

Supply—Mines and Technical Surveys

Further on it says this:

Making possible the shift of power to New Brunswick this past year was the new grid financed by the dominion government; and the fact the Nova Scotia government had proceeded with expansion at Trenton.

Coal consumed at the Trenton plant, the power commission's only thermal generating plant was sufficient to earn \$163,685 for qualified industrial power users, also a recent development and financed by the dominion government.

The report indicates thermal energy sold to New Brunswick from Nova Scotia sources from August 17 to November 30 alone reached a total of 60,556,000 kilowatt hours.

I quote these figures to show how these measures are assisting all parts of the maritime provinces, and to illustrate the action which this government has taken. This is of particular importance to my own area where there are still mines in operation—Machean, Drummond and Greenwood—and the measures I have described will continue to help them out, especially the enlargement of the thermal plant.

The question can be asked, what else has this government done for the coal industry? Well, Industrial Estates Limited, a crown company set up in Nova Scotia, has received some assistance from the federal government and has been able to get one industry into Pictou county, with hope of more. Again, a recent measure brought down by the Minister of Labour allowed the federal government to provide 75 per cent of the capital cost of new vocational schools. I am glad the municipalities in my county are getting together; it looks as though they will be able to agree on the construction of a vocational school, 75 per cent of the cost of which will be paid by the dominion government and 25 per cent by the provincial government. In addition, both governments will pay a large amount—I believe it is 60 per cent—toward the operating cost of such a school, which is greatly needed and which will help train many of the young men in this area.

The hon. member for Bonaville-Twillingate did not think very much of the provision for double depreciation set out by the Minister of Finance in the supplementary budget. Perhaps the arrangement does not amount to too much in itself. All I can say is that the former government took no steps to assist in this way by providing tax incentives, whereas the present government has made a move. We shall press for even more to be done to help new industry establish itself in the area.

One of the hon. members who sits on the front bench opposite was in my area lately, and I notice that he designated the Nova Scotia members as yes men. Well, we are yes men when it comes to measures for the setting up of vocational schools, acts such

Of course, first the all-powerful federal government of the day, as was stated by the hon. member, was to own the power plants. The provinces were to have no say in them; the federal government was to own them. As I recall the remarks made by various cabinet ministers in the area at the time, they gave no guarantee that coal would be used in these thermal power plants. There was some talk at the time about oil being cheaper, and so on, and that perhaps it would be better to leave coal in the ground.

The hon. member referred to the new act, and of course his reference was to the Atlantic Provinces Power Development Act which was introduced by this government. The hon. member poohpooed it and said there was not too much to it. He said finally:

It is true the Trenton plant has been completed but nothing more has been done.

The Trenton plant is a thermal power plant in my area, and I should like to refer for a moment to a few of the figures placed on record by the Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources a few weeks ago on his estimates regarding the amounts paid under this act in the province of Nova Scotia. They refer to the amount of coal used in the thermal power plant at Trenton in the year 1960. According to the minister's figures the following amounts were expended under this act in Nova Scotia to the end of March, 1961: coal subventions, \$2.12 million; transmission facilities, that is building lines into New Brunswick and the eastern part of Nova Scotia, \$4.22 million; the Trenton plant, \$2.86 million, as shown by the estimates of the dominion coal board.

The following estimates are set out for this year for Nova Scotia: coal subventions, 1.7 million; transmission facilities, \$6.3 million, and for the Trenton thermal plant a final amount of \$363,000. With regard to the Trenton plant I refer to a press clipping from the New Glasgow *Evening News* of last week, May, 1961. The headline is:

More than million dollars' worth of coal used by power plant in 1960.

The article continues:

1960 was a coal year as far as generating electric power was concerned and the figures of the just released report of the Nova Scotia power commission indicate the Trenton plant consumed more than a million dollars worth of solid fuel.

Actually, 97,309 tons were burned—an increase of 24,000.

Bulk of the extra power produced went over the grid to New Brunswick where the dry spell that dried up Nova Scotia also hit big hydro streams including even the Saint John river.

Electricity continued to be shipped from Trenton to the New Brunswick pool at Moncton right up to the end of March; then the spring melting period started and coal consumption dropped off accordingly.