

that they can be accused of holding up production. Possibly we might give them the chance to defend themselves. I do not know whether they are represented here or not; but we do not want to be unfair.

Hon. Mr. BEAUBIEN: (*St. Jean Baptiste*): No, I do not think that is the intention of any honourable senator. Of course there was no such intention on my part. But we thought we should get some information with regard to these fields in Saskatchewan and Quebec which Senator Vaillancourt has mentioned, and with that in view have here gentlemen from the department. Senator Crerar, you know whom they are better than I do.

Hon. Mr. CRERAR: Since we are at the end of the session, it is impossible to go into any exhaustive inquiry on the matter of cartels and the control of fertilizer and its distribution in Canada. I would hope that our inquiry now might be a sort of preliminary inquiry which could be resumed at the beginning of next session. Then, if the committee desired to inquire into the operation of cartels, if there are any—I am myself very doubtful if there are any; I have no evidence of it—we could do so. What I, as a member of the committee, would like to get is some information from the officials of the Mines branch, and then, from officials from the Department of Agriculture, as to what available sources they have in Canada for the production of fertilizers, where those sources are located, and in that way get some information of a general character.

Hon. Mr. SINCLAIR: And what is being done to develop them.

Hon. Mr. CRERAR: Yes. Very little has been done up to the present to develop them, but our inquiries in that way will give us information. But certainly I look upon the work of this committee in the one or two sessions it can hold now—and it cannot hold more than two—as being purely preliminary, to get a start made on the subject; and then I would hope that next session we could resume more intensively, and perhaps arrive at some practical and useful conclusion.

Hon. A. L. BEAUBIEN: Mr. Chairman, I move that we hear the gentlemen that are present from the Department of Mines and Resources.

Hon. Mr. DUFFUS: I second the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

Mr. W. B. Timm, Director, Mines and Geology Branch:

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Timm, we are anxious to hear where there are natural resources suitable for fertilizer and what the possibilities are for developing them. Would you give us a general statement on that, and the members of the committee will put questions to you?

Mr. TIMM: Mr. Chairman, I have read the Senate debates of June 19 and July 2, and I quite agree with the statements made by honourable senators that we have a problem in connection with finding raw resources in Canada to be used for the production of commercial fertilizers. So far we have not found these raw resources in economic quantities for the production of phosphate and potash fertilizers. However, there are a great many occurrences of both phosphates and potash salts in Canada, and lately there has been found in a few holes which were drilled for oil in the province of Saskatchewan, beds of potash salt at a depth of from 3,600 to around 7,000 feet.

Hon. Mr. CRERAR: Where were they located?

Mr. TIMM: These potash beds have been located in wells drilled principally for oil from near the town or village of Unity in Saskatchewan down to