

Shelburne and Queen's has boxed the compass of politics. He is now back very near to the ex-leader of the Opposition and right next door to the present leader of the Opposition, and is moving a reciprocity resolution notwithstanding the fact that his late leader, his ex-leader, and his present leader would not deny that they were in favour of a duty on coal and steel. None of them will deny that.

Mr. CAHILL: Oh, yes.

Mr. BUTTS: On June 16 of 1919 the ex-leader of the Opposition, the hon. member for North Cape Breton and Victoria (Mr. McKenzie), used these words:

If any specific industry, such as coal, which is absolutely necessary for the existence of a country, requires any specific assistance for that particular purpose, I am in favour of the Government's taking that matter in hand and, consistently with the general interests of the country, giving it whatever assistance is thought fair and proper.

If the production of iron and steel, which is absolutely essential to the national existence of this country, requires at its beginning some encouragement either by bounty or otherwise, I would be remiss in my duty to my country and to myself if I said: No, while we may have iron and steel in the raw state in this country, there may be others who can pour their products into this country and keep us forever from having an industry of that kind for our own. If I were to say that, and to allow the natural resources of this country to remain forever in a dormant state, I do not consider that I would be doing what would be in the best interests of my country or for the general advancement of the people. If to take some specific object of that kind and provide for it in the way in which I think it should be provided for is Toryism, or protectionism, or unreasonable, as regards the general trade of the country, I must plead guilty.

Those are the words of the hon. member for North Cape Breton and Victoria, who was then leader of the Opposition, and under whom my hon. friend from Shelburne and Queen's served, as I said before, somewhat subserviently.

I do not care to ask my hon. friend to answer a question unless it is his pleasure to do so, but I wonder whether he was loyal to the hon. member for North Cape Breton or not.

Before going into the question of reciprocity and the duties on coal and steel, with your permission, Mr. Speaker, I want to bring the present leader of the Opposition to task. His predecessor, the hon. member for North Cape Breton and Victoria, in a recent address in this House made the statement that labour was at war with this Government. Now I come from a county that is largely composed of labouring men. We

have in my county between 26 and 30 coal mines, 6 or 8 blast furnaces, 15 or 18 open hearth furnaces and some 200 coke ovens. All of these require labour for their operation. From my childhood I have been associated with labouring men, and I do not believe myself that labouring men are so fond of warring as to be at war with all the different political parties. I do know, however, that quite a few years ago they were at war with the present leader of the Opposition who was then Minister of Labour, and I am going to read for the benefit of the House a little correspondence. On July 7, 1909, the Minister of Labour, the present leader of the Opposition, received the following telegram from Mr. M. J. Gillies, member for Glace Bay in the local legislature:

Five thousand employees of the Dominion Coal Company on strike here. Situation looks serious. Important that you get here immediately and try to effect a settlement.

A considerable amount of correspondence ensued, and Mr. E. M. Macdonald, who was then member for Pictou in this House, got into the mix-up, and in correspondence advised my hon. friend the present leader of the Opposition not to go down there as it might not be prudent. This correspondence is very lengthy and, it might tire the House if I were to read it all, but I will quote a short extract from one of Mr. E. M. Macdonald's letters:

The strike situation in Nova Scotia has been summarized in this way, that in Inverness the strike practically does not exist. There are some men who are not working, but these men are not necessary to adequate operation of the mines.

In order not to tire the House, with your permission, Mr. Speaker, I should like to have this correspondence incorporated in Hansard without being read.

Mr. SPEAKER: I was just going to ask the hon. member how he brings this correspondence to bear upon the subject before the House. If it were a motion for Supply, the hon. member would be quite in order in traversing any ground, but where there is an amendment to the motion for Supply, the debate must be confined to the specific subject contained in the amendment. As to the hon. member's request, it will be necessary in the first place to find out whether the correspondence has any bearing on the subject before the Chair.

Mr. BUTTS: I desire to put this correspondence on Hansard to show that the object sought to be attained by gentlemen on the other side of the House is really not