

Hon. Mr. VAILLANCOURT: Can something not be done to make sure whether or not we have some phosphates or potash in Canada?

Mr. TIMM: The Department of Mines is very much interested in discovering new sources of raw materials in Canada. We are looking for them all the time. We have done considerable work on the phosphate deposits north of Ottawa, to try to bring them up to grade so that they can be used, but so far we have not succeeded in producing a phosphate to compete with the imported material from Florida.

Hon. Mr. CRERAR: These deposits here are of low grade?

Mr. TIMM: They are of low grade.

Hon. Mr. CRERAR: And you have found no way of beneficiating them?

Mr. TIMM: We have found a way of beneficiating them, but even after beneficiation they cannot compete with the Florida phosphates. Of course, during the war small lots of phosphates were produced from the various mines here north of Ottawa and also in this eastern part of Ontario and sold to the Buckingham refinery, but it is very doubtful whether these mines will continue to produce.

Hon. Mr. VAILLANCOURT: I have here a report from the Department of Mines of Quebec saying that phosphate from Buckingham, in the Gatineau, is of very good quality.

Mr. TIMM: No question about it, the quality can be produced, but it is a matter of economics.

Hon. Mr. VAILLANCOURT: But if we develop it at the bottom, the quality is very good, and we can operate inexpensively.

Mr. TIMM: That may be quite true; we might do a considerable amount of exploratory and development work on these deposits and find some phosphate deposits that are economic, but that requires a lot of money. I do not think the government can spend money on that work. It would have to be done by private enterprise, and so far private enterprise has not found deposits that are economic.

Hon. A. L. BEAUBIEN: As far as the department is concerned, it is not spending any money in order to find deposits of high quality fertilizer?

Mr. TIMM: The only money we are spending is on our geological surveys, sending field parties out not especially to find phosphates and potash but to survey the country.

Hon. A. L. BEAUBIEN: But you are really looking for minerals?

Mr. TIMM: We are looking for minerals.

Hon. Mr. DUFFUS: You are looking for anything of value?

Mr. TIMM: Anything of value.

Hon. Mr. HORNER: From Senator Vaillancourt's remarks I take it that he believes cartels are operating and that they are interested in preventing these operations at Buckingham, Quebec?

Mr. TIMM: I have very little knowledge of cartels. I understand there was a fertilizer cartel for some years but as far as I know, we are receiving raw materials from the United States at what I should say is a very fair price.

Hon. Mr. TAYLOR: And in sufficient quantity?

Mr. TIMM: In sufficient quantity.

Hon. Mr. PATERSON: At as low a price as the Americans have to pay?

Mr. TIMM: No, certainly not because of the transportation. I imagine the price is the same before the transportation is added.

Hon. Mr. PATERSON: Is there a duty on it?