

These figures showed that in ten years, instead of reducing, they had increased, the number of pit props per ton used.

He (Hon. Mr. A.) had also a statement showing the quantity of timber use dunderground in all the collieries of the Dominion Coal Company as well as the Nova Scotia Coal and Steel Company and in the Springhill Mines, which showed that in all these cases there had been a substantial increase in the number of pit props used for the purpose of preventing falls of roof and stone, and in justice to the Department and the Inspectors he thought it right to submit this statement to show that what had been said by the hon. member for Cape Breton was not borne out by the facts. In Great Britain the average was one ton of coal to the lineal foot of props; in the collieries of Cape Breton the average was one half per ton per lineal foot.

MR. DOUGLAS said that before the Hon. Commissioner of Works and Mines concluded his discussion of the subject of the mines, he stated in reply to the hon. member for Colchester that there was dissatisfaction among the workmen. Perhaps he was in a position to make a statement with regard to the labor difficulty that existed between the Nova Scotia Coal and Steel Company and its workmen. He (Mr. D.) understood that the men demanded a twenty-five per cent. increase.

HON. MR. ARMSTRONG replied that that matter was engaging the attention of the Department of Labor at Ottawa, and no doubt it would be determined in due course, and after proper investigation.

WHERE THE CONSERVATIVES STOOD IN WESTERN LANDS.

He wished now to refer to the question of the Western Lands. This was another question that was foreign to the discussion, but as it had been brought up by hon. members opposite, and as a good deal had been said about it, some reference should be made to it. This question of the Western Lands had been urged upon the Federal Government by representatives of the different Provinces concerned. His hon. friend had quoted from the Debates of 1908. He (Hon. Mr. A.) wished to put against his statement the official record showing the position of the Liberal party. The discussion that occurred in 1908 was in connection with a resolution, introduced by the hon. member for Kings, N. B., dealing with the subject of the Western Lands. The hon. member for Kings, N. B., made some observations in connection with the resolution, but he did not think any vote was ever taken. It was a mere Academic discussion.

In the year 1912 the matter came up again, when the extension of the boundaries of Manitoba was under discussion. It was then a practical question. The rights of the Provinces were then to be considered and protected, if possible. Sir Wilfrid Laurier, on behalf of the Liberals, submitted the following resolution, which the Liberals supported:—

"That this Bill be not now read a second time. but that it be resolved, that while this House is favorable to the extension of the boundaries of the Province of Manitoba, it is of the opinion that the terms under which it is proposed to make the said extension, as set forth in this Bill and in the Order-in-Council of the 20th February, 1912, are unfair and unjust, both to the people of Manitoba as well as to