

Northern Affairs and National Resources

were pretty vague, and it looked to me as though the department did not know too much about it. This was quite evident, I thought, from the answers to my questions.

There are some authorities on the subject. Needless to say it is difficult to find authorities in matters of this kind, due to the rigorous climate and the difficulties of transportation. For these reasons private investigators or scientists cannot go into that country to spend a year or two with an assurance that they will have their living provided, unless they have the support of institutions such as governments. Such information as there is was the result of the work of some who had gone there on four or five different occasions at the behest of the government. But Mr. Mowat's claim is that their intervention was not too successful by way of ameliorating the situation he has described.

I shall refer to one authority; I shall not quote him, but merely mention his name. Hon. members will be free to look it up themselves. I refer to M. J. Miché of the French national museum who visited the Ihalmiut country in 1951 and described what he found there.

Then there is an interesting booklet which I suggest would be particularly valuable for officials in the department. This booklet is called "Greenland", and in it the Danes has set forth in great detail what they have done with and for their Eskimo peoples. They, of course, have an Eskimo problem but due to their own good efforts the problem with them is no longer a great one. In this pamphlet they set forth in great detail what they have done with and for their Eskimo population. I think it could be justly said on the basis of the accomplishments therein described that one could build a good case against our own comparative inactivity.

In conclusion I would express the hope that the minister in the new department would initiate in regard to the Eskimos an imaginative program such as that I have described. Perhaps I have not been very constructive in my suggestions, but I did want to draw to the minister's attention the assertions that a bad situation does exist, and if there is found to be anything in the assertions I urge that the difficulties should be cleared up.

Mr. Nicholson: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: Order. Is the hon. member in the same predicament as the hon. member who just took his seat? It will be kept in mind that the hon. member for Saskatoon (Mr. Knight) was speaking with the unanimous consent of the house because he

[Mr. Knight.]

did not rise when section 5 was being discussed in committee. I sensed that the house wanted him to make his observations.

At this point, however, we have before us a motion that the bill do pass and that the title be as on the order paper.

Mr. Nicholson: Mr. Speaker, I am not in the position of the hon. member for Saskatoon but, with your permission, I should like to detain the house a few moments.

Mr. Speaker: It is not a matter of gaining my permission. It is a matter of obtaining unanimous consent. One member has already spoken, and if it is the wish of the house another could speak.

Mr. Abbott: Let us stick to the rules.

Mr. Lesage: Perhaps the hon. member could proceed for two minutes.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member may proceed.

Mr. A. M. Nicholson (Mackenzie): Speaking in the debate the other evening the hon. member for Churchill (Mr. Weaver) made reference to a statement I had made giving credit to certain federal civil servants for having discovered a process for separating the ore at Flin Flon. Since there was some difference of opinion regarding the views expressed I should like to take a few moments to discuss the matter now.

A good deal of research work has been done since Tuesday night, and I now have quite a long report from the Department of Mines and Technical Surveys, mines branch. They have gone back to 1920. I do not propose to take up the time of the house to read this long report, but it does state that in 1920 a request came from the Mining Corporation of Canada, who held the option on the property, subsequently the Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Company Limited, to the department of mines for assistance in solving the metallurgical problems in connection with the treatment of the sulphide ore. Later this was extended to cover the disseminated ore

The department obliged and investigation started in 1921, and again in 1922, and reports were made. It was quite an interesting report that was presented in 1921, indicating that the ore was valuable and that it was possible to develop it; but it was pointed out that the mines branch had only laboratory equipment and no large-scale equipment to make pilot runs in order to confirm laboratory findings. The report goes on to say, however, that the most important point to note is that the mines branch investigation showed that the economic minerals could be separated into good grade concentrates.