

say. But as I have the privilege and honour of representing a mining district I think I am in a position to represent mining conditions fairly accurately. So far as I know, my hon. friend, living as he does in the city of New Westminster, has not very many mines in his district; nor are there very many mines within the radius of New Westminster. The district of West Kootenay, on the other hand, is practically a mining centre and its greatest asset is the mining industry. I can therefore say something on the subject, and in my opinion there are many conditions that have gone to place the industry on a better basis. There are many factors to account for the renewed activity in mining; and this being our greatest asset, there is no question in the world but that labour, the farmer, the producer and the consumer alike, must all be interested in what brings about prosperity to the mining industry in that province. And what brings about prosperity in mining in British Columbia brings about prosperity in other parts of the Dominion.

Some criticism has been offered of the action taken by this parliament last year in endorsing the move of the present government in sending representatives over to the exhibition at Wembley. I for one at the time expressed myself as being heartily in accord with the policy. Since then I have been favoured with many interviews with people who have come in contact with the representatives not only from this parliament but as well from our provincial governments, and I gather that our representation at the exhibition has been one means of bringing about a renewed activity in our mining districts. Personally I have always believed that in this country it is well for us not to be at all backward in telling others of our resources, and we should not fail to recognize that in our mining district we have a great asset. The visit of our representatives to Wembley has been responsible for thousands of pounds of foreign capital being invested, in my own district for example. As a result of the information which our representatives were able to give over in England regarding our mining resources, we have been favoured since last summer with visits from people in Great Britain, particularly from England, with authority to invest thousands of pounds of English capital in the district. This has happened within the last year and it has restored confidence among the people; it has opened up our mining resources. And in my opinion it has done much more than this: it has served, if only to a modest degree, to unite the Dominion of Canada closer with Great Britain by interesting the Mother

Country in our resources and in this way securing British capital to develop our mining industry. In that way, it seems to me, our representation at Wembley accomplished some good. The capital that has come into the district has been the means of opening up many mines that are of great value; it has opened up resources that were lying idle. Speaking of mining, I believe that in this district we have one of the largest mines in North America; as a matter of fact we have the largest smelter on the North American continent. To corroborate my statement that there has been increased business, with an accompanying wave of optimism, I would refer to a mining and smelting company in the district which is well recognized as the Consolidated Mining & Smelting Company. Only within the last two or three days the company published their annual report; and whether or not this government takes credit for the condition of affairs there, the fact remains that while the present administration has been in power certain legislation has been enacted in regard to mining, and this company is in a very sound financial position, doing a real service to the district.

Mr. McQUARRIE: To what legislation does the hon. gentleman refer?

Mr. HUMPHREY: It will be seen that the hon. member does not live in a mining district or he would not ask that question. He should know that some two years ago this parliament passed legislation providing for a copper bounty, and that is at least one factor that enters into the present situation.

Mr. McQUARRIE: Is that not just continuing the bounty?

Mr. HUMPHREY: No. That goes again to show that the hon. member is not well versed in the mining situation. The government up to 1921 had a very expensive tariff commission travelling the country, and a promise of a bounty on copper was made this company, but it did not materialize until this government came into office, it being granted in 1922. I do not wish in any way to criticize, but I want to place the facts before the House. If there is credit due to anyone may it be given him, and if opposition is to be expressed I am the first to express it, but I was going to state—

Mr. MEIGHEN: Has the hon. member any information as to when the lead and zinc bounties were given, and the results?

Mr. HUMPHREY: Mr. Speaker, at the moment I have not any particular information. I am quite well aware that these bounties were