

*Natural Resources—Development*

in mind, and I believe that if proper attention were given to these three considerations we could put Canadian producers in a far better position in this competitive world of trade than they are at the present time. Before I leave this question, Mr. Speaker, there is one other thing I would like to say. What is the use of building up our Canadian industries and developing our Canadian resources if it is going to be impossible for us to compete in world markets with the products that come from the development of these resources? It would be foolish in the extreme to think we can do anything successfully in this world of trade, even with all the materials we might have in storage, unless we make it possible for our producers to sell their goods in competition with other nations.

The fourth important matter which we must include in our national development policy, if we are going to adopt one, is this. We think it is essential, and in the interests of our country as a whole, to set up a national statistical and advisory bureau to chart, measure and record all Canadian resources including those having to do with the production of energy; and to study and advise continually—and I mean, here, to advise the provincial and municipal governments, together with those concerned with this country's production and the development of our resources—as to the most effective ways in which to preserve, utilize and, where possible, improve those resources for the benefit of all Canadians.

That is quite a comprehensive idea, Mr. Speaker, but until such time as we adopt a proposal of this kind, our progress is going to be haphazard; it is not going to be uniformly in the interests of the various provinces, and a great many things will be overlooked.

We do feel that at the present time, when our sources of energy are coming into great prominence and into great need, the bureau which I have suggested could be of special benefit to Canadians. I know that certain things are being done in the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources and also in the Department of Mines and Technical Surveys. We know that is so, but what is being done now is only a fraction of what might be done.

Mention has been made here today of a certain great waterpower project which many people have envisaged. I think it was the Moran dam. My hon. friend from New Westminster mentioned it. I do not know how far the government has gone in its consideration of that project, but its implications are immense; it staggers the imagination when we read the figures given by reliable

[Mr. Low.]

engineers concerning it. I am told that one of the important things holding up this scheme at the present time is the consideration of the damage it may do to the salmon fishing industry. I am told that here we have the matter of a two or three million dollar industry that is impeding and holding back a tremendous energy-producing project which would in the aggregate produce each year as much as ten or eleven times what the fisheries will produce.

I am not suggesting for one moment that we should go ahead and override the judgment of those who are interested in the fisheries. I am suggesting, however, that if we had a bureau of the type I have proposed—a national statistical and advisory bureau—they could be working continuously, on all the phases of this great project at one and the same time, and through their advice and studies they might be able to come up quickly with a solution to this fishery problem which would make it possible to go ahead and develop the Moran dam project without interfering too much with the salmon fishing. That is the kind of thing which, it seems to me, it would be very well worth while to study, and it is the kind of thing this bureau should have constantly under consideration.

There is one other matter on which I should like to say a word at this time. We have in Alberta, as has already been stated, vast areas of bituminous sand. The government of Alberta and the research council of that province have spent a great deal of time and money experimenting with the extraction of the bitumen from the sand, and they have succeeded in developing methods of doing so. However, up to the present date, perhaps, no method has been successful to a degree that would make it possible to sell the oil in competition with oil coming from oil wells.

I know the Department of Mines and Technical Surveys has also done considerable work on this project, but it seems to me that all groups in Canada should be giving as much consideration as possible to the achievement of a method of extracting the oil from this sand so we can put Canada into the self-sufficient class as far as production of oil is concerned. It can be done. Not only that, but judging by the figures which are available it would be possible for us to supply completely the needs of Britain, France and other countries in western Europe, in addition to our own, out of the sands in northern Alberta for a good many years ahead. That sort of thing, it seems to me, could very well be brought