

National Economic Development Board

This has not been haphazard; this has been a carefully worked out plan. Perhaps, Mr. Speaker, I might give the details of just one concrete example which is an ideal illustration of this sort of co-operation. I refer to the Pine Point railway which is now under way, which represents a capital investment of \$20 million and which will bring into production the rich lead zinc deposit at Pine Point on Great Slave lake. Also, an additional \$2 million investment will be necessary in connection with the townsite development. This will result in the annual shipment of 215,000 tons—this is a minimum figure—of lead zinc concentrates to the smelter at Trail, British Columbia. This will involve an additional expansion program of \$16 million at the Cominco smelter and refinery at Trail. This has all been worked out carefully in the closest co-operation with the private company involved, and it has all sorts of ancillary benefits. There will be a saving of between \$14 and \$21 million on foreign exchange, which continues to be such a critical problem in Canada. It brings into production six million acres of rich agricultural land in the Peace river country. All in all it indicates what has been accomplished and what can be accomplished by governments and private enterprise working closely together.

In the area where the federal government has greatest responsibility, the territorial areas, where we still have direct control over the resources, we have gone even further in this sort of planning. I was interested in the remarks of the hon. member for Hamilton East (Mr. Munro) who participated in this debate at an earlier stage; in the pre-Christmas period, as a matter of fact. He referred to this kind of development as the "vision of the north and all that sort of nonsense". Well, Mr. Speaker, a statement of that kind indicates that the hon. member is not at all aware of what has taken place north of the 60th parallel in the recent past. There is, unfortunately, a bias toward this program on the part of hon. members of the official opposition and the remarks have been critical almost without exception.

I remember reading a eulogy in connection with the passing of Stefansson, who was one of the pioneers in the development of the Canadian north. Forty years ago he was telling Canadians that there was tremendous potential in this million and a half square miles of Canada, to which we had hardly given any attention whatsoever. We occupied it in a state of absentmindedness. This article eulogizing Stefansson indicated that he incurred the wrath of the Liberal government of the day because he named some of the islands in the Canadian archipelago after the Conservative

[Mr. Dinsdale.]

leaders, Sir Robert Borden and Mr. Meighen. This brought Mr. Stefansson into disfavour and brought about this prejudice that seems to have persisted down to the present time. We have named further islands in the Canadian archipelago and we have seen to it that all people in Canada, all groups in Canada, men who have made outstanding contributions, regardless of their partisan affiliations, have been recognized in this respect.

Let me emphasize, Mr. Speaker, that as a result of this northern development program 125 million acres of land are now under permit in the remote parts of the Canadian Arctic. Further, as a result the first oil well was drilled at Melville island just a year ago at a cost of over \$1 million, and the company that carried on this extraordinary pioneering feat was an all-Canadian company. In fact, the principals were young Canadians typical of the men who have done much of the initial work of exploration in this part of Canada. In other parts of the Canadian north five oil wells are being drilled this year, and next year it is anticipated that there will be at least three wells spudded in on Bathurst island, which is in the extreme, remote area of the Canadian Arctic. These are just a few examples of what has been accomplished by careful planning and close co-operation.

Another development in the Arctic circle is the discovery of a deposit of high grade iron ore in tremendous quantity. It is now being investigated by the Bechtel Corporation, which is carrying out a feasibility study. This offers great potential in the future. We are extending our research activities. Up until a few years ago we were dependant on foreign sources of information concerning the economic potential of our north. At the present time an Arctic research development co-ordinating centre is under construction in the Mackenzie delta. We are launching a program of grants to the universities, with the approval of parliament when parliament has an opportunity to consider the estimates of my department. This will provide \$60,000 to various universities across Canada to assist in their research on subjects pertaining to the north. My colleague the Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys (Mr. Martineau), working in very close co-operation with my department, has launched a comprehensive survey and inventory mapping program to determine the resource potential of the north.

Education has not been forgotten either. The educational program now stretches into the remote parts of Canada. This now offers an adequate educational program for all Canadian young people. There are educational facilities for at least 65 per cent of the Canadian young people in the north. By 1967 we