

that in all probability western coal will not move far east of Winnipeg in the coming season. I do not know how much truth there is in the rumour, but I would point out that in the face of most adverse conditions the great prejudice against western coal, which speeches like that of the hon. member for Davenport can do much to dissipate, has been partly overcome in the past few years. If a policy is adopted during the coming season of stopping the movement of western coal east of Winnipeg, Fort William or Port Arthur in quantities which have been moving, surely it would practically mean disaster for the industry in the future.

I would point out to the hon. member for Davenport that western mines could supply much more coal to the east if the miners were kept employed and some method of storing the coal were adopted so that mining could be undertaken throughout the year. I do not wish to prolong the discussion, but I should like to say that the coal mentioned by the hon. member for Davenport is not the best coal we mine in western Canada. It is a good domestic coal, but there are some very high grades of steam coal mined in the foothills of the Rocky mountains. One type of domestic coal which comes to my mind is Saunders Creek semi-hard coal, which has a British thermal unit rating of something over 12,000, as compared with 9,000 or 10,000 for the type mentioned by the hon. member.

So far as Saskatchewan coal is concerned, thirty years ago we did not believe we could utilize it at all. To-day in the local districts around the coal fields, particularly around Regina and in southern Saskatchewan, we are using that low-grade lignite very successfully through the installation of the right kind of burning equipment. So that I think we have every reason to hope that as the years go by we may promote the use of our domestic coal in Canada.

From another point of view nothing should be done to interfere with the development of our Canadian coal industry in this period of war. The more of our Nova Scotia coal we can use, the more of our Alberta coal we can use throughout this dominion, the less we must import from the United States. And at this time, when we are trying to conserve every United States dollar, the purchase of coal in the United States should be discouraged as much as possible. I would put in a plea for consideration of a national coal policy, and for the storage of coal, so that miners who at certain seasons of the year in the Alberta and maritime fields work only two

[Mr. Coldwell.]

or three days a week, may spread their labour over the whole year. The building up of a supply and the keeping of the men employed should put the industry on its feet and encourage in every possible way the use of what is in fact a very good coal.

The hon. member for Davenport said that in western Canada we had one of the best supplies of coal in the world. I have seen various figures on the point, but the lowest one estimates that Alberta alone contains one-fourteenth of all the known coal in the world. I have seen the figure of one-eleventh, but I am taking the lower one. In my opinion therefore, a national coal policy for Canada is an imperative necessity.

Mr. MacNICOL: Apparently the hon. member for Cape Breton South (Mr. Gillis) was under the impression that I had advocated a reduction of the vote. I did not do that. I intimated that the amount would not be required, and recommended that what was not used should be placed to one side for future use to increase the propaganda, or facilitate whatever steps may be taken, to restore to Nova Scotia and Alberta the markets of coal in Ontario and Quebec. One of the engineers from the coal administrator's office appeared before the committee on reconstruction, and he said:

We have not the coal to bring up (to Quebec), only to the extent of 1,600,000 tons, and we should like to bring up three million tons. The allocation in the Quebec market this year is 1,600,000 tons, and that is compared with the market of 1937 of 3,400,000 tons.

I hope the hon. member does not think that I advocated cutting the subvention, because I did not.

Mr. CASTLEDEN: These subventions of \$4,500,000 are rather large. I hope that some day we may achieve the same purpose by adopting modern engineering methods in our coal mines, possibly creating power and coke and by-products from the carbonization of coal underground. This may be a little advanced for the present time, but it may come. Could the minister give us particulars of some of the larger amounts, to what firms they have been paid, and so on?

Mr. ILSLEY: This is paid to the transportation agencies.

Mr. CASTLEDEN: Could we have the names of the companies receiving anything over half a million?

Mr. SOPER: I think I can answer the hon. member for Davenport (Mr. MacNicol) and also the hon. member for Rosetown-Biggan (Mr. Coldwell) in connection with the