

anthracite strike, be very serious indeed. Alberta is anxious for the experiment and prepared to spend some money in the event of the cost being above a certain amount, and Ontario is prepared to assist. It is a valid agreement, and I think the Canadian National Railway should not fall down as far as they are concerned.

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): There is no agreement, but there is a letter signed by Premier Greenfield, Sir Henry Thornton and myself.

Mr. SHAW: It ought to be binding.

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): I had nothing to do with making the arrangement, it was made by the railway company and the Alberta government.

Mr. SHAW: It ought to be binding.

Sir EUGENE Fiset: Will the minister inform me if it is his intention to consider resolution No. 46 on the orders of the day and take steps to encourage the production of coke from Canadian coal. I wonder if the minister would also inform the House whether it is their intention to proceed next year with the legislation which has been suggested, with reference to this question?

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): No, it is not the intention to go on with the legislation this year, but I pointed out that I was making a further study to see if I could meet the situation—because I admit it is a difficult one—and render assistance to establish those industries. I have no doubt a coke industry will be established in the eastern area without any assistance from anybody, but it will be coke manufactured from American coal.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: I think I could answer the question asked by the hon. member for Rimouski as to what happened with this legislation. I thoroughly believe the Minister of the Interior was quite sincere in introducing the legislation, and that the Minister of National Defence was also sincere in his desire for it, but I know it is a matter of common gossip that it was never going on, that it would be withdrawn after the local election, and I do not think it ought to have been so withdrawn. I think that if there is one thing which above all other things is necessary to be done it is to take seriously this coal question. The proposal to establish coking plants which has been referred to has apparently been abandoned. I am sorry but I am not at all surprised. I thought it was going to happen, and just as soon as the local election was over it did happen. It is a great pity that

[Mr. Shaw.]

it has been abandoned. It has very real merit in it, and there is a great national asset down in Nova Scotia with which we are doing nothing. If we were to do something with it, it would not merely help Nova Scotia and hon. gentlemen should not think it only in that sense. Why, one of these up-to-date gas plants in Montreal, where there is a large market for the by-product, would be just as good for that city as it would be for the mines of Nova Scotia. In fact, I believe they would make more money out of it. I believe there is more money to be made out of the by-product in connection with the gas proposition than is to be made out of the mines. I think they have an absolute law in Germany that no coal should be burned at all, and it is illegal to do it simply because the value of the by-products is so very great. I am sorry that the minister is not proceeding with that legislation, because failure to do so is not only bad for Nova Scotia but for central Ontario generally. It is bad for all of us. It is necessary that we should just as quickly as we can put ourselves in the position that we will be able to heat our houses and look after ourselves. The coal down there is first rate coking coal. I can assure the House that after the next election coking ovens will be plentiful in this country.

Mr. MACDONALD (Pictou): I think it is very wonderful to find, at the tail end of the session, my hon. friend coming along with such beautiful suggestions in favour of the proposition of producing coke from coal; but when the resolution of the hon. member for North Toronto (Mr. Church) was before the House I do not think I heard any such proposals. However, I am very glad, on behalf of the government, to have his assurance that legislation of this character will have his support. As to the introduction of the legislation having anything to do with the provincial election, I want to assure him that the issues in the election in the province of Nova Scotia had not anything to do with the doings of this federal parliament. I repeat I am glad to know the government have the assurance of my hon. friend's support, because in certain sections of the House there were members who were not inclined to vote subsidies which would enable Canadian coal to be manufactured into coke to warm the people of Ontario, and propositions of this kind were not altogether favourably received. The situation in regard to the matter is not so easy as my hon. friend imagines. To work out a proper scheme of assistance whereby coal transported from Nova Scotia or from Alberta can be