

simple. In respect to knowing what is going on abroad, on a scientific level, that information is complete in that it is all published. On the industrial level it is more difficult.

*By Mr. Low:*

Q. Did the National Research Council cooperate with the Alberta Research Council in attempting to find some successful process for extracting petroleum from the Athabaska tar sands? I understood Dr. Steacie to say yes. Could you tell us just what stage that is in now?—A. If I might amplify my first answer, I would like to say yes, and that so did the Bureau of Mines; we were both concerned with this problem. A report was made, the so-called Blair report, on the process. This recommended a combination of part of the development of ours with part of the development of the Bureau of Mines as being the most efficient. I am not sure what the exact state of this situation is at the moment, or whether pilot plant work is still going on, or what is being done in Alberta. I think that one could probably summarize this thing by saying that obviously the recent large oil discoveries in Alberta have rendered the tar sands position less attractive. I could not say at the moment whether or not it is considered that the further development is uneconomical. The only thing which I would say is that, even if it is uneconomical at present, the work was still worth doing because it established a method of tapping a potential reserve which will be valuable some day even if it is not economical today.

The CHAIRMAN: If there are no further questions, gentlemen, at this moment a motion for adjournment would be in order.

*By Mr. Brooks:*

Q. In connection with the oil shale, I understand that down in New Brunswick they are trying to develop the oil shales to produce electricity. Do you know anything about that?—A. I could find out for you.

The CHAIRMAN: I think that I might add a word about these two items by telling you that there are tariff items covering the subject in detail. This is a perfect example of legislation being in advance of the real need.

Mr. BROOKS: Tariff items?

The CHAIRMAN: Yes, on each subject—the development of the shale resource, oil from shale and from tar sands.

We will adjourn until Monday morning at 11 o'clock.