

Mr. JOHNSTON (Bow River): The minister is indulging in political propaganda.

Mr. CRERAR: It has this much to do with it; it is an indication of the irresponsibility of Mr. Fallow. Then on the strength of all these wild statements of Mr. Fallow the hon. member rises in his place and demands a royal commission of inquiry. But when he was asked if he would take the responsibility as a member of this house of making charges that would warrant a royal commission he said: "Oh no, I might have done that nine years ago, but not now."

I think the committee can form its own estimate of this whole thing. The Alberta government could have gone ahead fourteen years ago and aided in the development of these sands. It could have put in its own plant. It could have used public money and bonused the industry, encouraging the industry to go on and develop the sands. But it did not do so; and now, when this government is making an honest effort to find out the commercial possibilities of these sands, all we get by way of thanks in return is the sort of speech that Mr. Fallow made in the legislature and the kind of speech my hon. friend made here this evening.

Item agreed to.

Investigations of petroliferous deposits and of potential petroliferous areas in Canada, \$145,000.

Mr. GREEN: Will the minister explain to the committee in which part of this country this money is to be spent?

Mr. CRERAR: It is difficult at the moment to say just where it will be spent. The money voted last year was spent in investigations for oil in the Wainwright park area and to pay the expenses of drilling on the tar sands we were discussing a few moments ago. There were also surveys for oil exploration in New Brunswick. The vote this year is not allocated to any particular project. It is to meet requests that may come from the oil controller during the year. This vote does not touch the ordinary civil administration. We shall have our ordinary civil estimates to vote for this kind of work.

Mr. GREEN: For exploration?

Mr. CRERAR: For exploration, but that will be on fairly definite projects. We have plans mapped out already in connection with our civil estimates. As I say, this vote is to meet requests that may come from the oil controller during the year. If no requests come from him the money will not be spent.

Mr. GREEN: I would ask the minister to tell us whether the government has any

policy with regard to the development of the Northwest Territories, the Yukon and northern British Columbia. The completion of the air line to the Yukon known as the Northwest staging route and of the Alaska highway and the Canol project, air developments in the Mackenzie River basin as well as mining developments in that district have focused the attention of many people in Canada on our northern country. There would seem to be great possibilities for development there. I am wondering whether the government has any special policy with regard to northern Canada. That is also brought to one's mind by the developments that have been made in Siberia, across the north pole and on the Asiatic side of the world.

I have here a booklet entitled, "Expanding Mineral Frontiers in the Northwest Territories," by A. W. Jolliffe, which was distributed by the Alberta Publicity and Travel Bureau. In this booklet there is a statement about the developments in Siberia. It says at page 12, comparing northern Canada with Russia:

Northern Asiatic Russia is geographically a close relative of Northwest Territories. The two regions show similarity in climate, in plant and animal life, in their great northward-flowing waterways, and even in their geology, although the Canadian shield has a greater area than the pre-Cambrian of Siberia. Latitude for latitude, Siberia has a much tougher climate than Northwest Territories. No place in Arctic Canada can match the temperature extremes recorded at Verkhoyansk which is slightly north of the latitude of Eldorado mine on Great Bear lake. Winter temperatures have been known to reach ninety-four degrees below zero, and more than ninety above has been recorded in the summer. This cold pole of the world lies in the territory of Yakutsk, which in 1933—

I want to point out this fact to the minister:

—had a population exceeding 300,000, equivalent to one person every four square miles, as compared with one person per hundred square miles throughout Northwest Territories. New industrial regions have sprung up in Asiatic Russia which extends north to the sixtieth parallel, equivalent climatically to much further north in Canada. On a map of Siberia published in 1935 are shown fifty-four permanent scientific research stations north of latitude 64°, and about 10,000 geological survey parties were active throughout Russia in 1937. The fruits of this programme are evident in the steady northward progress of mining, industry, and settlement; and in the success of maritime transportation along Russia's long Arctic coastline (fourteen ships travelled the entire length of the "North-east Passage" in 1936). Surely the experiences of our northern neighbour and ally will be of great assistance in the opening up of our own Arctic territories.

Canada, of course, has had no such development, and one sometimes wonders whether we are not missing an opportunity in the north country. Apparently none of this vote, or very