

Mr. LAPOINTE: My hon. friend is mistaken concerning the support given to the measure in 1907.

Mr. GAGNON: Byron, once said that "a small drop of ink fallen like dew upon a thought produces that which makes millions think." It would seem that the drop of ink the hon. members for Labelle and Montmagny dropped thirty years ago upon the thought of bilingualism has produced what millions of Canadians think to-day.

Mr. LAPOINTE: I think if my hon. friend reads Hansard of that day he will find he is mistaken.

Mr. GAGNON: No, I do not think I am.

Mr. RYCKMAN: Well, don't begin quarrelling about it.

Mr. LAPOINTE: An amendment was moved by Sir Wilfrid Laurier to the effect that in principle the two languages are equal in this country. No division was taken.

Item agreed to.

To provide for payments in connection with movements of coal under conditions prescribed by the governor in council and for the cost of administration thereof, \$1,100,000.

Mr. RALSTON: I should like to know how many more tons of coal will be moved this year than last as a result of this assistance.

Mr. GORDON: The assistance granted to the coal miners of Nova Scotia, for which provision is made in this item, has been the subject of many conferences and discussions between the Department of Mines and the operators in Sydney and elsewhere. I believe if the mine operators of the province of Nova Scotia will be astute enough to take advantage of the markets which this assistance will make available, they should, when the full force of the assistance is felt, get upwards of 1,000,000 tons of coal. I am hopeful of it.

Mr. RALSTON: Does my hon. friend say a million tons more than last year will be produced?

Mr. GORDON: Yes, I am hopeful they will be able to get a million tons extra.

Mr. RALSTON: Generally speaking, I think the subvention, although drafted in somewhat different terms, is in effect the same as was in force last year, save in two respects; one, in regard to waterborne coal, that is coal moving further up the St. Lawrence to Kingston and Toronto; the other, in regard to railway coal. I do not anticipate a great deal of extra coal will be moved up the St. Lawrence to Toronto. I did hope the railway coal would produce a substantial

additional tonnage, but I am afraid a condition has been imposed by the order in council which will materially lessen the amount which they might otherwise move under this subvention. That condition is that the only coal which will receive the subvention is the excess over the amount which was purchased by the railways last year. That is a very serious condition, and one which of course, in the case of the Canadian National Railways, means that no subvention at all will be payable, as I understand it, for the reason that their consumption this year is considerably less than it was last year. Last year they were assisted under the Unemployment and Farm Relief Act; whereas, so far as I know, there will be no such assistance this year. Therefore the only inducement to them to continue taking Nova Scotia coal is that offered by this subvention, and that inducement is negated by the condition that I have stated. As to the Canadian Pacific, they will get the subvention because they used practically no Nova Scotia coal last year. That is the difficulty, and I am afraid my hon. friend will find his hopes regarding extra tonnage far from being realized.

Item agreed to.

Mr. RHODES: I move that the committee rise and report the resolutions.

Mr. CASGRAIN: Mr. Chairman, before the committee rises, I desire to direct attention to the dismissal of Francois Harbour, Indian agent at Oka, in the county of Two Mountains, a position to which he was appointed in 1923. An investigation was ordered a year after the election of 1930, on account of the fact that this man had apparently attended political meetings during the course of the campaign of 1930. The investigation was started, stopped, and started again. A peculiarity of the investigation is that the government appointed a prosecuting attorney to represent the department under the title of "procureur du département." I wish to direct attention especially to this fact. I hold in my hand all the evidence in the case. I will not deal with it fully now as I may have an opportunity to refer to it at another session. The plaintiff produced five witnesses, one of whom desired the position. The defence produced fifteen witnesses. Of those whom I may term the main witnesses for the prosecution, one, Mr. Marinier, when asked if the political meeting that Mr. Harbour was accused of attending was a Liberal or a Conservative meeting, answered:

A Liberal meeting? you confuse me; I cannot answer you; I rather think that it was a Conservative meeting.