

*Trans Mountain Oil Pipe Line*

had in 1949 a production of 457 million barrels of oil, produced that great quantity from 6,326 wells or an average of 201 barrels per day. The Middle East, which is one of the vital sources of oil at the present time, produced 512 million barrels of oil from only 208 wells, or a production of the nature of 5,500 barrels per well per day. When we give some thought to these figures we realize that we have an expendable reserve on this continent good for peacetime for twenty years. But when we say that we can foresee for that many years to come the requirements of oil in a peacetime economy, the picture is entirely changed if we think of war. If we could look forward to an assured period of peace, we would know what our oil would do. But under war conditions, when our safety and our security is threatened, there is simply no limit to be placed upon the immediate requirements of oil.

I was interested in seeing in the January issue of *Foreign Affairs American Quarterly*, attributed to a man by the name of Halford L. Hoskins, this most interesting extract:

Except for the promise of young Canadian fields, the outlook for long continued production in the fields certain to be available in time of emergency would be dim.

This again is a tremendous tribute to the resources which we have in the great province of Alberta. During the war, between 1940 and 1945, consumption of oil increased within the United States by the stupendous amount of 100 million barrels annually. Consumption in 1950 approximated 6,500,000 barrels of oil per day in the United States, which is, phenomenally speaking, two-thirds of the entire world production of oil.

The Middle East oil fields, which are today producing oil at the rate of 1,800,000 barrels per day for western Europe, are strategically extremely vulnerable. This oil is now going to western Europe and the wells are in a hazardous position by location. Transport is in an extremely hazardous position. As to oil, our security rests, to an uncomfortably large extent, upon ready supplies of oil. This proposed pipe line would take care of an eventuality where, through impairment of Middle East oil facilities, we could have Venezuela oil and California oil immediately drawn to Europe and could well be left without oil. It will provide an extremely valuable market for the growing production of the great province of Alberta. It will greatly increase the move toward the integration of the economy of our two great western provinces. We have heard lately in the house some discussion about distribution of industries across the country, and so on, and the necessity of bringing all parts of the country along. As a westerner I have felt that we

always like to think at least the great flanks of the country should be brought along economically with the same measure of progress as the central provinces. I think that the integration of the economy of our two most westerly provinces by the construction of such a pipe line as this would ensure that the western flank of this country would have prosperity for many years to come.

If the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) is, as he was called yesterday, a sea lawyer, then I must say that I am probably a salt water petroleum engineer. In the short time that I have been endeavouring to study this question of oil I have found that it is the most engrossing story I have ever attempted to study. There are vast ramifications about it, and I could not hope to answer technical questions, and I do not think that hon. members would ask me to; but I will endeavour to answer some of the simpler questions if any hon. member would like to ask any afterwards.

I do want to thank hon. gentlemen for the attention that they have given me in the presentation of a project which I think ranks with the greatest projects in the Dominion of Canada at the present time.

**Mr. John Decore (Vegreville):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to make a few brief remarks with reference to this bill. First of all may I congratulate the hon. member for Vancouver South (Mr. Laing) on the very able manner in which he has presented his case.

As one of those who come from the province of Alberta may I say that this bill is important to us in that province for two reasons. First of all, we in that province are concerned in finding an outlet for our oil production. Every day new wells are being discovered, and every so often new fields are also being found. Therefore, it is important to us that we have an outlet for this oil or some outlet whereby we can dispose of it for marketing purposes.

This particular pipe line itself will not solve the problem. We need more pipe lines and immediately; that is why I should like to see this project go through.

The other reason is that I notice that this pipe line will go through the Yellowhead route. That is important, because it will tend toward the development of that particular area. It will certainly mean the construction of a better road. We have a road going through that pass now, but it will mean a better road in order to construct and maintain this pipe line. For that reason, Mr. Speaker, I am supporting this bill.

**Mr. G. A. Cruickshank (Fraser Valley):** I should like to congratulate the hon. member