

Saturday, Feb. 11th

# COAL FROM ALBERTA NATIONAL PROBLEM, DECLARES FERGUSON

**Premier Affirms Stand  
Against Subsidizing  
Shipments—Progressive  
Leader Asks for Infor-  
mation**

**NOT DISCUSSED  
WITH E. W. BEATTY**

The Alberta coal question came up in the Ontario Legislature yesterday afternoon, with John G. Lethbridge of West Middlesex, new Progressive Leader, asking the Government for information as to any recent move in the matter, and Premier Ferguson affirming his stand against subsidizing coal from the West and declaring his belief that the whole thing should be considered as a national problem.

#### Conference With Beatty?

Mr. Lethbridge broached the subject just before the orders of the day were called. Incidentally, it was his first move in the House as Progressive Leader. He read from a recent despatch from Ottawa reporting a \$7 freight rate, stating that Alberta coal was "the basis of negotiations between the Department of the Interior and the railways"; that the negotiations were "coming to a head," and that the presence of E. W. Beatty, C.P.R. President, in Toronto had to do with the situation. He wanted to know if Mr. Ferguson had conferred with Mr. Beatty on the subject.

"I had no talk with Mr. Beatty on coal or transportation," said the Premier, pointing out that he and Mr. Beatty had simply met as guests at the C.N.E. banquet. "The Minister of the Interior," Mr. Ferguson continued, "communicated with the Government here, saying that Sir Henry Thornton had been approached regarding further trial shipments from Alberta to Ontario and that Sir Henry had said that he must have a \$9 rate, notwithstanding the fact that the Railway Board found \$7.22 out-of-pocket cost."

#### Error in Figures.

It might be noted, Mr. Ferguson continued, that there was a very palpable error in the figures of the Railway Board, and that the correct figure was \$6.75.

"It was suggested," he went on, "that if the Dominion gave one dollar of the excess, would Alberta and Ontario share the other dollar? I pointed out that, while Alberta coal proved satisfactory in this Province unless it was intended to establish continued coal traffic we didn't need further trial shipments."

#### Seen as National Problem.

He had also pointed out, he emphasized, that the Ontario Government had spent many thousands of dollars before the Railway Board in an effort to establish rates. "This Government," he added, "didn't feel that it should be called on to subsidize coal from Alberta or anywhere else." It regarded the whole question as a great national problem, and felt that the aid should come from the Federal coffers.

## PREMIER PICTURES AVENUE EXTENSION

**Introduces Five Bills and  
Attorney-General Two  
Others**

### AMENDMENT TO GAS ACT

Premier Ferguson started the wheels of the Legislative mill turning yesterday, and introduced five bills to the House. Then Attorney-General Price produced more grist in the form of two other bills.

The Premier's five were the following: to establish a research foundation in Ontario; respecting the training of apprentices; to provide for the extension of University Avenue; an amendment to the Mining Act of 1927, and an amendment to the Natural Gas Conservation Act of 1921.

#### Proposed Changes.

Mr. Ferguson spoke particularly of the bill regarding the University Avenue extension. He pictured the proposed changes around University Avenue and College Street the extension of the General Hospital, the taking-over of university property by the Government in exchange for financial aid in the university's building program, the suggested establishment of Botanical gardens, the widening of the approach to Queen's Park.

A sweeping approach to the Parliament Buildings was desirable, and was something worthy of Government interest. The bill was to enable the city, if it wanted to undertake it, to open up University Avenue down to Fleet Street by viaduct or going under the railway tracks.

The proposed amendment to the Gas Act, the Premier explained, that where artificial gas was mixed with natural gas and sold, it might, if the producer and the municipality agreed, be brought under the gas referee.

#### Avoiding New Election.

Col. Price's bills were an amendment to the Trustee Act, and an amendment to the Municipal Act. This latter, said he, was brought in to straighten out some difficulties in 30 municipalities resulting from a difference in election dates. It provided that the taking of the oath of office at the first meeting of Council would suffice in cases where there had been a failure to take the oath within the time required by the 1927 act. It was to avoid new elections and heavy expense.