

was such an expert. He could not take a chance where experiments were involved; he had to see to the thing himself. I am sure I am right in this supposition. I know you cannot expect that kind of thing in the government service. This country has as good a civil service as any in the world. It is staffed with men and women of high character and excellent capacities, but they are not asked to work all night long, as the minister and myself and many another pioneer have done in business and professional life. Government men are not expected to do that. We do not pay them to do it. But those engaged in private industry are bent on reaching a particular goal, we aspire to reach the top in a big company; we reap our return in that way. But government employees are only paid salaries and they are not expected to work like that. This is one reason why I favour the government, if it gets out patents, putting them up for sale and disposing of them to the highest bidder who can pay for them, on condition they put the production of it on the market. Only in that way can we provide employment; the result of research must be placed on the market. In my judgment, the research council will be doing good and worth-while work if they confine themselves to that procedure. But to manufacture stuff themselves—well, they cannot do so profitably. They can, of course, do it on government money, in the way magnesium was developed at Haley's and as might have been done from the \$2 million expenditure at Abasand, where we did not secure a process for extracting oil from the sands, or at least, if we did, the plant burned down before it was in operation, so that whether or not it would have been successful we do not know.

I am not in favour of the government carrying on business on so wide a scale. If what the minister said this evening about employment is correct, there would be a good deal of temporary employment in the various pilot plants. As the minister said, the employees will be entitled to benefits of superannuation. I am in favour of superannuation, and I would favour private companies doing much more in that direction than some of them are doing to-day. Before I left home last night a man came to see me who, after being with a company for twenty years, had just been let out without a pension. I think that is an outrage. During his period of service his salary was at no time sufficient for him to accumulate a competence. He was not an officer of the company, he was working in the plant, and I may say that he was just about heart-broken. So with that part

of the government's proposal I agree, that whoever is engaged in the government's plants should be under civil service conditions as to pensions and the like if he is retired from government service. Anyone who has worked in the public service for twenty years should, on retirement, be entitled to a substantial pension, because the government, having the country's money to operate with, can afford to do that and can thereby show an example. As the minister knows, private industry cannot always do that. No doubt, many times, when tendering for a big elevator contract which he had to get by competition, he had to sharpen his pencil and found it "pretty close skating" to get out even and without losing his coat. But the government is not subject to such conditions.

That expresses my opinion with regard to this bill.

Mr. HOWE: I just wish to put my hon. friend straight on the position with regard to magnesium. To review what I said earlier, in 1937 the national research council undertook to develop a new process for the manufacture of magnesium metal. It was carried out under a strong committee representing not only the research council but also Mines and Resources and National Defence. In 1940 the work was reviewed by the committee, and it was found that they could make magnesium metal in a testtube by the process which later became known as the Pidgeon process. But it was represented that there was nothing patentable in the matter and that if the government needed magnesium metal in the war they had better try a proven process. That was the official report to myself as Minister of Munitions and Supply. However, Doctor Pidgeon, who had been working on the process and had done development work, did not agree with the committee. He said, "All right. I am cut off from the funds of the research council by the decision, but I still believe in the process," and he interested private investors in carrying on the process. Messrs. Segsworth and Jowsey went to the national research council and said, "We will pay all costs up to date, but we want to own the thing from now on". They made arrangements to finance from that point on, and as a result of work in the pilot plant certain processes were patented, not on the time of the national research council but on time paid for by this private syndicate. The government overlooked no opportunity to patent the process. They never had the opportunity. If they had carried on the work farther, if they had followed Doctor Pidgeon in the matter, they might have had a patentable process. The syndicate, having been satisfied with their