

Supply—Mines and Technical Surveys

which is heavily inhabited on the Ontario side and which is certainly inhabited to a large extent by summer residents on the Quebec side, though possibly not as heavily, the boundary line has never been delineated, and it seems strange that in this day and age it should not be possible to find a solution.

I brought this question to the attention of the premier of the province of Quebec when I was the president of the St. Lawrence seaway authority, and I brought it to the attention of the premier of the province of Ontario and I was assured by both the gentlemen that it would be given their consideration. I know there are difficulties in the way. But the difficulties are small. They are that the islands lie, in the opinion of the province of Ontario, entirely within the confines of that province, while in the opinion of the province of Quebec, they lie entirely within the confines of Quebec. But the islands, it seems to me, are not of such importance that it could not be found possible to draw the line which separates Ontario from Quebec in this area.

The *Ottawa Journal*—unfortunately I do not have the date before me, but I have a copy of the article which, I believe, appeared in November of 1957—drew attention to the fact that this 10-mile boundary dispute should have been settled a long time ago, and it states that the present situation has proved very awkward for workers and contractors developing the lake St. Francis section of the St. Lawrence seaway and that it has been equally annoying for summer cottagers, anglers, hunters and trappers who have seen game wardens of both provinces converging on them with summonses at the ready.

I do not know whether the situation is as bad today as is suggested in that editorial but it is one which, it seems to me, should not be allowed to continue much longer. May I make a suggestion to the minister? I know he has very convincing powers. I know, too, that he is the kind of person who would not wish to be offensive in any way. May I suggest that he should first approach the premier of his province and that, perhaps, he might then have his officials communicate with the premier of Ontario in an endeavour to ascertain if the boundary line cannot be drawn. It would be a good thing for the federal government and it would be a good thing for the provinces of Ontario and Quebec. If a bill confirming an agreement between the two provinces were brought into this house I am sure it would receive the ready approval of parliament, because this is a good thing and a thing that should be done. I therefore appeal to the minister with regard to these

[Mr. Chevrier.]

two points and, knowing him as I do, I am sure he will wish to give them earnest and sympathetic consideration.

Mr. Martel: Mr. Chairman, I should like to say a few words in view of the point which has been raised by the hon. member for Villeneuve concerning base metal discoveries to the north of Senneterre which happens to be in my riding. I do not wish to delay the passing of these estimates in any way, but I rise merely to say that I agree with the hon. member with regard to what he has said, and that I support the observations of the hon. member for Kootenay West regarding the geological surveys branch, which is doing a great job and whose work is of high value to the development of Canada's rich mineral resources.

I mentioned this discovery at Mattagami lake in the middle of my riding during my maiden speech here last May. I am glad to say that my constituents were most happy that I said a few words about it. The only reproach they made to me was that I mentioned at that time that the discovery would compare with that at Pine Point. They thought I should have said it was much bigger than Pine Point. The hon. member for Villeneuve has made that point clear. Not only one ore body has been discovered but, so far, it seems there may have been three base metal discoveries. I have also been informed recently by a reliable source that a gold discovery has also been made in that area. I agree with other hon. members who have spoken this afternoon that the work which has been done by the geological branch of the department of mines has been most significant in bringing about not only these discoveries but many others across Canada.

Before closing, I should like to make a suggestion to the minister concerning the distribution of geological maps and reports. In past years these maps and reports were distributed free to prospectors upon request. I understand that some people and, maybe some companies, abused this privilege and that as a result the prospectors and the companies are now being charged for any such reports and maps they may require. I should like to suggest that in order to encourage prospecting all over Canada at least one set of maps and reports should be made available every year to prospectors who intend to do some exploration work in a particular area.

Finally, may I congratulate the minister upon the help he has extended to the gold mining industry through the subsidy which we discussed a few days ago and also express our gratitude to the officials of his