

With reference to the natural basic products of the maritime provinces, namely, agriculture, fish, timber and coal, the government shares the view expressed by the commission that aspects that arise from the character of these natural basic products of the maritime provinces "lie at the very foundation of the economic prosperity of these provinces," and that, as respects these subject matters, "no greater dis-service could be done than to evade deliberate decision."

With regard to the question of coking plants, the commission's recommendation that immediate practical steps be taken, has been accepted and a bill will be introduced at the present session of parliament respecting the establishment of coking plants at convenient centres in Canada under government assistance, along lines approved by the special committee of the House of Commons, which dealt with the fuel question last year.

I submit that nothing more farcical has ever been put upon the statute books of Canada than the legislation arising out of that promise of the Prime Minister. Hundreds of coke ovens have been built and not one dollar has been paid by way of bounty, nor will it be. The Prime Minister continues:

The recommendation of the commission that the tariff advisory board should be asked to give immediate consideration to the customs tariff in its relation to coal, anthracite and coke, has been met. The matter is now before the tariff advisory board.

How long will it be there?

An hon. MEMBER: Twenty-five years.

Mr. CANTLEY: If the board lasts so long, but I submit such will not be the case, due to an impending change of government. The Prime Minister continued:

The question of protection on the primary products of iron and steel was, as stated in the report, under the consideration of the tariff advisory board at the time of the commission's investigation. Owing to the existing uncertainty of conditions surrounding the iron and steel industry in the maritimes, the government does not feel in a position to make at present any pronouncement with respect to the commission's recommendation of a renewal of the system of granting bounties with respect to steel when Canadian coal is used in its manufacture.

I submit that if the industry was in such bad shape surely that was the time when the government should have exhibited some interest and come to its assistance. In conclusion he says:

In concluding this statement, may I say that the government hopes that, by accepting as we have, the recommendations of the royal commission on maritime claims, virtually in their entirety, parliament and the country will recognize in the attitude of the government a wish to remove this great question as largely as possible from the arena of sectional discord and party strife, and a desire to give to our Dominion in the sixtieth anniversary of its founding, a renewed expression of the spirit

which animated the fathers of confederation in their efforts to construct out of British North America a federal union under a system of government devised "to protect the diversified interests of the several provinces and secure efficiency, harmony and permanency in the working of the union."

God save the king!

Mr. Speaker, two full years have passed since the Prime Minister made these important declarations as to the policy of the government as regards matters which, he then rightly stated, lie at the very foundation of the economic prosperity of the maritime provinces. Two years have passed—two years of, for the most part, trial and stress for coal and steel—the two basic industries of Nova Scotia—as to which the Prime Minister stated no greater dis-service could be rendered than to evade deliberate decision thereon.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I charge the Prime Minister, his Minister of Finance, and the government with evasion of—to use his own words—"deliberate decision" on the vital matter of protection of these two natural, basic products of my native province.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Might I remind the hon. member that his time has expired.

Mr. HERMAS DESLAURIERS (St. Mary) (Translation): Mr. Speaker, my first duty is to congratulate the government for the admirable skill shown in the administration of the affairs of this country. Our friends in the opposition seem to have agreed among themselves to deny all credit to the government for the good this administration has accomplished, attributing everything to Providence. We readily admit as they do, that nothing on earth happens without Providence's kind intervention; however, the government's followers and the people of Canada as a whole must rejoice in the fact that the administration of the Right Hon. Mackenzie King has been found worthy of the kindness and generosity of Divine Providence, as this never happens when our opponents are in power. Hence, we are led to believe that the people of Canada will for a long time trust this administration which is so favoured by heaven, and that they will for as long a time withhold from the fateful hand the management of our affairs.

In my brief remarks, sir, I wish to particularly draw the attention of the government to the rights and the future of a class of people that are entitled to all their consideration; I mean the labouring people including every class. Within the last few years, we read in both the Canadian and European press, article after article expressing