

to be got out of them, the people who were working on these natural resources were thrown out of work to swell the ranks of the unemployed. If the government does not wish to take this step now and safeguard what little natural resources we have left, it will be compelled to do it in the very near future. This is one of the most important questions that has been brought before the house this session. The hon. member for East Algoma asks, should the government risk five or six million dollars on a prospect? Why, the first thing the government did after the election of 1930 was to summon parliament and appropriate twenty million dollars for the relief of unemployment. We are receiving no benefit from our contributions to that end, because we are giving doles and the men are doing nothing. Would it not be better to put them out as prospectors? Many of them would be glad to do this work rather than leave it in the hands of private interests who, very often, are aliens.

Mr. CAMPBELL: There is one aspect of this matter which has not been dealt with by most hon. members who have spoken. I refer to the question of what is to be done with resources still unalienated. The discussion has evolved into an argument as to whether or not we should expropriate the claims already staked. The minister left an impression on the minds of hon. members—probably not intentionally—that all the area had already been taken up. We have every reason to believe that large numbers of prospectors are still going in, and no doubt many more claims will be staked. Separate and apart from the other arguments there is the question as to what is to be done with the remaining unalienated resources.

There is another matter I should like to discuss, one apart from that of government development. As a matter of fact I did not suggest that, but I did suggest that the government should take some steps, either by developing the resources themselves or controlling development by private interests, to see that the interests of the people of Canada are protected. I can see that government members can put up a very good argument as to why they should not carry on such developments. I suggest, however, that action should be taken somewhat similar to that taken with respect to gold. At a critical period last fall the government placed an embargo on gold, which cannot now be exported from Canada except by licence; therefore most of it is sold and handled by the federal government. That is one way in which these resources could be

controlled, even after private interests had been allowed to carry out their programs.

There are other ways in which this matter could be dealt with. I was shocked and surprised to find that hon. members on the government benches have not shown the vision, the foresight or advanced thought evidenced a few days ago by their own leader. When the Prime Minister made his statement concerning radio it was far in advance of anything I have ever heard from the government benches. He showed a vision with respect to the protection of our natural resources which few, if any, of his followers have shown. I should like to commend that attitude to hon. members opposite. They could do no better in that respect than to follow the example of their leader.

Mr. LAPOINTE: There are five minutes left, and I think I have sufficient time to present some points which have arisen in my mind. I refer to the proceeds from sales of Indian lands, after they have been surrendered.

Mr. MURPHY: Mr. Chairman, I do not wish to appear discourteous, but may I remind the hon. member that we are discussing an item under civil government?

Mr. LAPOINTE: No, my hon. friend is wrong.

Mr. MURPHY: The discussion to which my hon. friend is directing his remarks would properly come under the Department of Indian Affairs.

Mr. LAPOINTE: The minister is wrong; this discussion is under the Department of Indian Affairs.

Mr. MURPHY: Then the discussion is all out of order, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN: Yes, the discussion was all out of order.

Mr. RHODES: There was a distinct understanding that one item would be held, and that all discussion could take place upon it.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

Mr. LAPOINTE: We are discussing an item which deals generally with Indian affairs.

Mr. MURPHY: I am sorry that I was out of the house when the item was called.

Mr. LAPOINTE: I shall have finished before six o'clock.

Mr. MURPHY: Very well; proceed.