

ferently, publicly urged Mr. Copp to enter into a contract for the construction of a dock but there was no idea of going to the government for assistance in the undertaking, nor did Mr. Copp ever apply to the government. He went to men interested in local industries and endeavored to enlist private capital. For this purpose he visited Montreal and other places and received \$500 for his expenses. He was to receive, if successful, \$4,500 more, to be given to the company or individual completing the work. Mr. Copp himself was to receive no part of that sum and no compensation for his services further than the \$500. The Mayor of Digby said it was better that the agreement should be cancelled than that it should be misrepresented and an entirely false construction placed on it merely for political purposes. It is up to Mr. Bennett.

In reply to a question in the House as to the extent of the area of the coal measures in Canada the government of Canada said that those areas were so enormous and extensive that all the information at the disposal of the government was inadequate to answer the question. This shows what a great country we have—and so busy too that we are not able to measure up our great natural wealth.

Mr. Bennett put a series of questions as to the amount of grain received at various ports during 1903. From the official replies given it is learned that 860,000 bushels were received at Quebec of which 548,000 came by vessel. The number of bushels of grain shipped from Fort William and Port Arthur to Buffalo was nearly 8,000,000, Port Arthur sending 2,376,000. Montreal received 1,022,000 bushels without bulk being broken. Midland received 13,545,000 bushels and Depot Harbor, which is the terminus of the Canada Atlantic Railway, received 14,765,000.

Mr. Bourassa worried about the flag which flies at the masthead on the tower

of the Parliament Buildings. A British flag with the Union Jack in one corner had been used for some years, and in purchasing a new one the government purchased one that was all Union Jack. Mr. Bourassa wanted the old Jack and objected to the new Jack. Mr. Bourassa must remember that the flag manufacturers would die of starvation if his objection to new Jacks was allowed. As an advocate of the Old Flag the member for La-belle appeared in a new role. Unfortunately for him he ran up against the Minister of Public Works who soon showed Mr. Bourassa that he knew all about flags.

Mr. Haggart, in a discussion of the Militia Bill on Tuesday, carried the House back a few hundred years by asserting that it was the prerogative of the King and of the Governor-General as his representative to appoint or dismiss officers of the militia, without reference to his advisers; in other words that we had irresponsible and autocratic government in Canada today. Extraordinary statements like these might justify the public in withdrawing confidence from some of those who sit on the front benches, and are regarded as cabinet possibilities.

Col. Tisdale criticized the way the Militia Bill was printed, that is, it did not show the changes from the present law. It might be well for some committee of the House to procure a few copies of the Congressional bills from Washington and make them a model. They are printed on good paper, the lines are far apart and numbered, and the margin is wide enough for necessary notes, or amendments, and where it is a consolidation or an amending Act the new matter is printed in italic so that the change made by the proposed law can be seen at a glance. It is one of the most extraordinary things that a young and progressive parliament like the one at Ottawa should have borne so long the very shabby kind of Bill and the very inconvenient one that is so well known to members.