

had been produced up to April 30, 1943, at an average cost of 39.70 cents per pound; that the capacity was ten tons a day and the actual production  $8\frac{1}{2}$  tons a day.

After the country had put up all that money the plant was disposed of to a private corporation, I presume. Just how much did the country get out of that big investment? The figures have been given in the house. We were to get so much out of production, but the actual immediate cash return was small. That is one example of what it has cost this country to put up a pilot plant, like the one at Haley's.

At page 5023 of *Hansard* of July 30, 1942, the Minister of Trade and Commerce said this:

I would reply to the question asked by the hon. member for Davenport (Mr. MacNicol) this afternoon by saying that the national research council were engaged on certain preliminary investigations in connection with the production of magnesium metal before the Dominion Magnesium company came into the picture. None of the work up to that time resulted in a patent. Subsequently, Dominion Magnesium entered into an agreement with the council—

I presume that means the national research council.

—to have the work undertaken on its behalf and its cost, plus 50 per cent overhead on the actual cost. Certain patents then developed. If these prove to be as valuable as is expected, a further sum of \$30,000 will be paid by the company under their agreement with the council.

If the national research council did develop a patent for magnesium metal the minister knows, and he knows there are several good methods of making magnesium metal. As a matter of fact, the Dow company in the United States, using their own system, have during the war made a large amount of magnesium metal, and it was apparently for that reason the company was set up.

On the next page, 5024, the hon. member for Melfort (Mr. Wright) said:

I wish to protest against the procedure which has been followed in the development of magnesium metal.

I protested myself, too. He went on:

Here we had a discovery made in our own research laboratories, and once they knew they had something, the process was turned over to this private company to develop it commercially, instead of the government building a pilot plant and developing it commercially.

The only comment I have on that statement is that it should have been advertised to the world and tenders should have been asked for from all who wished to purchase the patent and come in here and manufacture magnesium metal.

Mr. HOWE: The government did not develop the patent.

Mr. MacNICOL: That is what it says here. I think I can prove it too. If the discovery of the Pidgeon process was made and developed at the national research council in government time and at government expense—

Mr. HOWE: It was never patented by the research council. The council reported that it was no good.

Mr. MacNICOL: That is what I want to find out. I have nothing but the highest regard for Doctor Pidgeon, or whoever did it. They are good men; they have ability; but if the process was developed by him or those associated with him in the research council, working on government time and at government expense, that patent belonged to this country.

Mr. HOWE: They did not develop a patent.

Mr. MacNICOL: That does not exonerate the government.

Mr. HOWE: I have just given my hon. friend a lengthy and detailed explanation. I do not think he listened to me.

Mr. MacNICOL: The men at the national research council did the groundwork there. You can read in different books all about the different processes of producing magnesium metal. The men of the research council got out a new process or a combination of the others. The minister spoke of the electrolytic method. One inventor of that was Ralph Keemle, of Hamilton, Ontario, before Dominion Magnesium came into the picture.

Mr. HOWE: It was developed long before that.

Mr. MacNICOL: I went to see Ralph Keemle's pilot plant in Hamilton. It was in a big plant past the Westinghouse plant and on north from Westinghouse. Perhaps the hon. member for Hamilton West knows the name of the plant.

Mr. MITCHELL: Otis-Fensom.

Mr. MacNICOL: You go past the gun plant and turn to your right at the corner. You have to go a quarter of a mile and then you find this big plant on the lefthand side of the street. I am sure that the Minister of National Defence for Air will know it.

Mr. GIBSON (Hamilton West): Otis-Fensom.

Mr. MacNICOL: I asked Mr. Keemle, "Why don't you get in touch with your member so that your process may be used