

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I understand this organization meets in London. Originally it was formed to provide some method of controlling the world markets of wheat. I believe it now functions principally in connection with the gathering of statistics which will be of value to all countries facing wheat problems. It is an international committee. Of course its work at the present time is materially circumscribed, but it is thought advisable to keep up the contribution. It may turn out to be of great service, as matters develop.

Mr. EDWARDS: Is this the committee which has its headquarters in Italy?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: No, that is a separate organization.

Mr. EDWARDS: That is a different committee?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: This is a world committee, having its headquarters in London. The United States and the Argentine are represented.

Mr. HARRIS (Danforth): This committee meets with the committee at Rome.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: It has met with them.

Item agreed to.

Privy council office.

273. Salaries and expenses of office, \$55,870.

Mr. POULIOT: Are certified copies of the acts of parliament sent by the privy council office to the Department of External Affairs?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I shall have to look into the matter. I shall find out and let my hon. friend know.

Item agreed to.

#### DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND RESOURCES

Mines and geology branch.

137. Mineral resources investigations, \$392,740.

Mr. NICHOLSON: Does the department derive any benefit as a result of expenditures under this vote?

Hon. T. A. CRERAR (Minister of Mines and Resources): There is a little income, but not a great deal. This item covers the work carried on by the laboratories of the department in Ottawa. This work consists of assaying and the development of processes of treating complex and difficult ores. This work is best illustrated by what was done in connection with pitchblende which was discovered some nine or ten years ago at Great Bear lake. A process had to be found to extract the radium from the ore. There were

[Mr. Nicholson.]

only two places in the world where this was being done, one on a small scale in Austria and the other in Belgium, where a corporation had worked out a process to extract radium from pitchblende ore secured in the Belgian Congo. The formulae were closely controlled and were not available to us, so it became necessary, if this deposit of ore was to be of use, to discover a method of treatment. That method was worked out in the mineral investigations branch in conjunction with certain assistance from the national research council. This investigation was successful and the industry developed. This vote is mainly to assist in the development of the mining industry in Canada. As I have stated in the past, many mining companies have testified to the assistance given by this branch in working out the best method of treating their ore. In short, what we do is to bring together a number of high class scientific men who have gained considerable experience in dealing with these problems.

Mr. NICHOLSON: I was not questioning the value of the work being done. I was just wondering if a charge should not be made to the mining companies for the valuable information supplied to them.

Mr. CRERAR: No charges have been made up to the present. If you like to put it that way, this is one form of government assistance to the mining industry across Canada. Only a few thousand dollars revenue is received yearly for this work.

Mr. NICHOLSON: Has the government considered making a charge?

Mr. CRERAR: Yes, but up to the present time it has not been thought wise to do so. It might discourage development in certain directions, and we want to give all the assistance we can to increasing our gold and metal production.

Mr. NICHOLSON: Is there any duplication of services by the provinces. I understand Ontario does some work along these lines.

Mr. CRERAR: No province gives a service similar to this.

Mr. ADAMSON: This is one of the most useful services being carried out by the department. Any mine in Canada can send a sample of its ore to this branch to have it tested and assayed. I understand the government will advise on the best method of milling and whether the straight cyanidation process or the flotation method of extraction should be used. This tremendously helps mines design their mills.

At one o'clock the committee took recess.