

distress across our country, and I predicted during the war and after both wars the prospect of great scarcity of coal and that many industries would have to close. I made my first plea for a Canadian national coal policy as long ago as March 19, 1923. I urged that matters should be so arranged that all our coal would be mined and coked under the British flag, whether in Alberta, the maritimes, or the supply from Wales, and that we should no longer be dependent on the United States, which is running out of coal. The fact is that Canada needs a coal supply from some other source than the United States. The *Globe and Mail* carried part of this address on Friday, June 21, last. My plea was for a national coal supply, that we could not expect the country to the south to supply us all the time. It is a fact that charity begins at home, and as I said:

I think the people of the United States will adopt that rule, as far as the coal situation in Canada is concerned, because no country should be expected to send outside its borders the commodity upon which the existence and life of the people depends.

Very little has been done about this matter, and I am sorry that more has not been done about Canadian coal and more in peat and wood, a substitute, and electric power. We should provide for a substitute supply. The coal question is largely one of transportation, and after the next winter it is certain that will have to be done, because I predict that we shall again have next winter the awful suffering which was experienced in 1917 because of the shortage of coal.

Another matter which is important at this time is concerned with the housing administration. I have had some correspondence with the wartime prices and trade board on this subject. I cannot understand why the government has not been more active about providing housing, urban, suburban and rural. Little or nothing has been done. In the large city I come from several hundred cases of evictions before county judges are pending, and notwithstanding the new Housing Act and the wartime housing provision there has been considerable suffering in Toronto. One of the main things I complain about is that the soldiers who have invested all they had from their grants and gratuities in small homes find now that they cannot get possession. Under the present control system many tenants have no written lease; they are month to month tenants; yet they are allowed to continue in possession and the owner cannot get into his own house. One man named Anderson in my constituency was arrested, handcuffed and taken to a Pape avenue police station in my

riding. The bailiff evicted him and put him on the street, until along came somebody and took him in. I claim that control in this matter should end immediately. I protested against the eviction of this soldier; the name of the man evicted was James P. Anderson. A man's house used to be his castle. How long is the property owner to endure this kind of thing? A man puts his savings into his house, and is given to understand he has no control of it. Essentially it becomes the property of the wartime prices and trade board. The war ended over a year ago, yet this system continues as to an owner recovering his own house to live in, it is causing a great deal of distress in the city of Toronto. I saw the controller of housing about it. We had a good man in charge of housing named Mr. F. W. Nicolls, a valuable man. When I wrote a week or more ago to the new rent controller, Mr. Owen Lobley, of the wartime prices and trade board, Ottawa, complaining about the hardships to owners I got a letter from this new officer stating that he had never heard of anyone by the name of Nicolls in the prices board, although he was for over three years in charge of housing with the wartime prices and trade board.

Such a state of affairs should not continue any longer. We should have an end of the absurd rule that the owner cannot get into his own house. I know of one tenant who goes away down south for three months in the winter time and in the summer time has a cottage in a summer resort district; he is hardly ever in his city house, and from what I hear he makes a large profit out of it, but the wartime prices and trade board do not go around and inspect such places and find out some of the abuses and the profiteering which is going on in real estate, while hundreds of owners, some of them soldiers, cannot get into their own houses. You, Mr. Deputy Speaker, are an ex-mayor and you should know from personal experience that this sort of thing is going on. As I say, it is causing a lot of trouble.

An important question which I think the government should try to answer is, what is the budget going to do to stop the exodus of our best brains to the United States? In the period between the two great wars a return was tabled in this house showing that over a million Canadians had in that time gone to the United States because they could not find employment in their own country. Many of them were soldiers who had fought for this country at the hazard of their lives in the last war. They found it impossible to get work in Canada. The other day, in connection with another subject that was under con-