

England. While I will not now read the exact words from the committee report, I will give the committee the pages at which they may be found; they are in the report of the reconstruction and reestablishment committee of November 30, 1943, page 965, and I hope the hon. member for Athabaska will take the trouble to read the report; he may learn a little and know what he is talking about the next time he speaks. It ill becomes anybody in this house to say what the hon. member said in speaking of Hon. W. A. Fallow, who is a member of his majesty's provincial government of Alberta and minister of public works. I wrote down what the hon. member said, and it is corroborated by two or three hon. members who sat close to me. I do not think it is proper to refer to a cabinet minister anywhere, or to a member of this house, as having "got his information from another drunken man." The clear inference is that Mr. Fallow was a drunken man.

Mr. DUPUIS: He did not mention his name.

Mr. JOHNSTON (Bow River): Let the hon. member keep still. The hon. member for Athabaska may speak for himself.

Mr. DECHENE: I never said that. The hon. member is absolutely wrong.

Mr. MacKINNON (Edmonton West): He did not say that.

Mr. JOHNSTON (Bow River): Well, I do not know whether the Minister of Trade and Commerce was here or not.

Mr. MacKINNON (Edmonton West): I was here.

Mr. JOHNSTON (Bow River): Those are the words the hon. member uttered. I took them down and had them corroborated by other hon. members.

Mr. DECHENE: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, I never said anything of the kind. I repeated what he said in the hotel.

Mr. JOHNSTON (Bow River): I sincerely hope that the hon. member does contradict it, because those words should not be left on *Hansard*. As regards Mr. Fallow being elected again, I think he will be able to take care of himself when that time comes. I have talked to him at considerable length about this matter, and his only concern is that these tar sands shall be developed.

To me this question is of great importance. My concern was aroused when the Minister of Munitions and Supply stated a year or so ago that the government was going to investigate this problem because the war emergency

was so great, the need of gasoline so pressing, that we should develop every possible source of supply and do so as speedily as possible. I thought that was the right attitude to take. But the thing which amazes me is that we have spent three or four years and have not got anywhere. The Minister of Mines and Resources, when referring to this matter this afternoon, said that the company which is up there now had to start out and break absolutely new ground. That is not quite right. Probably he meant, as far as that particular location was concerned, and even then he would not be exactly correct, because this investigation, as he himself indicated, began away back in 1920. One of the agreements entered into by the government was signed on July 16, 1920. Tar sands were shipped to England around 1920 to 1922 to a company whose name I forget, but which was being run by a Mr. Lindsay, I believe. It entered into an agreement with the federal government, whereby certain things were to be done by both parties, and some lands were leased to the company by the federal government. In shipping the tar sands to Mr. Lindsay the government undertook the responsibility of bringing them as far as Edmonton, at an expense to them of somewhat over \$850. So that when the hon. member for Athabaska said that they did not pay anything, he was wrong again, although the amount was only a matter of a thousand dollars, which in relation to the total expense is neither here nor there. In the contract entered into at that time it was stipulated that the government should get fifty cents an acre for rentals. The English company had the land leased for two, three or four years, but the government, so far as we can find out, never received any rental payments, so that they lost that in addition. Then the contract was finally dropped.

But the thing that amazed me when I was reading the correspondence—of course the present minister had nothing to do with it then—was that one of the reasons why the operations were slowed down in connection with the Athabaska tar sands was the fact that an oil company in California was having a surplus of production. That was one of the factors that had a controlling influence on the development of those tar sands—overproduction in California. At that time such overproduction would have meant, in the development of the tar sands in Athabaska, so far away from a large city, that the work would have been uneconomical. That is what I am afraid is happening now, that these tar sands are not being developed as rapidly as they might be.