

*Unemployment in Maritimes*

labour matters. He has been a member of a labour union. I am only taking the word of the men whom I have consulted in my own constituency and the word of the operators. The operators and the miners in Minto have always got along well together. I have been told—and I believe it—that if the union at Minto had not been connected with the union in Nova Scotia, there would not have been any strike in New Brunswick. However, that is a matter—

Mr. GILLIS: May I ask the hon. member a question?

Mr. BROOKS: Certainly.

Mr. GILLIS: Did your constituents inform you that the miners' wage rate increased by fifty per cent as compared with what it was when they came in with the mine workers of Nova Scotia?

Mr. BROOKS: No.

Mr. GILLIS: Well, it did increase by fifty per cent.

Mr. BROOKS: I am speaking about the present.

Mr. GILLIS: I am speaking about the men's wages going up by fifty per cent.

Mr. BROOKS: I think the wages of nearly all the people employed in Canada have gone up by fifty per cent, whether they are carpenters, bricklayers or whatever they may be. I believe the wages of the miners in Minto would have gone up by fifty per cent whether they had been connected with the union in Nova Scotia or not. Be that as it may, I think the hon. member for Cape Breton South and I agree on ninety per cent of the matters to which he has referred tonight. I will not agree with him that the mines and everything else should be nationalized, and that private enterprise should be done away with. Private enterprise has built up this country, and I have great faith in private enterprise. If the government takes a friendly view of our situation in the maritimes, these matters can be corrected in the future.

Mr. GORDON B. ISNOR (Halifax): I had no thought of entering into the debate this evening, Mr. Speaker. It is only as a result of perhaps two remarks made by the hon. member for Cape Breton South (Mr. Gillis), that I am on my feet now. One remark was, "Any member who wants to tell the truth"; and the hon. member for Cape Breton South would almost lead the members of this house, as well as the people of the country at large—particularly those residing in the maritime

[Mr. Brooks.]

provinces—to believe that he was the only member from the maritimes who was anxious and concerned about the conditions in that section of the country. I think each and every member, irrespective of the party he represents, is interested in the welfare of the maritimes.

Mr. BENTLEY: Nobody else ever told the truth.

Mr. ISNOR: I have heard members sitting on this side of the house and in the official opposition on more than one occasion present a fine case on behalf of the maritimes. There are others, in addition to myself, on the government side who have presented a very strong case. From time to time in my own way I have endeavoured to bring forward constructive thoughts that would be helpful to Nova Scotia in particular and the maritimes as a whole. A section of the press in the extreme far end of Nova Scotia often refers to the hon. member for Cape Breton South as the only member who rises in his place and fights for Nova Scotia. I believe that is a mistaken idea, as hon. members of this house will realize. There are other members, just as sincere, sitting in every section of the house; and I say that with all due respect to the efforts of the hon. member for Cape Breton South.

What did he place before us this evening? He referred to the industrial development bank and set out, in part, the functions of that bank. As I remember, thinking back three or four years, the function of the industrial development bank was to assist any new concern to become established, or to promote expansion along certain lines; and I have yet to learn of a single case in which that bank denied an application of that kind. I wonder if the hon. member for Cape Breton South could name two definite cases coming within the provisions of that act where the industrial development bank has denied the applications.

Mr. GILLIS: Do you want me to answer that question now? Up in my office I have a list of seventeen which I got from Graham Towers.

Mr. ISNOR: The hon. member has always a long list in his office or elsewhere.

Mr. GILLIS: It is official, from the head of that bank; seventeen applications from Nova Scotia were refused.

Mr. ISNOR: I repeat that, to my knowledge, not a single application which came within the provisions of the act has been refused.