

a stage that we can burn our own coal. In the meantime, however, we are out of a market, and there is a very considerable amount of unemployment. We sent overseas from that county over 5,000 men. At least, I am sure we sent over 4,000, and as these men pour back into one county, with the coal trade considerably impaired by the conditions I have explained, the amount of unemployment is going to be somewhat serious.

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: What is the total number of men employed altogether in these industries—coal, iron and steel—in normal times?

Mr. BUTTS: I think in Nova Scotia the Steel Company had about 2,300; the Dominion Steel Company had somewhere between 3,300 and 4,000; and there would be between 8,000 and 10,000 men engaged in the different coal mines. I am speaking roughly of course, but I think these are about the figures. We have in that county, that is North and South Cape Breton, a population of about 73,000, and compared with the mining and steel industry, most of the other industries are small.

I do not think I have very much more to say, Mr. Speaker, except this: If we are to be treated in this way, if we are to be compelled to pay such prices for western flour and such prices for Quebec and Ontario manufactured goods, and for lumber and the rest of it, it must be remembered that there was a day when there were very few persons in the Maritime Provinces who did not realize the fact and proclaim it that a maritime federation was preferable in the interests of those provinces. We have in Nova Scotia the industries that I have mentioned; we have in New Brunswick a good agricultural and lumber country; we have Prince Edward Island that has always been known as the "Garden of the Gulf," with Newfoundland at our door that could supply for years to come iron ore to the world if necessary; and besides this she has coal and copper, and a sealing industry that is one of the richest in the world. Her codfish in shiploads goes to the Brazils and the Mediterranean in competition with fish from all parts of the world. Remember, the time may come when our maritime federation, as I may call it, will feel that it is pinched rather too hard by the grain growers and manufacturers. I do not make this statement by way of threat but in order that you may appreciate the fact that there is something to be said on the other side of the question. In conclusion, I will say that if I have only

[Mr. Butts.]

succeeded in getting some at least of the hon. members in this House to concede that there are two sides to every argument I shall not consider the short time I have spent to-night wasted.

Mr. ANDREW KNOX (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, it is not my intention to take up much time in this discussion, as I think the pros and cons have been combed over very closely, but representing as I do the large and important constituency of Prince Albert, I do not think I would be doing my duty if I did not point out some phases of the present situation in regard to the fiscal policy, as I see it. The previous speaker has proven to me what I have always believed that is, that when a tax or a tariff is put on it is a very difficult thing to get it off without protests from some interested party. This was evidenced by his objection to having the 7½ per cent tax taken off the coal. It has been stated by several members that this is not the time for a revision of the tariff. Without debating that, I would point out to these hon. gentlemen that the Minister of Finance apparently did not agree with those views, as he has to some extent scratched the surface. I have noted in some newspapers the comment that the general consumer has asked for a loaf, but has been given a stone. The honourable member for Brome was probably nearer the truth, when he said that the consumer had asked for a loaf and had been given a soda cracker. But personally I would have preferred to see it left untouched, as I do not believe that the reduction will be noticeable by the consuming public, whether that public be the working man purchasing his food and clothes, or the farmer, who, in addition to that, has also to purchase the machinery with which to produce foodstuffs. I submit, Sir, that the present occasion would have been an opportune time to deal with this matter, as the prime essential in this reconstruction period should be to encourage the greatest industry Canada possesses, an industry which is capable of absorbing more of our returned men than any other. Just here I would like to point out that there is a veritable rush of returned men from all points in the Dominion to the constituency which I represent, to secure land, so much so that the local Soldiers' Settlement Board at Prince Albert, although most efficient, has great difficulty in keeping up with the work. I stated last year, when speaking on the Budget, and I repeat again, that given proper railway facilities, including the completion of the Hudson Bay railway, and also