

Natural Resources—Development

and more local control which they could exercise. This ownership of resources by the provinces places on the provinces themselves the responsibility for development. The federal government has the over-all responsibility to act in the interests of Canadians wherever they live.

We are very fortunate in Canada in that our mineral resources are fairly well distributed across the country. In the earliest days of settlement, when the pioneers settled the prairie provinces and, indeed, this part of the country too, they considered the great Canadian shield a barrier to human occupation. Today it is known to be a storehouse of mineral wealth and treasure.

The Department of Mines and Technical Surveys has five branches, and one of the oldest branches of all, the geological survey of Canada, has been mapping the geology of this country for the past 100 years or more. The work of our department is usually many years in advance of actual development. The hon. member for Vancouver-Quadra made the remark this afternoon, if I heard him correctly, that this government has done very little to help discover new mineral resources. He went on to talk at great length about iron ore development in Labrador. I would remind him that the geological survey of Canada reported the presence of that iron ore deposit before the turn of the century, and there are many other instances across Canada where the geological survey has reported the presence of ore bodies many years before development took place.

A recent example is the great Blind River uranium development in western Ontario. That discovery and development was based on a geological report of the 1920's.

I could give many other instances. Today we are endeavouring by a study of the geology of the country and the production of maps—for maps indeed are the keys to the unlocking of our resources—to take some of the risk out of the highly risky business of resource development. Every year the Department of Mines and Technical Surveys has 175 to 200 survey parties in the field in all parts of Canada. In recent years there has been very active interest in the Northwest Territories. My colleague will probably speak about the development of the territories later, but during the last five years the geological survey branch has conducted first look or reconnaissance surveys in that great area from Hudson Bay westward to Yellowknife. Last year they had a large party in the northwestern part of British Columbia.

Using modern techniques of surveying, including helicopters, we are now able to accomplish in one session what a few years

[Mr. Prudham.]

ago would have taken 25 years by the ordinary ground or conventional methods of surveying. I mentioned the work of the geological survey during the last five years. In their reconnaissance survey in the Northwest Territories they had a first look at over 300,000 square miles of territory and between 60,000 and 70,000 square miles of that area look promising for prospecting. In these reconnaissance surveys they do not go into detailed mapping, but it is a first look in order to indicate where the best prospecting territory is so that private industry can go in and do the developing.

Two years ago we had a large party in the far north, on the Queen Elizabeth islands. That party was served by helicopters. The ground work always has to be laid for these parties a year before or sometimes two years before by establishing caches of fuel and supplies. The survey of the Queen Elizabeth islands showed indications of oil, coal and gypsum even in that far northern territory. During this coming season the geological survey plans to have a helicopter party in the upper Mackenzie river area to study the geological structure and see if the oil-bearing areas in northern Alberta and at Norman Wells are connected.

I could go on and give many more instances of surveys that have been undertaken recently, but I should like to mention the work of the Canadian hydrographic service. We operate 16 ships in all. A few months ago we launched and commissioned a new hydrographic ship which cost over \$4½ million. It is equipped with the most modern sounding and surveying devices of any ship in the world, and it will be used to chart our northern waters. This is very important for the development of minerals. In the last couple of years our hydrographic survey has been surveying and charting possible new harbours in the Hudson Bay area for the development of the new discoveries in that region.

Our new ship, the C.G.S. *Baffin*, is equipped for icebreaking. The men of the department tell me they have had it out for trials and it is able to keep going even through ice up to 3 feet in thickness. It will be able to work the year round, whereas the other ships of the survey are usually laid up during the winter season.

Hon. members have spoken about the need for conservation. Our mines branch is constantly studying new methods of beneficiating ore, and special attention has been given to the low-grade uranium ores. The uranium developments at Beaverlodge and Blind River would not be possible today had it not been