

It is true that we are not producing much oil in this country, but we have very heavy oil deposits, and that is where the bounty would come in. We could produce part of our own oil and prevent practically that \$50,000,000 importation of oil which we are now getting from the United States.

It was with the question of iron and its products that I was dealing more particularly this afternoon. It is a question in which I am much interested because in 1918, 1919, 1920, and 1921, I spoke in this House along the lines of doing something to develop the iron industry in Canada. I was supported in those years by the hon. member for West Algoma (Mr. Simpson), and by a number of other members, some of them on the Liberal side of the House. I do not know if I was supported by any of the Progressive members, but there were not then so many of them as there are now. At any rate, this is a question which has been before the people of Canada for a great many years. Away back in 1896, a large proportion of the iron ore we were using was Canadian iron ore. To-day we are using practically none that is produced in Canada. There is a point I mentioned before recess, and in the interim I ran across my file and found a letter dealing with this side of the question, that Canada should develop her iron resources—and her oil resources, for that matter, but iron particularly—because it furnishes heavy bulk traffic for the railways. I have here a letter written to me in 1921, after one of those speeches of which I have just spoken, by the commissioner for the National Railways on this very important question. Mr. Green, then commissioner for the National Railways, wrote me as follows:

I have been trying to find the official paper from which I gleaned the information regarding the British government assisting iron production during the war.

He goes on to say that he cannot find it, but that he is convinced that during the war the British government, a free trade government, assisted in the production of iron and iron products in that country. He goes on:

I am keenly interested in this subject, which I believe is a vital matter to the Canadian National Railways; in fact, I do not know anything of greater importance to Canada as a whole than the development of our iron resources.

I do not know whether this aspect of the case has struck you, but it seems to me that apart from all the other considerations that we have got to do something as a protective measure, as the exhaustion in the hematites of the United States, the lake Superior region, is within measurable distance, and we do not know when that source of supply may be denied us.

[Mr. Manion.]

He mentions there a side of the question I shall deal with in a few moments, but before coming to that, we all know in this House that we have in Canada a greater mileage of railway per thousand of population than any other country in the world, and that is the reason we have on our hands a railway problem, and we can only solve it by increased traffic for the railways and increased population. The development of our own coal and oil resources is one of the ways in which we can increase traffic for the railways and the population of Canada.

I come now to the side of the question he mentions in that letter. He points out that it is possible in the years to come the United States may find it reasonable to stop the export of some of these products into this country. Now probably the very first thing it would stop would be the export of iron ore, because, as Jim Hill said, in thirty or forty years the iron resources of the United States will be within sight of exhaustion. When the United States sees that day coming it is not going to permit iron ore to be shipped into this country, and it would be a serious matter if Canada at this time did not look far enough in advance, or had not vision or imagination enough now to develop, to a certain extent at least, her own iron ore resources. I might point out that if a bounty were paid upon iron ore, as suggested by the Conservative government of Ontario at the present time, there would be no bounty paid unless the iron mines were developed. In other words unless there are results no bounty is paid out, and no expense is incurred.

During the dinner hour I went to my room and obtained a report which has a very important bearing upon this question. I had forgotten that report this afternoon as I spoke without preparation. The subject is one with which I am more or less familiar but I did not prepare my remarks and I had forgotten the report in question. It is the report of the Ontario Iron Ore committee, which I had left lying on my desk and which I have not looked at for some months. This committee—and by the way its report should be of particular interest to hon. gentlemen to my left—was appointed by the late Drury government. This is one of the few acts of that government which I would care to praise. The Drury government appointed a committee whose members I do not know, with the exception of Mr. Cowie. I do know that he is in the iron business in Sault Ste. Marie and has been in it all his life. That committee was appointed for the purpose of