

afternoon from the hon. member for Cumberland. How does that hon. gentleman propose to solve the coal problem in the province of Nova Scotia? He says he would solve it first by the imposition of a duty high enough to keep out eighteen or twenty million tons of American coal, but on second reflection he admitted that, the Dominion fuel board having stated that it would have to be a duty of about \$6 a ton, that amount was not necessary to protect the mines of Nova Scotia. Apparently he wants protection only so far as Nova Scotia is concerned; he is interested in Nova Scotia alone. He also advocated a reduction in freight rates and, as he said, still more reductions. He advocated subventions and increased bonuses to the coking plants. He said that the coking plants should be compelled, probably by making it penal to disobey the statute, to use Nova Scotia coal. These are the remedies he suggests for the difficulties of the coal industry of Nova Scotia. I asked him whether that industry had not increased its output last year by a million tons and he admitted that it had, but he thought the increase should be greater still. Perhaps it should be, but my hon. friend has failed to put his finger upon the true trouble in the coal industry of Nova Scotia. That trouble is lack of winter employment; the trouble is seasonal unemployment in the industry. The thing to which the government should direct its attention is a solution for the problem of seasonal unemployment. The companies themselves asked for the coking plant legislation of last session and stated that it would be sufficient. I am hoping that the coking plant legislation will meet the problem because it is directed to the trouble there, and it seems to me idle for any member to stand up and ask for great subventions and bonuses and reductions in freight rates unless he is prepared to tell the house something about what these proposals would involve in the way of cost. I am sure I should not have the effrontery to demand all these things unless I could give at least an approximate estimate of what they would cost the people of the Dominion.

While on this question I want to correct my hon. friend in regard to two or three misstatements of fact—misstatements which I have no doubt were inadvertent. He wanted to know whether those of us on this side would favour the reciprocity pact in respect of coal and have coal admitted free into Canada as into the United States. The hon. member should know that this was not part of the reciprocity pact of 1911. That pact provided for a 45 cent per ton duty on coal other than slack entering the United States

and Canada, the duty on slack being left exactly where it was at that time. My hon. friend also spent a great deal of time endeavouring to take credit to the Conservatives for the steel bounties. I am not greatly interested in these historic controversies as to which party deserves the credit, but since we are on the subject I may as well give the house two or three facts. The assistance which was given the coal industry prior to 1897 was infinitesimal and insignificant. In 1887 there were only 19,000 tons of steel produced in Nova Scotia; in 1896 only 32,000 tons. But by 1911 there were 390,000 tons produced in the province, showing that the assistance given the industry during that later period really amounted to something and was neither infinitesimal nor insignificant as it had been during the earlier period. My hon. friends are very ready to come to this government and declare that they must have this and that and the other. The hon. member for Queens-Lunenburg (Mr. Ernst) said that the banks of the Lahave river were being denuded of pulpwood and he asked what the government was going to do about it. What was the Minister of Finance going to do about this pulpwood which was being shipped to the United States? I would suggest that the responsibility rests primarily not upon the shoulders of the Minister of Finance or of this government but upon the people of the hon. gentleman's constituency. They might do just as the people of my constituency did in a similar situation: they put their money up and built a pulp mill on the shores of the Avon river in the town of Hantsport, and that mill will handle the pulpwood produced there and prevent its going to the United States.

Mr. ERNST: Of what use would a pulp mill be when the timber tracts are owned by a United States corporation? I should like to know.

Mr. ILSLEY: As my hon. friend knows, one of his friends, Mr. Barnjum, on the eve of the election of 1925, promised to build one there.

Mr. ERNST: It is near realization, but not on the Lahave; it is on the Mersey.

Mr. ILSLEY: We at any rate built one in our constituency, and we did not do so in fulfilment of pre-election promises either.

Hon. gentlemen from Nova Scotia talk blue ruin in this house; they say that conditions are frightful. I would refer you, Mr. Speaker, to what my hon. friend from Queens-Lunenburg had to say the other day about the fishing industry. But in the province of