

Senator BRADETTE: Then what do you mean when you say it will be much more highly populated than at present?

Mr. BROWN: There is going to be a terrific population pressure in the world during the next 50 years. There are resources in those areas not yet discovered, particularly mineral resources, and there will be more people living in those areas. There will be other developments that can go on up there in conjunction with mining, and so on. For example, Dr. Radforth, in his story about the development in Russia, told us of intensified studies with respect to peat. The Russians are really spending a lot of money to find out exactly what they can use peat for. There are some towns in northern Russia which are actually using peat. They are concentrating it for certain products. As a matter of fact, they are using it in some areas for hydro development. The Russians are also conducting a concentrated study of the chemical and physical nature of the mineral soil. In many cases they have no idea what they are going to use it for but they are confident they are going to find out what it is made of.

Senator BRADETTE: I agree with what you have said about the Cambrian Shield and Hudson Bay areas. These are not agricultural areas and you will find very few farmers 175 miles north of the town of Cochrane.

Mr. BROWN: You are right, I agree with that. That is, at the present time. But let us take the present experiment with crops by Mr. Nowasad, associate of Dr. Leahey. He is carrying on experiments at Great Whale River, Chimo, Knob Lake and Goose Bay. I grant that the results of those experiments are not promising, but we do not know what additional tools we will have to work with twenty years from now. How do we know what we can do with climate in local areas twenty years from now? And now is the time to study soil and general terrain of the area, so that when new methods come we shall know what area is suited.

Senator BRADETTE: But with regard to Russia producing vegetables on the border zone, it just cannot be done. It might be possible with hothouses.

Mr. BROWN: They might have monstrous hothouses.

Senator HORNER: Some years ago I bought some land in the Carrot Valley, on which there were trees, some thirty feet high. There was so much peat in the land that it would make the plow squeak like a pig. Some settlers tried to farm there without success. Later some of those quarter sections caught fire and were burned down so that they were about as bare as a table top, and even old land men did not know how that land would be able to produce, they were not too sure; but it had been producing. That was over twenty years ago. Some settlers went on the land with their drills, without ploughing, and the land yielded as high as 125 bushels of oats to the acre, and also grew good wheat and alfalfa. Land which was five dollars an acre sold for \$100 an acre, and some quarter sections sold for as much as \$25,000, and yet it could not have looked more dismal than it did at that time.

Senator BRADETTE: How far north was that?

Senator HORNER: The North Saskatchewan River, near The Pas.

Senator BRADETTE: The temperate zone?

Senator HORNER: There was permafrost there. I have been told that because of the peat you cannot drive in a fence post, because peat is the worst thing to drive into. As I have said, even experienced land men were dubious of what that land would produce, but it turned out to be very productive.

Senator John A. McDONALD (*Kings*): I suppose, Mr. Chairman, that Mr. Brown and his organization can be of greatest assistance in our great northern country in the more undeveloped regions. Is that what you have in mind?