting the people's money on the roads?

It was the same Mr. McCrea that the honorable Minister of Public Works spoke about a few days ago as having sold a famous tractor to the government in 1925. As he stated McCrea was paid \$1,500 for this machine, yet it was shown him by McCrea, who said: "There it is, and it isn't worth a dollar." And yet it had only been used a few days after having been purchased by the ex-Minister of Public Works.

DOUBLE PAYMENT.

It was the same Mr. McCrea who was brought before the Public Accounts Committee in 1922 and was found to have authorized double payments for certain road work. Also he was considered worth watching by all the officials connected with the Department of Public Works who had had any experience with accounts sent in by him. Despite all this the member for Queens county, who was also the provincial secretary in the late government, to keep away, leave this man alone, that he was to have a free hand, and without any supervision by these en-

gineers McCrea had had the supervision work costing over \$55,000 since that time. Last July McCrea had sent in pay sheets amounting to over \$8,000.

WHY MONEY WAS SPENT.

The honorable leader of the Opposition stated in his speech last week that a large amount of money had been expended on the roads in Queens last fall in order to elect Mr. George B. Jones. He (Evans) wished to say that the money which was spent in that county at that time was necessary to complete the work which had been started by the former government, and to make the roads passable so that anyone could get out to vote. Perhaps the honorable gentleman had overlooked the fact that the expenditure of \$100,000 or \$150,000 was authorized last summer in the Parish of Johnston, the home parish of the late Provincial Secretary. That money was spent with the evident intention of electing that honorable gentleman, whom the honorable leader of the Opposition, he understood, had called the fifth wheel of the Government coach. This fifth wheel evidently wobbled very badly and the people of Queens County by electing the present government members had ditched it entirely. Some \$100,000 to elect a member was quite an amount, more, even, than \$75,000 for a senatorship.

MINTO COAL INDUSTRY.

The honorable member for Sunbury when he spoke recently mentioned the coal industry at Minto. As part of this coal mining district was in the county of Queens, represented by his colleague and himself, he also wished to deal briefly with its needs and possibilities. He did not think that the people in New Brunswick generally realized the importance of this industry. As coal mining was carried on in many places, ours, it was true, was comparatively small, but since steady employment was given to 600 or 700 men directly, with many others benefiting indirectly, with an annual payroll of approximately one million dollars, and an annual output of 250,000 tons, paying into the provincial treasury a direct revenue in royalties of about \$40,000, it was believed of considerable importance to this province when the great need we had today of industries of every kind, was considered.

MINTO COULD YIELD MORE.

The output at Minto could be greatly increased if the coal could be sold, and there was a large market right here in New Brunswick, if our own people would use the coal produced in their own province. He did not claim that our coal was of the highest quality, but it was a good average grade of bituminous and gave good results when used in equipment adapted to it. This was quite evident by the fact that large tonnages have been used here by both the member for the C. N. R. and C. P. R., also many manufacturing plants, both large and small, and entirely as well as many public and private buildings in this and other provinces. He wished to heartily commend the Hon. Minister of Public Works for having had an investigation made into the possibility of using New Brunswick coal in the various government buildings in Fredericton. It was gratifying to know that this test had proved that New Brunswick coal could be used in most of the buildings with the present equipment and that next winter the fuel supply would be produced in this province. This more employment would be given to New Brunswick workmen, and money that formerly went to the United States would remain in circulation at home and in addition to all these advantages a saving of \$2,000 a year was estimated.

STEAM STANDBY.

Some time ago the chairman of the hydro commission under the old government made the announcement, through the press that it was probable that a steam standby would have to be made to supplement Musquash. The possible sites for such a plant were given as Norton, Moncton or Sackville. Evidently locating this plant at Minto was not thought of, but he supposed one could hardly expect that a commission that would put a hydro plant where there was not sufficient water, would do anything else than put a steam plant where there was no coal. He understood that a steam standby might still be necessary. If such a plant were built the Minto coal dis-

tributing Woodstock debentures, regarding Fredericton debentures, an agreement between the New Brunswick Power Company and the City of Saint John, incorporating the trustees of the U. N. B. endowment fund, and amending the Municipalities Act. Mr. Siddall gave notice of inquiry for Thursday, next. The House went into committee, with Mr. Taylor in the chair, to consider the following bills: The incorporation of Les Filles Marie D'La Assomption, the Victoria Public Hospital Act, 1926, to incorporate the Nepisiguit Storage Company, to incorporate the Nepisiguit Power Company, and regarding the Richibucto and Reston Electric Light Company.

SUGGESTION FOR HYDRO.

He hoped the present honorable chairman of the hydro commission would keep this in mind when looking for new sources of power. He had already mentioned that the coal produced at Minto was of the bituminous variety, perhaps more commonly known as soft coal, which has the objectionable feature of all such coals, particularly when used for domestic purposes, that was the large volume of smoke given off. For that reason anthracite or hard coal, was preferred and used by so many.

INTERESTED IN COKE MAKING.

"Public interest in the manufacture of domestic coke is rapidly developing, and it is earnestly to be hoped that capitalists assured of fair returns on their investment and the excellent results to the country as a whole, will assist financially in the erection of coke ovens, and support an industry which appears to be the best solution of the various problems that now confronts the acute fuel area."

SOLUTION OF PROBLEM.

"The solution of the domestic fuel problem of the acute fuel area does appear to lie in the coking of bituminous coal in the by-product recovery coke oven. That solution of both the domestic fuel problem and the demand for an increased power in Central and Southern Ontario can be found in the employment of the by-product recovery coke oven. The large scale for the manufacture of a coke for domestic fuel purposes with the recovery of motor spirits, oil, ammonia, and the generation of a gas for the development of power."

TO KEEP PLANT GOING.

Continuing Mr. Evans said: "As to our reserves of coal in this province, they were apparently in doubt as to there being sufficient to keep such a plant as has been mentioned in operation for years to come, as well as supply the market already being served by the Minto district. The Minto coal field had been carefully examined by eminent geologists and the total reserves of coal therein, it was estimated, would not fall below seventy million tons, and might go as high as two hundred and thirty million tons."

OFFICIAL REPORT.

FREDERICTON, April 12.—The House met at 8.45 p.m. The following bills were read a third time: A bill fixing the assessment of the plant were built the Minto coal dis-

tributing Woodstock debentures, regarding Fredericton debentures, an agreement between the New Brunswick Power Company and the City of Saint John, incorporating the trustees of the U. N. B. endowment fund, and amending the Municipalities Act. Mr. Siddall gave notice of inquiry for Thursday, next. The House went into committee, with Mr. Taylor in the chair, to consider the following bills: The incorporation of Les Filles Marie D'La Assomption, the Victoria Public Hospital Act, 1926, to incorporate the Nepisiguit Storage Company, to incorporate the Nepisiguit Power Company, and regarding the Richibucto and Reston Electric Light Company.

Deaths

Charles McCarthy

The death of Charles McCarthy, a well known citizen, occurred yesterday at his residence, 266 Pitt street. He leaves to mourn, besides his wife, two sons, Jeremiah and Thomas; two daughters, Mrs. Charles Warren and Miss Anna McCarthy; two brothers, Dennis and Thomas McCarthy, and one sister, Miss Anna McCarthy; also seven grandchildren.

The funeral will take place from his late residence on Wednesday morning at 8.45 o'clock to the St. John the Baptist church for high mass of requiem.

\$200 FINE FOR SALE OF BEER TOO STRONG

George Baxter appeared in the police court yesterday afternoon and was fined \$200 for selling overstrength beer. Reports were made in the morning against four other beer shop proprietors and these cases will be heard in court later.

Barrymore for the Living Room, Reception Hall

Barrymore for the Dining Room, Breakfast Room

Barrymore for the Bedroom, Dressing Room

Barrymore for the Bath Room, Toilet

Barrymore for the Hall, Staircase

Barrymore for the Kitchen, Pantry

Barrymore for the Porch, Terrace

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