

*Natural Resources—Development*

In the Cariboo riding there are large deposits of limestone and shale for the manufacture of cement. As we find the province developing the demand for cement is bound to increase; and as the northern part of the province develops, a cement factory would meet a growing need in the north country.

In and around Prince George, and in many parts of Cariboo riding, we have large deposits of clay for pottery and for brickmaking. With the advent of natural gas these industries will be developed. In the Quesnel area we have a large deposit of diatomaceous earth, and we expect that in due course this will become widely used in industry.

We have heard from several speakers this session about the trouble in which the coal industry finds itself today. We also have large deposits of coal in the Pine pass country and in the Hudson's Hope area of the Cariboo riding. When I say large deposits I mean very large deposits. Moreover, the coal is of very high quality, and it is expected that in spite of the difficulties through which the coal industry seems to be passing, development of these resources will proceed very rapidly once the railway is built into that area as projected. It is well known that we have a great deal of base metal in the Cariboo riding, gold in the Wells-Barkerville area, and one of the largest quicksilver mines on the continent in the Fort St. James area.

In addition, the Cariboo riding is one of the greatest natural tourist attractions in the whole country; the big game, hunting and fishing business has been carried on in this part of the country for many years, and it has been my pleasure at various times to have gone out with the so-called dudes from parts of the American continent other than Canada looking for grizzly bear and other big game in the mountains. We also have, of course, the highest mountain in the Canadian Rockies—Mount Robson—and a wonderful park is being developed at that point.

The development of local industry in the Cariboo riding will obviously be accelerated by the fact that we shall soon be able to avail ourselves of natural gas. Before I discuss that any further I would like to express my appreciation to the provincial government for the co-ordination of transportation with capital expansion programs. It was absolutely necessary that the Pacific Great Eastern Railway be extended into the Peace river country in order that the Westcoast Transmission Company should be able to build the Westcoast Transmission line for natural gas. It is my understanding that when the scrubbing plant which is now being built at Taylor Flats between Fort St. John and Dawson Creek is completed, there will be two trainloads a day of by-products sent out from this

natural gas supply. It is absolutely necessary that these by-products should be shipped out by rail. Therefore the extension of the Pacific Great Eastern line was timed and worked in with the development of the natural gas industry in that area.

So, all in all, I suppose, we have in the Cariboo riding one of the greatest possibilities for development which lies before any area in Canada, and I might say that it has been a privilege and a pleasure for me in these last four years—it is almost four years now—to represent that great part of the country here in this House of Commons.

**Mr. Byrne:** Would the hon. member for Cariboo care to indicate whether or not he is supporting the amendment?

**Mr. Wylie:** That sounds to me like an emission of natural gas from the hon. member for Kootenay East.

**Mr. Leboe:** I think there will be a little more time for me to give full consideration to that after the debate has been completed.

**Mr. Byrne:** What was the 40-minute speech for?

**Mr. Leboe:** You just vote for your party. You do not give any consideration to the debate at all.

**Hon. George Prudham (Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys):** Mr. Speaker, I had intended to make a rather full statement about the part the Department of Mines and Technical Surveys plays in resources development when the estimates of the department came before the committee, but after listening to the debate here today I thought it would be timely to make a few remarks at this point.

The amendment before the house is:

That this house is of the opinion that the welfare of the Canadian people requires the adoption now of a national development policy which will develop our natural resources for the maximum benefit of all parts of Canada . . .

That is part of the resolution, and the part with which I would like to deal.

For the last seven years I have had the honour to be associated with the great resources development department of this government, namely the Department of Mines and Technical Surveys. The hon. member for Cape Breton South very properly reminded the house that the resources of this country belong to the provinces. This is a vast country, 4,000 miles from coast to coast, with a great variety of terrain and geographical conditions, and I believe the fathers of confederation very wisely decided that its resources could be better developed by provincial governments in the light of the closer