

Mr. DECHENE: This was done by a minister of the crown of Alberta. The other day in speaking to the question the hon. member for Davenport said that some friend in Edmonton had sent him a copy of the *Edmonton Journal* and he saw the resolution and the arguments put forward on this question by the minister of public works of Alberta. The hon. member for Davenport said, according to *Hansard*, that he thought this gentleman was responsible and conscientious. Well, his definition of a gentleman is not the same as mine apparently. I shall read what the minister of public works of Alberta said:

Shortly after the dominion government took control of the property strange things began to happen. Out of the north came an endless procession of weird, incredulous stories of criminal incompetence and scandalous waste of public funds and charges of sabotage were heard on every hand.

Mark the language used by a minister of the crown of Alberta. Then he goes on to say:

. . . some time after the survey party which was sent to McMurray to investigate the oil sands, a prominent Edmonton citizen came to his office and told him that the men in charge of the party were in his room in a city hotel the previous night. He said they proceeded to get very drunk and openly bragged that they had been sent here by the dominion government to bring in an unfavourable report in connection with the development of the oil sands.

This is the language used by a man whom the hon. member for Davenport says he believes is a conscientious gentleman. Can any reasonable man conceive anything of the kind? Could any reasonable man say that a minister of the crown of Alberta was justified in stating that he got his information from a lot of drunken men?

Mr. JOHNSTON (Bow River): He did not say that.

Mr. DECHENE: He said they gave him the information that they had been sent here by the dominion government to make an unfavourable report. If that were the case it was the duty of the minister of the crown of Alberta to report the matter immediately to the Minister of Mines and Resources and the Minister of Munitions and Supply. As a public man it was his bounden duty to do that, to report such an unusual procedure and a waste of money.

Mr. JOHNSTON (Bow River): He is asking for a royal commission to investigate the whole matter. That is exactly what he is doing.

Mr. DECHENE: If the hon. member would sometimes keep his mouth shut and open his

ears he might learn something. If he had a head on his shoulders for some other purpose than for keeping his necktie from falling off he might learn something, and he might concern himself with—

Mr. JOHNSTON (Bow River): The hon. member was talking about a minister of the crown and ought to be more careful.

Mr. DECHENE: I am speaking about a particular matter concerning my own constituency.

Mr. JOHNSTON (Bow River): This is the first time you have done it.

Mr. DECHENE: I have never interrupted the hon. gentleman. I have sometimes wondered about the things he has said, but I have left him severely alone in the hope that some day he might tumble to himself, open his ears and learn something.

McMurray is not the only region. From Waterways and McMurray and along to Clearwater and down to Fort McKay is the region where these oil sands are found in large quantities, but it is the portal or entrance to the great north lands where such vast minerals are available. Day after day in the house and in committees we are talking about our men in the forces. I know our minds at this time are taken up, and rightly so, with what we can do for those boys on their return. I have always said that there is a place for a lot of them in the north. These young men have had an experience far greater than others. These young men have been thoroughly trained. After they come back we are prepared to train them further to take their part in the development of this country. Northern Alberta and the Northwest Territories, north of Edmonton, is the place that could take care of thousands of them. Everything is there. If hon. members have travelled, as has the hon. member for Davenport, to places like Pittsburgh in Pennsylvania, they will have seen the three elements which have made it possible for one of the greatest developments of the world to take place there. They have coal, oil and power.

Mr. MacNICOL: And limestone.

Mr. DECHENE: At McMurray we have oil. It is there, and it can be developed if we try to help, rather than hinder; if we do not sabotage the effort by unfair criticism. I believe that some day they will find a proper method of extracting the oil, gas, bitumen and other materials from the vast tar sands deposits in that area.

At Waterways there is a modern salt factory which produces some of the finest salt to be found in this country. They turn out table