

and representatives of the coal interests of the Maritime Provinces at a meeting which was held at the city of Montreal a few days ago, the day previous to my making a statement on the subject in the House. On the day that I made the statement I gave instructions to the deputy minister to the effect that I was prepared, if the coal dealers could get the coal, to authorize the requisitioning of schooners to bring coal to Maritime Province ports, such as St. John, Halifax, Charlottetown and other ports at rates that would be very considerably less than the rates which are now being charged. Six dollars per ton to St. John and \$7 per ton to Charlottetown are the rates, I understand, that are being charged by the schooners at the present time. I do not know how much further the people interested in the coal trade and the fuel controller have got with the matter. I have no further statement to make to the House to-day.

PURCHASE OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS BY BRITISH GOVERNMENT.

On the Orders of the Day:

Mr. A. B. COPP: In view of the statement made by the hon. the Finance Minister the other day with regard to \$50,000,000 being asked by the Government for the purchase of agricultural supplies, including hay, for the Imperial Government, I would like to know if arrangements have been made for the purchase of hay, and if so, where it is to be purchased and how?

Mr. BURRELL: The Imperial Government is not purchasing hay at the present time.

THE MILITARY VOTERS' ACT, 1917.

DEBATE ON MOTION FOR THE THIRD READING ADJOURNED.

On the motion of Mr. Doherty for the Third Reading of Bill 127, the Military Voters' Act, 1917.

Mr. GRAHAM: I have already had a good many inquiries from men at the front for copies of this Bill. More than the usual number of copies will undoubtedly be required.

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: I quite appreciate that. It will be necessary that a very large number should be supplied. It is most important that the people of the country generally, as well as the men at the front, should know its provisions.

[Mr. Hazen.]

Mr. LEMIEUX: Would the Minister of Justice explain succinctly the amendment relating to soldiers who come from the United States? There is a distinction; some will vote in the constituency of their origin or where they last resided in Canada. If the minister would explain, in two words, the meaning of this amendment it would be an advantage as there are many inquiries about it.

Mr. McKENZIE: In connection with the officers who will be appointed in England for the carrying out of the terms of this Bill, I wish to point out to the minister that, in an election trial in 1914, certain men in Nova Scotia were found guilty of bribery by one of the judges of the Supreme Court. Some of those men, who were disqualified by the judge and whose names will be found in the decision, a copy of which I shall furnish to the minister privately, have since been made officers and are members of the force in Great Britain. It would be most improper that these men should have any connection with the holding of the election, and I would suggest that no man should be appointed to any office in connection with the carrying out of this Bill who has been found guilty of corrupt practices by a judge of the Supreme Court.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER: May I suggest to the Prime Minister that it might be better to postpone this order for to-day? We were not prepared for it.

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: My right hon. friend is perfectly right. I had heard that there was an intimation from the other side of the House that there was an objection to the Bill being taken up to-day. It was taken up under a misapprehension, and I move that the debate be adjourned.

Motion agreed to.

CONCURRENCE.

House in concurrence on certain resolutions reported from the Committee of Supply.

Item 99. Railways and Canals—Chargeable to Capital. Hudson Bay Railway—Construction of railway, terminals and elevator, \$3,000,000.

Mr. PUGSLEY: Here is an item of \$3,000,000 for the construction of the Hudson Bay railway. Notwithstanding the importance of that road in the development of our western country, I doubt very much whether in these war times it is desirable