

Now, to the west end of Fletcher channel there is another area of exactly the same character that Alberta would be likely to throw into the program in order to make about 150,000 acres of development.

Mr. MACNICOL: What about the area to the west end of the lake?

Mr. ALLAN: There is an excellent area in there too, but its development would be difficult due to the fact that it is really a marsh that is continuous with the lake and every time you get a northeast wind the lake moves down. You would have great difficulty with your engineering structures, because your retaining dykes would become eroded overnight by the wash of the waves.

Mr. MACNICOL: Down the Slave river, after leaving the Peace river Junction, with the slave, there is a vast area there. Is that suitable for your uses?

Mr. ALLAN: It would be if you could find a method of developing it; and the same thing applies to the mouth of the Mackenzie at Aklavik. As yet we only know one method of control, but there are other methods that can be worked out by engineers. The work that has been done here was done largely without expert engineering advice. It has been done just by farmers, methods or according to beavers' methods, but there are other methods of development that we, as far as I personally am concerned, just do not know how they are going to be handled.

Mr. MACNICOL: You said, the first day, how many millions of rats were produced at the mouth of the Mississippi river.

Mr. ALLAN: From 2,000,000 to 7,000,000 a year.

Mr. MACNICOL: How many rats are we producing?

Mr. ALLAN: The highest production we ever had in Canada would be less than the smallest one of those figures, less than 2,000,000.

Mr. MACNICOL: Did we ever go over a million?

Mr. ALLAN: Yes, I think we have exceeded a million, but I do not think we have ever reached 2,000,000.

Mr. MACNICOL: But if we produced 4,000,000 or 5,000,000 rats and sold them at \$1 apiece, it would go a long way towards reducing the yearly interest on the national debt?

Mr. ALLAN: A well known American authority has said that there was enough fur, potentially, in northern Canada to pay off the national debt.

Mr. MACNICOL: It all looks very interesting, and that is rehabilitation work.

Mr. ALLAN: Very much so.

Mr. MACNICOL: If these Indians can be brought along so that they get a larger and larger place in this whole picture as guides, foremen, overseers on fur farms, and fur men, so much the better.

Mr. ALLAN: The last day I was here I used the word paternalistic. There is nothing that I have ever heard of in governmental development that was as generous to the participants as this, because there is in it no profit to anyone, unless you call the 20 per cent cut taken by Manitoba as a profit, which it is not; it is only a levy in order to cover the cost of administration and expansion of the projects.

The CHAIRMAN: Are there any further questions you would like to ask Mr. Allan with respect to this fur rehabilitation program, or proposed program?

Mr. AUTHIER: Would it be possible to make use of the reservoirs that have been created on the rivers in the province of Quebec, like the St. Maurice, or the reservoir on the upper Ottawa river?

Mr. ALLAN: There is one thing about rat development that people sometimes lose sight of and that is that too much water is just as bad as too little water. You cannot develop muskrats in 14 or 15 feet of water. It has to be