

Cambrian I find a eulogistic reference to the mines and geology branch of this department, by no less a distinguished person than Doctor S. G. Blaylock, of Trail. This reference was part of a symposium dealing with the work of this branch, and it concludes with these words:

He recommended that the geological survey be reestablished as one of our most important departments, that every effort be made to secure for it the ablest directorship we can find, that it be protected from political influence, and that it be given the greatest latitude in carrying on its work.

He goes on to say that his own company, Consolidated Mining and Smelting company had benefited from the work of this department in developing the Marysville magnesite deposits, the Pinchi lake mercury deposits and the Yellowknife gold area. This statement, coming from such a distinguished authority, should be sufficient to warrant the minister giving favourable consideration to furthering the work of this important branch of his department.

I should like also to refer the minister to an article appearing at page 2 of the same magazine entitled *The Steep Rock Hematite Deposits*, by Charles Clay. I hope I am not incurring the displeasure of the Minister of Finance in making these observations, because I had him in mind in considering this matter. The substance of this article is that 135 miles north and west of Fort William there is the largest deposit of good hematite ore to be found anywhere on the north American continent.

Mr. MacNICOL: That was discussed about an hour ago.

Mr. McNIVEN: I have been waiting around for two days in order to bring this matter to the attention of the minister.

Mr. CRERAR: This was all taken up some time ago.

Mr. McNIVEN: Then I want to concur in what was said, if the immediate development of this deposit of hematite ore was urged. It will increase our steel production and protect our foreign exchange; and I am informed that it can be developed in such a way that western Canadian coal can be utilized. If this large deposit, so close to us in western Canada, can be developed, there is no doubt it will be of assistance to the agricultural industry of the country. I would commend the article to the minister and urge that he convey the substance thereof to his colleagues, and in particular to the Minister of Munitions and Supply.

Item agreed to.

14873—255½

421. Loans and Investments. Soldier Settlement of Canada. To provide for soldier land settlement and British family settlement net advances, \$105,000.

Mr. STIRLING: With the indulgence of the committee I should like to ask the minister one question before he concludes his estimates. The question is based on a telegram which has just been placed in my hands and which asserts that war bonds are being sold to the Doukhobors bearing a special sticker indicating that the money will not be used for war purposes. I want to know if this is true. It seems to me it would be of advantage for the government to deny it, or, if it cannot deny it, to explain it.

Mr. ILSLEY: Some time ago we had an issue of non-interest bearing bonds which were quite widely purchased. Then members of certain religious denominations in Canada, which do not believe it right to kill people under any conditions, applied for bonds with the provision that the proceeds should be used for the relief of suffering and for humanitarian purposes in connection with the war. We provided, therefore, for the issue of non-interest bearing bonds, series B, and either in the bonds or in the prospectus it was stated that the proceeds would be devoted only to humanitarian purposes and the relief of suffering arising from the war. Then when the victory loan was announced representatives of these religious denominations which, as I say, believe it wrong to kill people under any conditions or circumstances, nevertheless wanted to support the war effort provided the money was not actually used for the purposes I have mentioned; and they wanted to know if there was any way they could buy victory bonds with the assurance that the money would be devoted to humanitarian purposes or for the relief of suffering arising from the war. We agreed to do that; we agreed that if persons having these religious views applied for bonds we would sell them victory bonds carrying a sticker such as the hon. gentleman has described. I do not know whether the description he has given is accurate, but as I could follow it I believe it is substantially correct.

Mr. STIRLING: I appreciate the indulgence of the minister in explaining this matter.

Item agreed to.

SOLDIER SETTLEMENT OF CANADA

338. To provide for the cost of administration of soldier settlement and British family settlement, \$578,465.

Mr. FAIR: This item deals with the administration of the soldier settlement board, and so on. I wonder if the minister would