

*Supply—Mines and Technical Surveys*

practically everything he wanted to say on these industrial diseases in relation to the operation of the mines, but I doubt whether the subject has anything to do with the Department of Mines and Technical Surveys. I think this aspect of mine operations will probably fall within the jurisdiction of the provinces. With regard to research, that might come within the responsibility of the Department of National Health and Welfare, but it seems to me the hon. member has not been discussing a question which is relevant to the Department of Mines and Technical Surveys.

**Mr. Peters:** You are probably right, Mr. Chairman, in indicating that this is not part of the responsibility of the department of mines. It is probably safe to say it is not the function of any other branch of any other department of government, either. My suggestion is that this matter be brought under the Department of Mines and Technical Surveys. I have complained in the past that this department is more of a mapping service than anything else.

Mining is a very important subject, and in this particular context it is also a federal responsibility. We cannot say it belongs to the provinces, because the major jurisdiction in the uranium mining field has been brought under the federal authority. The sale of uranium is under federal control. Industrial relations with respect to uranium mines are under federal control. They have been brought under this jurisdiction and certified under federal government jurisdiction. Because of some of the wording of the security regulations the unions have been certified federally rather than provincially.

I make the suggestion, and the minister can reply. I believe it is safe to say that research in this field is not being done any place else. It should be done in this department, as I believe it is being done in the United States. We certainly think it is important enough to warrant some consideration by the Department of Mines and Technical Surveys.

*(Translation):*

**Mr. Martel:** Mr. Chairman, before adoption of the first item of the estimates of the Department of Mines and Technical Surveys, I should like to make a few remarks, as this item concerns a field that is of particular concern to me and one with which my area has been closely connected ever since the Abitibi area was opened up, around 1912 or 1913.

Of course, I have no intention of repeating everything that previous speakers said. I shall therefore limit my remarks to some matters of particular concern to my area, then I shall deal with a general problem, referred to this morning by previous speakers, and which, in my opinion, offers the key to a northward expansion such as we have not known for some years. I shall come back to this in a few moments.

Just now, I should like merely to deal with a problem which greatly concerns my area. It affects mining developments which are about to come more in the open, if I may be permitted this expression, developments which the minister underlined this morning when speaking about the Mattagami lake area.

To briefly sum up what is happening in this area, which was the subject of lengthy discussions in this house when we considered the bill concerning the construction of a railway branch, allow me to give a summary of the discussions that then took place here, as well as in the railway committee which made a detailed examination of the project.

In the Mattagami lake area there are considerable zinc deposits. There are also lesser deposits of copper, gold and silver, in addition to valuable metals contained in most of those deposits. The construction of a plant which will cost the Mattagami Lake Mines about \$20 million is being contemplated. In addition to that manufacture, there is talk of the possible building of a zinc refinery at an estimated cost of \$30 million.

As far as employment itself is concerned, that is the number of persons directly employed by the mine, it has been indicated that, at the start, the Mattagami Lake Mines will take on about 400 men. And if the zinc refinery is also erected there, this plant would give employment to 475 or 500 more men.

As a matter of fact, the company has already predicted that less than five years after the beginnings of the lake Mattagami area development, a town of some 5,000 would develop there. The village is still non-existent, but plans are already drawn for a town on Bell river, five miles east of the mine, that is five miles east of the place where mineral deposits were found a few years back.

The exploratory work performed in this new mining area brought about interesting results: less than five years ago, the area was almost unknown, but these discoveries