

*The Budget—Mr. Carroll*

a hard time navigating the river. There is all kinds of deep water in the strait. There is an absolute supply of good coal from which could be generated the power to operate the steel mill. The other facilities necessary for an iron mill are available.

There is open water all the year round on the south side of Port Hawkesbury right through to the Atlantic. We would be close to Saint John where they are fabricating steel today and it would be nearer than any other point I know of to Toronto, Montreal and Hamilton which could be reached during the season of navigation. It would be close to the fabricating plants along the Atlantic coast of the United States, especially to those which I understand are to be established in Connecticut.

I am serious in bringing this matter to the attention of the government. I hope that the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Howe), who perhaps knows more about industry in this country than any man I know of, will see that at least an investigation is made into this project. I said the other day that this would not be in competition with the Dominion Steel Corporation, but it does not make any difference to me whether it would be in competition.

We are short of steel in this country, and I hope that for many years the demand for steel will keep increasing whether there be war or no war. I have that faith in Canada that she is going ahead industrially and otherwise, and that for many years we will be unable to supply our raw steel demands. I think it would be worth while to give this matter some consideration.

I am not suggesting this as a war undertaking. I do not have much enthusiasm for building up war industries, especially in our own province, and then having ghost towns when the war is over. I am interested in industries in our own province, and any other province as far as that is concerned, that will have stability, that will be in existence as long as there is any requirement for the production.

Right at the spot I am talking about there is a railroad which passes through three or four mines. It is true that the mines in Inverness are in a pretty precarious way, but I understand that a geologist and another engineer are looking into the situation and have indicated that they believe there is a body of coal there which may be developed. Apart from that, there is plenty of coal in Inverness to supply the necessities of this steel plant. If we have not got it there, we could get it from the Dominion Steel and Coal Company.

I am sorry to say that just the other day the Prime Minister (Mr. St. Laurent) said something about the great difficulty of producing good steel in this country because of our coal. That matter was investigated four years ago by a chemical scientist in Montreal who was asked to inquire into the question of making steel with coal produced in Nova Scotia. After what I hope was a fair and impartial analysis and investigation he reported that while it took more of certain kinds of coal produced in Nova Scotia to produce a ton of steel than it did of other coal, so far as the quality of the steel was concerned there would be no difference. Our government has been doing something as to the differential with respect to the Dominion Steel and Coal Company. I hope I have at least brought to the attention of the government something which I think is and will be of lasting benefit to our end of the province. I know that our minister from Nova Scotia, who is sitting in his seat now, has been good to that province. He has been doing a good job in so far as Nova Scotia is concerned. Possibly I should not say this because our western friends and those from New Brunswick might be jealous, but he is doing a good job in getting defence orders for the province of Nova Scotia.

There were some good things left in Nova Scotia after the last war. For example, the government built a large plant at Trenton for mounting large guns and that sort of thing. The Dominion Steel Corporation, or perhaps I should say the Nova Scotia Steel and Coal Company, bought the plant. It has been a wonderful asset not only to Trenton but to the whole of the province of Nova Scotia, and has been a wonderful asset to the Dominion Steel and Coal Company. Last year they built there the largest coal hoist there is in Canada today, and placed it in the coal mouth at New Aberdeen. At that plant they are manufacturing today the material they want to implement the promise they made to the government some time ago when they received their loan to do certain things in the mines.

Then there is another place at Pictou, and also at Dartmouth. As I said before, I am not much interested in building defence institutions anywhere in this country if they are only to have a wartime life. It does good for the time being in so far as money is concerned, but otherwise it does no good. Comparatively speaking, I suppose that during the last war there was as much money spent in the province of Nova Scotia as in any other province of Canada.

There is one other matter that I wish to bring to the attention of the government.