

as are most economically situated and easily workable will be put into production.

The hon. member also referred to cobalt. I say with regard to that subject that the government has no program of mineral stockpiling. It does, however, have small stockpiles of tin, cobalt and antimony built up during the Korea emergency in the early fifties. The stockpiles of these three metals are the responsibility of my colleague the Minister of Defence Production. My department acts only in a technical advisory capacity to that department.

The hon. member for Timiskaming also mentioned the matter of uranium. The only concern of my department with regard to that subject is with research and the sharing of economic studies with other departments or agencies of the government. I would suggest to the hon. member that he direct his questions to my colleague the Minister of Trade and Commerce when his estimates are before the committee. He would be able to supply information in greater detail with regard to uranium.

The hon. member for Chapleau also spoke. (*Translation*):

And, as he made his speech in French, I will reply in that language.

First of all, I can assure him that the government will be pleased to see a zinc refinery being set up in the province of Quebec. If my department or the government can help in any way in the carrying out of that project, we will certainly be glad to do so, for this is fully in accordance with the policy of this government for the processing of ore within our frontiers.

(*Text*):

The hon. member for Pictou said something about his own district, particularly about his own constituency, and said he would like to see our ships anchored at Pictou. I assure the hon. member that I will give serious consideration to his request that we should continue to berth some of our ships there. However, as the hon. member knows, we are planning to berth all our ships at the site of the Bedford institute. This was part of our project two years ago, as was explained last year. This project is now in the process of realization. As I mentioned this morning, the Bedford institute of oceanography will be a great improvement as far as my department is concerned. At the outset about 300 or 400 members of our staff of scientists, clerks and so forth will be transferred to permanent quarters there. The Bedford institute will be situated in Dartmouth. Our planning is dictated by the economic aspect of our operation. We think it will be much more efficient to start with this system and in

*Supply—Mines and Technical Surveys*  
centralizing our operations and by having our ships on the east coast, and so forth.

However, I assure the hon. member that we will give our most sympathetic consideration to his request. We will do everything we can in that regard.

The hon. member for Kootenay West—

**Mr. Herridge:** I am awake.

**Mr. Comtois:**—will listen to Santa Claus.

**Mr. Herridge:** Willingly.

**Mr. Comtois:** I am not Santa Claus; I am not old enough for that. In some quarters, sometimes in the gold mining districts and in other places where not gold but other minerals are subsidized, our money is very well received.

In reply to the question of the hon. member, I wish to say that the mineral resources division of my department has under constant compilation and revision a catalogue of all our mineral deposits in Canada. I do not know whether the hon. member is aware of this, but the catalogue is available and he can have it at any time. It is not published, but we have the information on cards and the hon. member and everybody else can get full information from our department.

**Mr. Herridge:** Excuse me; does the minister mean by "catalogue" that there is an estimate of the reserves of mineral resources?

**Mr. Comtois:** I will inform the hon. member, but I must remind him that whereas it is very easy to count the trees in the Kootenays or in the province of British Columbia, it is not easy to find out how many billion tons of every kind of mineral we have in Canada. It is not an easy job and I am sure the hon. member understands that. This is not an easy program to undertake but nevertheless we are cataloguing the findings of the companies and of the industry. I agree, if it could be done in a practical way it would be a good thing, but once again I say it is much easier to count the fir trees of British Columbia than it is to assess the potential minerals of this country such as iron ore, gold, silver, copper, lead, zinc and so forth. It is not easy to find out what is underground even with our very capable staff, our surveyors, our inspectors and our geologists. It is not very easy to find out precisely in accurate figures the potential mineral wealth of this country. As I said a minute ago, we have an inventory of our known resources, but so far as the unknown resources are concerned we have no knowledge at all.

As my last words on the subject may I say one might assess the mineral potential of an area, but one cannot assess the mineral reserves until they are proven by exploration or development. The suggestion of the hon. member is not a bad one, but as far as