

it, as well as the distribution. If untoward results were not to ensue, fuel would have to be sold like beverages—for cash; and I fear if it could be sold only for cash quite as many would go cold as have gone thirsty during the last two or three years. I suggest to the hon. member, by way of digression, that he could not have read the newspapers very carefully if he is under the impression that the spread between \$5 for run-of-mine and the retail price for refined coal of \$14 or \$15 for anthracite is net profit.

Mr. MACDOUGALL: In justice to the different provinces producing coal, would the hon. member state to which coal he is referring?

Mr. HACKETT: British coal, to which reference was made in the newspapers, and of which I think my hon. friend from St. Mary was speaking.

I will say in conclusion, Mr. Speaker, that until the resolution is elaborated it is without any possible significance. It can have no meaning, and is not worthy—possibly I should not put it as bluntly as that, but I think until it has been brought into the realm of practicability it should not further detain the deliberations of the house.

Mr. R. K. SMITH (Cumberland): Mr. Speaker, I regret on account of lack of knowledge of the French language it was impossible for me to follow the remarks of the hon. member who introduced the resolution. I gathered from the previous speaker's remarks that the resolution placed on the order paper and the arguments used by the sponsor in support of it are not sufficiently cogent to justify the application of the remedy he had in his mind, or to warrant its being employed as a medium to control the importation of coal into Canada.

Just before resuming his seat the last speaker pointed out what he thought were certain anomalies in the resolution, and in that connection I must wholeheartedly agree with him. My main purpose in rising at this time, however, is to inform the house that the importance of the coal industry to the province of Nova Scotia cannot be overestimated. I would like to say also that it would be impossible for me to express in words sufficiently high praise of the present government for the various aids it has given since 1930 to the coal industry of Nova Scotia. The industry is a difficult one to operate and manage. There is such a vast spread between costs of production of coal mined in Canada and coal mined in the United States that it is impossible for the coal industry in any part of Canada to survive unless it receives some sort of governmental protection, aids or other assistance by

way of bonuses and reduction in freight rates to enable it to compete with the cheaper mined coal coming in from the United States. I have not the figures before me, I shall speak in round numbers and subject to correction.

May I point first of all in a general way to the tremendous shrinkage in the importation of bituminous coal from the United States to Canada during the last four years. As I recall the figures, there has been a shrinkage of approximately 5,000,000 tons in a single year, which means that about 5,000,000 tons less bituminous coal came into Canada from the United States last year than in 1929. As has been suggested, the tonnage imported is practically cut in two. With respect to the coal sold in what is usually termed central Canada, figures which have been made available only recently by the fuel board indicate in a very forceful manner the splendid results to the industry brought about by the government aids granted during the last three years. In order to make the facts known to the house I shall put on record a few figures for the past five or six years showing the amount of Nova Scotia coal marketed in central Canada on account of the aids this government has supplied since it came into power.

In 1928, through the government aids in existence at that time, Nova Scotia marketed in central Canada 114,080 tons; in 1929, which was the last complete year of the old government that figure had increased to 304,533 tons; in 1930, to 372,056 tons; in 1931, to 401,597 tons; in 1932, to 703,691 tons; and in 1933 the amount of Nova Scotia coal marketed in central Canada jumped to 1,482,961 tons. In other words, Mr. Speaker, the figure jumped from 114,000 odd in 1928 to nearly 1,500,000 in 1933, and that increase was due exclusively to the assistance granted by the present government for the marketing and movement of Nova Scotia coal to central Canada.

The coal industry in the province of Nova Scotia has been struggling during the past number of years on account of many causes, including the general shrinkage in markets for fuel in Canada due to world conditions, and on that account it has been doubly hard for the industry to survive and compete. I agree with the assertion that were it not for the assistance granted by the present government a number of the coal mines in the province of Nova Scotia would be closed to-day. My hon. friend from Inverness (Mr. MacDougall) says that we would not have a pit working to-day, and I have no doubt that is correct. There are between twelve and fifteen thousands miners engaged in the coal industry in Nova Scotia, and about one hundred thou-