

Supply—Indian Affairs

of individual members of parliament pertaining to the Indian people is a reflection of the Canadian wish to try to do something for them. It may be that our conscience is beginning to prick us. However, we have endeavoured to do something, although in some cases of past efforts have often left the Indians in a position which is no credit to Canada or Canadians.

I should now like to say a few words about the development of northern Canada. We are beginning to find that north of latitude 60 we probably have, in respect of those resources which lie under the earth, the richest areas of Canada. In recent years we have seen a number of mines developed in the Northwest Territories along latitude 62. As time goes on many of the developments will be extended farther north. There is a tremendous amount of new interest in the area by oil companies, mining companies, metal companies and exploration companies in general.

It is my view that this is an area about which we know very little in respect of individual places. I think it is an area which probably is unsurpassed anywhere on the face of the earth for those who want to seek out metal. I believe very little of it has been looked at as yet. Fortunately we have secured the attention of large investment groups in respect of transportation and exploration.

We have done a few things to encourage exploration. I have told the investment people frankly that we have put small bits of cheese in traps to encourage them to go in there. The exploration subsidy program which I announced a year ago in my view is one of the finest things we have ever done, because people are interested all over the country. In the few instances where we have made very modest allowances of \$20,000 or \$30,000, finds have been made which are extremely important and which have a good chance of becoming mines in the future. In addition we have the enthusiasm of the transportation companies. I believe this north country of ours will go through a revolution by virtue of the introduction of the jumbo airplane. I believe transportation by plane will become sufficiently economical to provide food and transportation to those areas in such a way that this northland of ours will be entirely changed. As a matter of fact the officials of one or two of the mines which are located there have told me they are in the process of reviewing their entire operation in the light of certain offers which have been made to them by air transport companies.

[Mr. Laing.]

I should like to pay a compliment to the air lines which are operating in this area. I do not think many members of this house realize that since six months ago two companies which service the Arctic area have been serviced by jet aircraft. Daily service is changing the situation in the north.

• (12 noon)

When I accepted responsibility in respect of the north I called together the heads of mining companies, and we met for a full day. At the end of the meeting I said "Gentlemen, tell me what the north needs." They looked at each other and finally one man said "I'll tell you what it needs. It needs television". He went on to say that if we could give them hockey night in Canada even three days late the men would be happy to stay there twice as long.

I think probably there is much to be said for that opinion. At the present time in co-operation with the C.B.C. we have a frontier package, so-called, which gives them four hours of television per day including news, some of which is 24 hours late, and this is a very satisfactory development. Yellowknife is one of the areas getting this service, and it is very well received there. We have been informed by the C.B.C. that they will have 27 to 40 of these packages ready for us in about a year. This will bring a tremendous change in the north, because the biggest difficulty in the area is isolation. If the problems relating to isolation can be solved many other difficulties will disappear, and I am sure my predecessors in office will agree that these people have not been properly served by radio alone. They want to see what is going on in the outside world as well as hear about it. I am sure my two predecessors in office will agree that in some of these areas radio reception has never been noted for its efficiency.

I have outlined some of the aspects of the north. There is no more optimistic or promising an area in this nation today than our north. The finds being made there are of very great order indeed. I can think of one example. There was to be a small clean out operation of a silver mine about three years ago. I was told that last month it had become the biggest silver producer in Canada. We all know, of course, about the historical mine at Pine Point. I am not giving any tips at this time, because this is a matter of record, and the annual report presented at the last annual meeting of the company showed \$32 million net earnings from gross sales of \$42 million. With that kind of thing taking place I