

That is something for us to shoot at in this second half of the twentieth century we are now approaching. That is a target for Canada to aim at, if we have the iron ore. I believe we have large deposits of iron ore. If time permitted I should like to give a history of the development of the iron and steel industry in Canada from those far-off days when in your own beautiful province, Mr. Speaker, along both sides of that great river which flows into the St. Lawrence at the fine city of Three Rivers, Canada's iron ore business commenced. That is one thing your fair province can take credit for, that therein the iron and steel industry of Canada was begun. The iron and steel industry of Canada commenced there, and it continued for quite a number of years until finally the resources ran out. In my own province of Ontario—I could also speak of the other provinces such as Nova Scotia where they started to smelt iron ore in the eighteenth century—on a beautiful little creek called Potter's creek in the county of Norfolk iron ore was melted. Evidence of it still remains. It was the commencement of a real iron ore industry in Canada. It was not the first, as iron ore had been found about 1800 in the county in which my people settled in 1820, the county of Lanark and in Leeds, but neither deposit was of much importance. For some fifty years they smelted bog iron on Potter's creek, the same type of iron as the ore discovered in Quebec along the St. Maurice river. It is a far cry from the time of Louis XV and the deposit of iron ore which was discovered on the west side of the St. Maurice river to the present day. In all these years Canada has been trying to do something with its own iron ore, but nothing of any magnitude was done until we came to the first great war.

During the first great war a rich deposit of iron ore was found in northern Ontario in the Michipicoten area, 175 miles northwest and also directly north of the fine city of Sault Ste. Marie. At that time Mr. F. H. Clergue was a power in that part of Canada. He was the founder of the steel mills which are to be found at the present time at Sault Ste. Marie. He was the power that brought about the development of the Michipicoten iron ore magnetite ore. It was then called Helen mountain and it contained approximately four million tons of iron ore. That ore was put to great use during the first great war until the ore became exhausted. I am told that at present they are anticipating finding more high-grade ore north of Helen mountain. Close to that is a great deposit of low-grade ore, at New Helen mountain. I spent con-

[Mr. MacNicol.]

siderable time in surveying that area. I believe the mountain is about two thousand and some odd feet high. I thought it was about ten thousand feet high when I reached the top. It was much easier coming down than going up. At the present time they are taking out, as the hon. member for Algoma West (Mr. Nixon) will agree, about 750,000 tons of ore per annum. When that low-grade ore is sintered or roasted and smelted it emerges as pigiron. From those 750,000 tons of iron ore last year they received about 270,000 tons of first-class pigiron. Of course the amount is small but it can be developed. Later, I shall speak about the development of low-grade iron ore deposits.

Within the last few years, in fact during the war just closed, what is developing into a large deposit of exceptionally high-grade haematite ore, a sample of which I have in my hand, was discovered in the Atikokan area, to which I shall refer at greater length in a few moments. I wish to revert to what is going on in the United States, to build a platform, if I can, as a proposal for the development of a vast iron ore and steel industry in Canada. During the war just closed the demand for iron ore reached colossal proportions in the United States. The tonnages reached astronomical figures and, according to great engineers who have knowledge of the subject, the United States is experiencing a great contraction in its iron ore deposits. A recent issue of the *Toronto Globe and Mail*, I believe the October 1, 1945 issue, said that during the five years of war, in the United States 470 million tons of high-grade Mesabi and Vermilion ores were shipped to blast furnaces in Chicago, Toledo and Cleveland and other points. Cleveland has great smelting plants. To these plants they brought down 470 million tons of high-grade ore, to such an extent that the ablest of the United States engineers and geologists have become alarmed. They are alarmed, first, because, if all their high-grade ore became exhausted, what would they do in the event of another great war breaking out? I am told by those who should know that the Mesabi ore has been reduced to much less than a billion tons in sight. That is not very much from a mine which heretofore was considered inexhaustible. If their iron ore is reduced to that extent it is Canada's chance. This is Canada's chance. One of the United States great engineers and geologists, Mr. W. R. Van Slyke of Minnesota, who is thoroughly conversant with everything pertaining to the Mesabi and Vermilion iron ore ranges, the greatest in the United States, wrote the war production board of Washington last