

Natural Resources—Development

for the work of the mines branch in working out new methods of producing the uranium from low-grade ores.

The hon. member for Vancouver-Quadra had quite a bit to say about the need for processing Canadian ores before they leave the country. I am all for that, too, but I would remind him that Canada was largely built with the ore from the Mesabi range in the United States before we had iron ore in commercial quantities, and if some of it flows back the other way for a while I do not think we should feel too badly about it. Furthermore, the iron deposits of Labrador would not have been developed today without the prospect of the market for the ore. I have no doubt that as this country develops and our population increases, and the possibility of larger markets develops, there will be larger quantities of iron ore as well as other minerals processed here in Canada.

A few months ago I had the honour to be invited to a dinner here in Ottawa with the representatives of three major steel companies who are opening up a deposit of low-grade iron ore some 40 miles west of Ottawa. During the conversation I asked them about the quality of the ore compared with that of the Mesabi range. They said, "Oh, we have a thousand years' supply of the same kind of ore in the Mesabi range." I said, "Why are you not developing it, instead of coming up here?" They said, "Oh, the taxes are more favourable to us in Canada; that is why we are coming here." To my mind that is an answer to some of the statements that have been made today.

A great deal has been said about the unfavourable balance of trade. I believe a great deal of the unfavourable balance today is caused by imports of capital machinery and goods going into the mining industry. It will only be a matter of months or years until that new capital equipment becomes productive and the trade balance will be corrected.

I have mentioned the wealth of knowledge the geological survey and other branches of our department have been accumulating over the years. In its early stages the oil development in Alberta was based on the geological knowledge that had been built up from the maps and reports produced by the geological survey of Canada. I have a very interesting quotation here from a speech made by the discoverer of the Blind River uranium deposit, Mr. Joubin. He said:

The best place undeniably to find a record of observed facts is in the publications of our dominion and provincial geological surveys and departments of mines reports. If you care to research the project as I have, you will be amazed at the

number of important mines that have been developed across Canada that were all previously described in the technical literature even decades before their importance was proved. This is a form of armchair prospecting, sometimes successful, in which almost anyone can indulge.

That is the end of the quotation from Mr. Joubin. He goes on to say that mining is an industry but mining exploration is a romantic adventure. There is a great deal in that last sentence. There is that spirit of adventure, a spirit of enterprise and self-reliance—a spirit that has built this country—which is evident today in the mining industry. It is the policy of this government to encourage that initiative.

Most of the speeches made here today have indicated that the government should be doing more about development. I think the very best way to develop our resources is to create the conditions that will encourage private enterprise to go out and do the job. Since I became Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys seven years ago the dollar value of mineral production in Canada has more than doubled. It has gone from less than \$1 billion to over \$2 billion last year. That was done by private enterprise, not by governments. We provide the foundation for private enterprise to go forward and do the job.

My friend the hon. member for Peace River, who always claims to be the champion of private enterprise, mentioned the need for a railway to Pine Point. I certainly hope that development takes place very soon. But I would remind him that this great deposit is owned by a subsidiary of the Canadian Pacific Railway. The Canadian Pacific Railway has a half interest in the Northern Alberta Railways, and when the time comes that they approach this government with a request for assistance, if they need it to build that railway, I am sure they will receive a good hearing. I believe that private enterprise should take the initiative there.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I should like to invite all hon. members of this house to pay a visit to the mines branch down on Booth street in order to see what this government, through the mines branch, is doing to encourage the efficient development of the mineral industry in this country, and also to see our mapping division. We produced and distributed over a million maps last year. It is worth a few hours' time spent in going down there to see the department in operation.

I am happy indeed to see the new buildings taking shape down on Booth street for the Department of Mines and Technical Surveys. Our department has been housed in over 30 different buildings for a number of years, and it has been rather difficult to conduct as efficient an operation as we should like to