

should not conserve both the present and future interests of the Canadian people. I never heard such an argument as that. Certainly I have no intention of suggesting for a moment that any prospector should be deprived of wages or reward for his services. I suggested in a question to my hon. friend who brought this matter up that I would be willing to make the man governor general of Canada who had encountered such hardships as he described and had rendered such service.

Mr. LAPOINTE: Give him a title.

Mr. IRVINE: We have no titles now, but if a title could be given him, I would suggest that he be given two. It is a man of achievement that we want to put into a position of that sort; there is nothing too good for such a man so far as I am concerned. But I refuse to let him stand in the way of a policy which will be in the interests of Canada for all time; for that is what he is doing according to the argument that has been made here this afternoon. It is a strange argument, and I submit that it should not be considered for a moment. Reward any man who has done service, glorify him, if you like, but safeguard our natural resources for posterity.

Mr. NICHOLSON: I would like to say a word with regard to the general question. It is evident that some members who have spoken on this question have very little conception of what the development of a mine really means. Personally I know nothing whatever about the discovery of radium in the Great Bear lake area, but I wonder if my hon. friends have any idea how much money has often to be spent before the man who is developing a prospect can say whether it is really a mine or not, and I wonder how much money this country would have to spend before we could know that there really was a deposit of great value in the Great Bear lake area? Let me give an illustration. In the district in which I happen to live, after prospectors, thousands of them, had gone over the ground carrying their packs and suffering the hardships that have been mentioned, an area was discovered that gave promise of mineralization. In the instance of which I have knowledge five and one-half million dollars in cash have been spent for diamond drilling. The people who have spent that money do not know to-day whether they have a mine or not, but they are continuing to diamond drill. In one area in northern Ontario, through the determination of a mining engineer and a geologist, backed up by a number of men who are interested in this prospect, they have drilled down to 4,700 feet, and they do not know yet whether they have a mine or not. Would the government,

[Mr. Irvine.]

if someone suggested that we spend five or six million dollars on a prospect in order to prove whether there was anything in it, spend that amount of money on a gamble? And where would the country land in a very short time if the government started doing that sort of thing all over the country?

Mr. IRVINE: We spent more than that amount above the estimated cost for the Montreal bridge.

Mr. NICHOLSON: If my hon. friend would go through northern Ontario and see what the men are doing and the money they are risking in order to develop one single mine, he would have a better appreciation of the situation. The greatest chances in the world are being taken by men who are willing to spend their money in ascertaining whether they have a mine or not. One of the greatest mines in northern Ontario was brought into production by a group of men who lived in northern Ontario, had come up there from the east, acquired some means, had been prospecting elsewhere, had got one property and sold it, and then went on. After they had spent a million dollars of their own money and of the money of the people that they could get around them, they did not know whether they had a mine or not. Then what happened? Every one of these men pledged everything he had and might have in the future to a bank in order to get a loan to go on with the work. Is this country prepared to put up money on such a prospect as that?

Mr. IRVINE: It cost a lot of money for Columbus to discover America. Would my hon. friend suggest that Columbus should therefore have incorporated a company and taken possession of the North American continent for all time?

Mr. NICHOLSON: My hon. friend is very clever, but the question is simply this: shall the country take such risks or not? If the country decides to take such risks and sends men out prospecting to develop mines, I have a picture in my mind's eye of the number of mines they will discover.

Mr. MacINNIS: I do not think it is a question of the country taking risks. The country is taking all the risk there is to-day in providing for unemployment. We have left the development of our natural resources in the past in the hands of private interests who have developed and exploited them for private gain, and as soon as they were exploited to the limit and nothing more was