

MR. TIMM: I am not sure; I do not think there is a duty on the materials coming to the country. Probably some of the other gentlemen could answer that.

HON. MR. CRERAR: Perhaps we should get one of the men that has examined into the potash discoveries in Saskatchewan.

MR. TIMM: Then would you call Mr. Cole.

HON. MR. SINCLAIR: Mr. Timm, is it fair to assume from your remarks that it is more profitable from a commercial standpoint to import a high grade phosphate than to develop the low grade that we have here?

MR. TIMM: It is more profitable to import the raw materials from the United States than to develop our low grade materials, so far.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Timm. I think the committee would be pleased to hear Mr. Cole, at Mr. Timm's suggestion.

MR. L. H. COLE: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Timm has suggested that you have a better knowledge of the prospects of getting raw materials for fertilizer purposes.

MR. COLE: Only as to potash. Two or three years ago there were a number of deep wells put down in Saskatchewan and Alberta in search for oil, and these wells encountered beds of sodium chloride, which is common salt, and in the top part of this salt strata they encountered, in some of the holes, indications of potash. The first potash found was in the form of chloride, that is sylvite, and it was associated with sodium chloride, which is common salt. In one of the more recent holes they have found another potash mineral, carnallite, which is potassium magnesium chloride. When the department found that salt was being discovered in a number of these wells it started to get all the information together. We went to the West and were able to examine the original cores obtained from a number of these wells. There were about eighteen wells altogether in which sodium chloride was encountered. In five or six of them we encountered potash minerals in the upper strata running from one per cent up to a considerably higher quantity. When we finally obtained the analyses of one of the wells near Unity, we found that there was a bed near the top of salt formation which ran around 21 per cent K_2O .

HON. MR. WHITE: What would be the depth of that bed?

MR. COLE: That was around 3,700 feet below the surface.

HON. MR. WHITE: The depth of the bed?

MR. COLE: It was 11 feet thick. That is the highest percentage to date. Since that well was drilled the Saskatchewan government has signed an agreement with the salt company known as Prairie Salt Company to develop the salt beds at and near Unity which is close to the original discovery well. It is about twelve miles from the discovery well. This company has put down recently two wells just southeast of Unity in which have been found salt strata practically the same thickness as found in the discovery well. The potash beds are present in the top of this formation in these two wells, but I have just completed the sampling of them in Montreal, and the analyses are underway at the present time.

HON. MR. WHITE: Have you any idea of the area of the beds?

MR. COLE: No, we have just got these two wells, and the original well, which are twelve miles apart.

HON. MR. PATERSON: So that you have plenty of it if it extends across?

MR. COLE: If there is continuation between the two wells it is twelve miles anyway.

HON. MR. DAVIES: Is the salt company a Canadian company?