

of coal by the United States Government has enabled the coal mine owners in the United States to establish what is known as a trust, and they are bound to shove up the price of coal, and create an artificial shortage. It is not a real shortage, but an artificial one. A friend of mine who was in the coal region recently told me there was ample coal available there, and that they were desirous of getting all the orders they could, but the United States Government had interfered so seriously with the course of events so far as the coal of Pennsylvania and Ohio was concerned that it looked as though there was going to be a complete jam up in that part of the country. Whether they are going to try and freeze us out this winter, I do not know, but it looks very much like it.

Mr. BUREAU: There will be a real shortage if they freeze us out.

Mr. CURRIE: There was a real shortage last year, and it looks as if there will be a real shortage for us this year; whether it is a real shortage for them or not, I do not know. They are not very anxious to have our money as it is at such a big discount, as our people are all buying goods in the United States which they formerly used to buy in Canada. I understand that the balance of trade with the United States runs against this country to something like \$90,000,000 a month. It is only a question of a couple of years or so until we will owe the United States so much money that we shall have to surrender ourselves over to them, or go to war and repudiate our debt, because we will not be able to pay it.

I am a high protectionist. I do not wish to go into any discussion of that subject to-day, but I am sorry to see all three parties in this House so anxious to buy goods from Uncle Sam. We are giving him a balance of \$90,000,000 a month to enable him to cripple us more and more every day.

Mr. LALOR: It would be well to buy coal from him at all events.

Mr. CURRIE: He says our dollar is no good. I trust the Government will take into consideration the advisability of adopting some method whereby we can get Nova Scotia coal more cheaply. We cannot get it by rail because the cost is prohibitive. We cannot buy coal from the West and bring it by rail further east than Fort William at a reasonable cost. The rest of the distance must be covered by water, and we must provide water trans-

portation. What are we going to do in that respect? Let us decide, and do it quickly.

Resolution reported.

Sir ROBERT BORDEN thereupon moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 217, to amend The Railway Act, 1919. He said: It might be desirable for me to read the exact terms of the Bill in order that hon. gentlemen may be acquainted with them at the earliest possible moment. The Bill is as follows:

The Railway Act, 1919, chapter sixty-eight of the statutes of 1919, is amended by inserting the following section as 71 A immediately after section seventy-one thereof:—

"71 A (1) The board shall have power to do and authorize such acts and things and to make from time to time such orders and regulations as the board, by reason of real or apprehended scarcity of coal or other fuel supplies in Canada, may deem necessary or advisable for the provision of such supplies and for the distribution, control and disposition thereof.

"(2) Without restricting the generality of the foregoing terms, it is declared that the powers hereinbefore conferred upon the board shall extend to the trading in and to the exportation, importation, production and manufacture of coal and other fuel supplies.

"(3) This section shall continue in force until the last day of the next succeeding session of Parliament and no longer."

I have read the Act in its exact terms in order that hon. members of this House may understand that it is proposed to confer upon the Board of Railway Commissioners of Canada very wide powers in this respect. As the Act was originally prepared, the approval of the Governor in Council was made a condition precedent to the exercise of these powers by the board. But, on the whole, we thought it desirable to eliminate that provision and to ask the House to confer upon the board the powers which I have enumerated, without any restriction or reservation except such as may be found in those provisions of the statute which enable an appeal to be asserted, in respect of all matters, to the Governor in Council, from any judgment or decision of the board.

May I add just one word, in view of what has been said by my hon. friend from Simcoe (Mr. Currie), as to the attitude of the authorities of the United States to this country in connection with coal supplies. I have been informed by the late Fuel Controller Mr. Magrath, by those who were associated with him, and by other persons who are familiar with these matters, that no attitude could have been more friendly or considerate toward the people of this country in respect of the needs of this country, than that which was exhibited by