

*Supply—Indian Affairs*

themselves to serve them than public servants who adjust them to satisfy their own purposes. I think that when public servants are selected—and I will frankly admit that there are not too many people who offer to go to the Territories—an effort should be made to find, even among laymen, people who have the call of the missionary and want to serve.

I was also able to see that, in some places anyway, our faults, our vices, were accepted more easily than our qualities. I therefore feel that, in that respect, we can improve the services we extend to the Northwest Territories, and particularly to the Yukon.

● (5:30 p.m.)

Mention was made this afternoon of the Carrothers report on the administration or evolution of government in the Northwest Territories. I fully agree with the recommendations of the commission to the effect that granting a provincial charter to the Northwest Territories is not so pressing, so urgent, that it cannot be put off for a few years. I also welcomed the suggestion on the choice of a centre to become the capital when the province is founded.

In fact, Yellowknife is the administrative centre, or the bureaucratic centre, if you wish, but it is also that of private industry which is developing the natural resources. In my opinion, all that constitutes a solid basis for a provincial capital. The recommendation that the commissioner be a resident of the locality of Yellowknife is excellent and cannot but bring favourable results in the development of those territories.

Now, Mr. Chairman, something in particular has caught my attention since I have been a member of the committee on northern affairs and natural resources and I have been able to see it for myself this summer. I mean the great wealth in minerals, gas and oil which is found in those territories, not to mention other resources, and the proposed developments are fantastic. And the committee on northern affairs and natural resources was not the only one to visit the territories during the summer. There was another delegation made up of business men and high officials who visited the north at the request of the minister himself. It has also reported on the wealth which now lies in the soil or subsoil in that area.

And in a news report from Mary River, Northwest Territories, published in *L'Action* on October 19, 1966, which is not so long ago, we are told:

A mountain of iron ore of such high quality that it could be sent directly towards the blast-furnaces

is waiting to be extracted by a powerful international consortium. Its development could have a considerable impact throughout the eastern Arctic.

And it adds:

The Minister of Northern Affairs, Mr. Arthur Laing, who headed an economic mission of 40 members on a trip to the north, gave his personal approval to a project in Mary River, which is located 130 miles south of Lancaster Sound and at the northern tip of Baffin Island.

Approval is subject however to the endorsement of a group of technicians who will study the project in detail during the next few months, after which a report will be made to the federal cabinet.

It is obvious, Mr. Chairman, that in the Northwest Territories, not only on Baffin Island or at the western extremity of the Territories, there are many deposits of iron, copper, zinc, lead, in short all kinds of minerals. However, I wonder if it is so urgent to develop those resources, since in the Southern areas of our country, there are also many undeveloped ore deposits of all kinds. I want to tell the minister that there are in my riding of Chapleau and in the neighbouring riding of Villeneuve, iron ore deposits of a rather high grade which could be developed economically and with advantage; these deposits are located in the area of Val d'Or, namely in Louvicourt. There are others in an area a little more to the north, near lake Waswanipi, which are close to the highways, the railroads and where there is manpower which would be employed for the development and extraction of the ore existing there.

We find the same situation concerning other kinds of ore. I wonder then if it is really advantageous to invest great amounts of money to build the railroads needed to fetch these minerals and take the necessary people there, who will have to be given accommodation at high prices, to develop these fields, while we have within our reach all the iron ore and all the minerals to meet the present demand.

Mind you, Mr. Chairman—and I want the minister to note this—I am not against expansion and all the developments proposed, but I must add that we should look to easier access at the present time; afterwards, as time goes by, it will be possible, perhaps by more modern, newer methods, to develop more easily the resources of our subsoil.

The article published in *L'Action*, which I quoted a moment ago, mentions that the companies concerned in the Mary River project now hold mining interests in some fields. The name of Baffinland Iron Mines Ltd. is mentioned as holding interests in the Mary River