

*Supply—Northern Affairs*

the federal government through an investment board. The federal government would also have to undertake a research program to accomplish the type of development to which I am referring, particularly with respect to the mining industry.

Those who have passed through northern Ontario will have been impressed by the resources and by-products that are waste material from the mining operation. Each mill has a large slag dump which is a collection of finely powdered rock. The establishment there of cheap gas, electricity or other fuel would assist in utilizing this waste product. It could be made into bricks which in my opinion would be superior to those presently available, because they would be made of molten stone when the means of doing this were available. The waste product lies there today in abundant quantity and is valueless because there is no means of converting it into a useful product. With a little foresight a brickmaking industry could be established in this region which would produce a superior product made of natural rock that would serve many purposes not served by the ordinary type of brick presently available.

Considerable research has already been done in this regard. One extreme advantage of this type of brick is that it is opaque, and one can envisage buildings made of this product through which a certain amount of natural light would shine. Although you could not actually see people walking around at night, through the walls of buildings made of this product, a certain amount of light would come through.

The federal government should also undertake further development in terms of parks and access roads in this area. As was pointed out by the hon. member for Timmins, we in northern Ontario are plagued because we have a road running only one way. The area would have an attraction for tourists if it were not for the fact that one has to enter and leave on the same road. I am thinking particularly of visitors from the United States. No one wants to travel 500 or more miles in one direction and return over the same road if he can take a trip of perhaps 1,000 miles travelling on roads that will constantly provide him with new scenery. One should be able to reach the area coming east from Sault Ste. Marie and west from Toronto.

I am convinced that the province of Ontario will co-operate in any development the federal government may wish to undertake in northern Ontario. The provincial government through its engineers has already surveyed the situation in that area with respect

[Mr. Peters.]

to potential development. The federal government has voted moneys for access roads, and if it is sincere in its desire to develop the northern part of Canada I urge it to take into consideration a program of expanded development in northern Ontario.

When secondary industries are developed in northern Ontario we shall be able to produce food for that area and for the rest of Ontario. In the little clay belt and in the great clay belt food can be produced in quantities which cannot be produced elsewhere. This belt consists of six or seven million acres of farm land. The production possibilities of those farming areas are unknown. The federal government has had an experimental station at Kapuskasing in the great clay belt for many years. The development at that station has been phenomenal. If we were given the encouragement and the resources we could develop in northern Ontario an area that could support 10 times the population that is there now, and support it much more advantageously than we can with the small, partial hand-outs we now receive from the government.

We appreciate those hand-outs; certainly all the people who live there and have spent a lifetime developing the towns appreciate the assistance they have received, but this is not the end. We do not want to see a situation develop such as developed in the town of Matachewan, where a few years ago there were two or three thousand people. When that area was developed initially we built railroads, access roads and development roads. We built many towns like Matachewan; we built homes, banks, stores, schools and facilities. Then when industry found that it no longer had ore that was valuable to mine, it moved out of the area. This is a field in which the Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources must be interested. His department must set up a commission to help those people.

I would suggest that the first stage of this development is for him to examine the secondary industry situation. To do that I would suggest that he set up a commission, or have a number of the officials of his department go to the Scandinavian countries or Russia where they have done development work along this line, if what I read is true. I am told that in Scandinavia when they cut down a tree they do not do as we do, cut down one tree and destroy 10. They do not desecrate the forests. A farmer brings in a tree with the foliage still on it. He brings the tree into the factory and it is processed there and they use all parts of that tree.

They have been able to attain an efficiency of 85 per cent to 86 per cent with their