

Mr. CRERAR: I am advised that the total amount expended was \$117,787.

Mr. DIEFENBAKER: That is considerably less than the year before. What degree of success was attained by the expenditure of money under this particular item? Is the minister satisfied with the returns which were secured and the discoveries or exploratory work done?

Mr. CRERAR: It will take a little time to get the details, but I can indicate the results roughly. We got fluorspar, tungsten, molybdenum, chrome for hardening steel—those four at any rate, in the class of strategic minerals.

Mr. DIEFENBAKER: I assume that the minister will give the figures pertaining to what actually was discovered as a result of this vote.

I wish to refer to something which was dealt with last year, namely, the expenditure which is being made or was made under this item in the three provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta. How much was spent under this item for exploratory or development work in connection with research for strategic metals; first, during the year 1942-43; second, in the year 1943-44?

Mr. CRERAR: I would doubt whether under this vote there was any expenditure in Saskatchewan or Alberta in respect of strategic minerals; that is, for chrome or tungsten or the others I mentioned a moment ago. I believe there was some expenditure in eastern Manitoba. I have not that from my officials, but that is my recollection. There were some explorations for tin. The Minister of Munitions and Supply advises me that money was spent on exploration or investigation relating to a chrome deposit in Manitoba.

Mr. DIEFENBAKER: That was a comparatively small amount, was it not?

Mr. CRERAR: I could not say how much.

Mr. DIEFENBAKER: The figures will be made available, I presume?

Mr. CRERAR: They can be dug out of the records if it is of any particular importance.

Mr. DIEFENBAKER: Well, not dug out, just given. I am asking for the figures. Surely the officials must have the figures showing what expenditures were made in those various provinces.

We in the western provinces find ourselves in this position as regards our great potential mineral resources, that we are not receiving any consideration from the government in con-

nection with exploratory and development work. As I recall it, a report was made some years ago by the Saskatchewan department of mines and resources that chromium, molybdenum and tungsten were to be found in northern Saskatchewan. Yet, at a time when money is available for exploration work in this connection, none or very little of it is expended in the western provinces. Last year I brought this matter to the attention of the minister and asked him why consideration was not given by the metals controller to mineral development in the prairie provinces. Over a large part of their area is the pre-Cambrian shield. We have vast potential resources of what have been designated strategic metals; yet, at a time when money is expended everywhere else in the dominion, it seems impossible, even with a minister representing a Manitoba constituency, to get any assistance for the development of our mineral wealth.

Mr. GRAYDON: Charity might begin at home.

Mr. DIEFENBAKER: Last year I pointed out that the metals controller or his branch seemed unwilling to cooperate with the western governments in connection with metals to be found in these provinces. I mentioned Saskatchewan, and asked him whether the government of that province had brought to the attention of the federal government its potential resources in strategic metals. As I remember what the minister said at the time, it was that no doubt the provincial government had, and that he personally would give consideration to mineral development and exploratory work taking place in the western provinces during the past year. We in western Canada find ourselves in this position, that industry is concentrated in eastern Canada and, to a lesser extent, at the coast. Certain industries could have been established in the western provinces, but for some reason Saskatchewan, Manitoba and, to a lesser degree, Alberta have not received consideration in that respect. I think it passing strange that no portion of the money comprised in this vote is available to the western provinces with the exception of Manitoba, and there only to a small extent.

We have no resources to equal our mineral resources. They are valuable to-day, in war time. We are now laying post-war plans for the employment of men when they come back from overseas. It is all very well to say that governments should control the mineral resources of a nation. Governments may cooperate with private enterprise. When you see the record of the development of mines over a period of years, and if what the *Northern Miner* suggested the other day is correct,