

age began our activities, we did not earn very much; but neither did we pay out much for our board.

Mr. HOWE: We could not.

Mr. COLDWELL: No, we could not; but we did not, and we managed to get along with very little.

But times have changed, and it seems to me that if Canada is to retain her young scientists—and certainly in this age we need to retain them—we have to do something better than we have been doing, through the research council and other organizations of that description. We are losing too many of our bright young men and women to our great neighbour to the south. Some, as I said the other day, are even going to Great Britain to engage in scientific and other activities. We must see that our scientific organization is properly financed.

We have heard a good deal about substantial sums at the disposal of the national research council. What do they amount to? I have not the exact figures, but I think they total around \$14 million or \$15 million. That is the amount at the disposal of the national research council in a country with such great undeveloped resources, resources to which science must be applied if we are to reap the benefits from them. When one compares that amount with the amounts being spent by other countries for scientific research, we find that in this country the percentage of national income being spent in that field is small in comparison. It seems to me that instead of criticizing the setting up of this organization, as has been done, we should say that we are glad to see something of this sort being done in a comprehensive way and that we are going to support the measure. I know my Progressive Conservative friends dislike the idea of many other things that are being done for the benefit of the ordinary man and woman in Canada.

Mr. JACKMAN: Not so; never.

Mr. COLDWELL: It certainly is so.

Mr. STIRLING: Not at all.

Mr. COLDWELL: I am trying to think in terms of 1936, not in terms of 1846 or thereabouts. It seems to me that this is a bill which should command the support of the house.

Mr. GREEN: It got the support of the house to-day.

Mr. COLDWELL: It got the support of the house, but it was grudging support according to the discussion that has gone on. As

[Mr. Coldwell.]

far as controls are concerned, it seems to me that the proper way in which to handle this is the way in which we now handle crown companies already in existence, such as the Canadian National Railways, Trans-Canada Air Lines and Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. The matter could be handled through committees. I do not say that the organizations to which I have referred are perfect, but—

An hon. MEMBER: Far from it.

Mr. COLDWELL: Far from it, if you believe that.

An hon. MEMBER: I do believe it.

Mr. COLDWELL: If you do believe it, all right but let us improve them. What I am saying is that this parliament has an opportunity, through appropriate committees, if it desires to use it, of going into every detail of the activities of any one of the organizations that we have already established. It seems to me that that is the way we should handle crown companies. I know these are on a different footing; but when the minister is before us with his estimates in connection with the national research council we shall have an opportunity of inquiring, not only into the actual expenditures that have been made in the past year but into the expenditures that are being contemplated and into the policy that is to be followed by means of those expenditures.

I do not think we are paying enough attention to scientific research. I do not think we are spending enough of our national income on scientific research. I submit that if we spend public money on research, the benefits that accrue from that research should come back to the people of Canada. One proposal in this bill that I do object to is that the right is given to sell patents on things that have been developed by the publicly owned national research council. I think that is all wrong.

Mr. FLEMING: Is my hon. friend talking against the bill?

Mr. COLDWELL: I am talking for the bill, but I am pointing out one defect in it.

Mr. JACKMAN: The same as we are doing.

Mr. COLDWELL: You kept up a constant barrage for days on the other bill, for weeks even.

Mr. GREEN: You did not hear what we said this afternoon on the bill.

Mr. COLDWELL: I read and listened to the discussion which my hon. friends engaged in for hours and hours on the crown companies bill.