

*Gold Mining*

which has meant so much to this country in the past, and on which Canada depends for opening up new areas and for bringing to light new mineral resources of all kinds.

I like to stress that point, because gold has always been an inducement to prospecting activities, as it still is today. All through history we find that the precious metal has been the inducement that brought most of the explorers. If we go back to the days of the discovery of America we learn of the first Canadian mining syndicate which was organized in 1497, a long time ago. The promoters of that syndicate were Henry VII of England and a sea captain named John Cabot. In forming this syndicate I think the king had the advantage, for it was understood that Cabot was to pay the cost of the exploration while the king was to retain an interest of 20 per cent. He commissioned Cabot to undertake a voyage of discovery in order to find gold. They were optimistic; they thought they would find gold on the eastern coast of Asia, which they expected to reach. In June, 1497, Cabot landed in Newfoundland. He did not find gold, but he noted that the natives wore copper earrings, and on his return to England reported that while he had not found gold he had found evidence of an abundance of copper. The king was quite disappointed, but bestowed upon Cabot the title of admiral just the same and made him the princely gift of £10. We read that in the little booklet on Newfoundland we received recently.

In 1654 Louis XIV granted a concession to Nicholas Denys to mine gold, silver and copper on Cape Breton island. Again they were disappointed and found no gold, but they found the famous coal mines of Nova Scotia. Just here I might interject that the first coal mined in Canada was mined in Nova Scotia. As we go through history we see that the lure of gold and adventure led to the discovery of the iron deposits of Baie St. Paul and those of the St. Maurice valley in the province of Quebec. In the early days of America other syndicates were organized. I am afraid some of them would not have qualified under the present regulations of the securities and exchange commission in the United States, or the labour code. Among them were the Frobisher and the Cortereal ventures. I am not going to tell you about those; but in spite of the limited success attained at the time it cannot be denied that the search for gold has brought America to what it is today.

Since then history has repeated itself many times. In British Columbia the search for gold led to the discovery of the biggest lead and zinc mine in the country, the Sullivan

mine. In Ontario it was responsible for the discovery of the very important nickel and copper deposits at Sudbury. In Manitoba the first gold discovery dates back to 1881, and it led to the discovery of the valuable deposits of the Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Company, and the Sherritt Gordon mines. In my own province, had it not been for prospectors searching for gold there would be no Noranda, no Quemont, no East Sullivan, no Golden Manitou, no Waite Amulet, no Nor-metal, and many others would be missing including the base metal mines in the eastern townships, in the Gaspé peninsula and other parts of the province. The famous iron deposits of Quebec and Labrador and the Allard titanium ore body probably would be unknown.

More recently in northwestern Quebec a spectacular discovery of zinc and silver ore has come to light. It is described in *Time* magazine of this week as North America's biggest base metal find of the year. Diamond drilling on the original find has outlined over 17 million tons of ore within the space of three months, and that is only a small part of the ore body. All around this new discovery other mining companies have outlined other ore bodies. This new zinc deposit in Quebec is so important, it is my firm conviction that in the near future we may see the construction of a zinc smelter to service the eastern part of Canada. This would be of great advantage. It would greatly enlarge our zinc-producing capacity and would eventually cut the cost of production. Even more important, it would keep needed United States dollars in this country. The zinc producers of eastern Canada should be given every possible assistance in undertaking such a project. The construction of such a smelter in eastern Canada has been discussed many times previously but with the finding of these large bodies of ore I believe it is time we thought more seriously about it.

(Translation):

Mr. Speaker, the mineral resources of Quebec have been hardly touched, and this holds true for the whole of the Canadian shield. Many very large deposits are still unknown, awaiting discovery. In promoting gold mining, we encourage prospectors to seek the precious metal and in so doing we may count that important deposits of copper, zinc and many other minerals will be brought to light.