

Supply—Mines and Technical Surveys

cations. This has helped the industry a great deal and has given it the stability it needs. But, of course, it is far from being the answer to many of its problems; it is only a stopgap measure.

Last year I spoke of the necessity for a revision in the world price for gold. Like most people, doubtless the minister himself feels that the present price is not at all realistic. It is artificially held, yet it seems to work against the very people who maintain the price. The gold reserves of the United States government have dropped drastically in recent years and have reached a point that is critical. In fact, the gold reserves of the United States are today not much more than that which is required to guarantee the currency. This situation is the complete reverse of the situation which existed 10 or 15 years ago. The reason for this is that world supplies and resources of gold are dwindling. Gold has also been hoarded, I believe, by other powers. Yet the governments of the western world seem to stand idly by and let the situation go from bad to worse. Canada has a certain voice in the control of the international monetary fund and in world councils, and although I know the United States has at times expressed its disfavour of the idea I think that pressure should be applied, inasmuch as pressure can be applied, to see that there is a revision in that price. If there were, I think a period of great prosperity for our gold industry and our mining industries in general would follow.

These are about the only remarks I have to make at this time, Mr. Chairman. I wish to conclude, and to congratulate once again the minister and all of his officials from the deputy minister down who are performing such a fine job. The department constitutes a very unique and extraordinarily marvelous tool for progress, for research and for greater prosperity not only in the mining industry but in many other industries.

Great imagination should be used in order that this tool can be completely used, resulting in a full yield drawn from that great reservoir of trained scientific personnel. There should be no fear of innovation; indeed innovation should be the new watchword of the department. If that is the attitude adopted, and I think it will be, we can expect great things from the minister and his department, which will benefit us all.

Mr. Pugh: Mr. Chairman, I should like to make a few remarks about these estimates. I am glad to welcome the minister, and in
[Mr. Martineau.]

view of the subject I wish to discuss, perhaps I should have addressed him as the minister of telescopes.

There is a radio telescope located on high ground in the Okanagan valley near Penticton and Oliver, fulfilling the role for which it was constructed. I understand plans are in existence for the construction of an optical telescope somewhere in the British Columbia mountains, and I should like the minister to give us the latest information available in this regard. Naturally I favour the location of such a telescope in the Okanagan area, and I do so for a great many reasons. The minister and his departmental officials have travelled through this area and given very thorough consideration to the location of a site for such a contemplated telescope, and I hope that nothing will be done to impede this research. I think this is a very wonderful project, one which could very appropriately be associated with the centennial of confederation.

Mr. Chairman, I do not intend to take up too much time dealing with this subject, but I should like to point out that there are many desirable locations in the Okanagan area. Such a telescope could be constructed at almost any desirable altitude in an area having all the necessary elements to the successful operation of such an instrument. There seems to be some good argument for locating this instrument in close proximity to the radio telescope now located in that area. Many advantages would be gained by such a location, particularly on the administrative side. I am sure that following the establishment of such a telescope there would be a number of technical men moving to the area, and I might say that British Columbia would more than welcome those people to this area. The individuals who live there now as a result of the establishment of the radio telescope I am sure enjoy the effervescence of the climate. I believe the radio telescope operates more efficiently in that area than perhaps it would anywhere else. In that area there is very little interference in the way of noise or pollution from industry, which would spoil the situation.

Perhaps I should also mention the fact that whenever a project of this kind is undertaken it has been a tourist attraction. While I do not suggest the telescope should be located there to give a boost to the tourist industry, there would be an added advantage in this way. Perhaps I should repeat that in the Okanagan area such an instrument could be located at almost any altitude that