

The Thorburn brief contended that if the McBean mine is reopened, employment will be created for all the miners at Thorburn and more and, because of the extra market to be available, miners working in other collieries in Pictou County will not be displaced from their employment.

The submission of the Thorburn brief required two days. At the end of that time the Government of Nova Scotia informed the delegation that the Government could not direct the company to open the McBean mine nor could the Government cause the present mine to be continued in operation. The decision of the Government was in effect a blank refusal of all the requests and recommendations contained in the Thorburn brief.

A statement issued by the Thorburn committee following the submission to the Government, indicated that the committee was greatly disappointed at the reception accorded its members by the Government. The committee said that during the conferences, Premier A. L. Macdonald had stated that "there are some crazy people in Thorburn", and this remark was resented by the committee.

At the present time the whole community of Thorburn, comprising 1300 people, is faced with extinction. The mine is closed,--the Company and the Government have both refused to cause the new mine to be opened,--there is no other source of employment. For all these sturdy and splendid people the present situation means,-- starvation,-- or the "dole".