

although it is not as yet a proven material. The largest proved deposit of uranium ore is in the Belgian Congo, and the next largest is in Canada. As soon as the significant use of uranium in the atomic bomb process was disclosed to Mr. Howe and myself, we secured the approval of the Cabinet to the purchase of the Eldorado Uranium properties in the Great Bear Lake area, and reserved for the government control of all such minerals as might be discovered in Canada in the future. This was a strategic factor of high importance since this second largest known source of raw material thereby became accessible to the large manufacturing plants already built in the United States.

The work of the several research projects has been closely co-ordinated with the development of a pilot plant at Chalk River for the investigation of atomic energy processes. This work is of considerable importance. It includes the study of the utilization of thorium as a starting point for the production of "active material". This pilot plant is unique in character, and is suitable for a field of research that has not been explored elsewhere.