

Supply—Indian Affairs

the richest silver producer on this continent. The mine is large and the company is engaged in varying operations. Co-operation between the company and the government might establish a school to turn out skilled miners and skilled diamond drillers to alleviate the shortage in this area of the Canadian labour scene.

I also want to ask the minister what he intends to do about the repeated complaints by people in the Yukon concerning the justification of the use by Edmonton of the Klondike trade mark. I am glad the minister accepts the suggestion which I placed through one of his officials that the Klondike theme be the trade mark of the people of the Yukon and be kept intact for the commissioner and the people of the region. Now that the minister has a legal direction in that behalf, what does he intend to do with it? Is it his intention to commence legal prosecutions for infringements of the rights we have obtained due to the instructions which he issued to the then administrator in the Yukon, Mr. Frank Fingland?

I should like to hear something of the minister's plans for roads and power. I should like to hear an explanation from the minister of why he allowed the Northern Power Commission—I know he does not sit on the board but he has a good deal to say about the functioning of that crown corporation—to compete directly with private enterprise in Dawson City when he had before him a proposal from a private concern which would have supplied cheaper power to the residents of that community.

What are his plans with respect to the intervention of the government or government crown corporations in connection with the potential of future power development in the Pelly River area where mining operations are being conducted? These and other important questions must be answered by the minister, though we should like to be able to answer them ourselves. But since all the strings are held here, 4,000 miles away, and since all the direction comes from the minister on the recommendation of his officials to the commissioner, we cannot get the answers until we check with Ottawa. We want to have those answers instead of being delayed and sloughed off. This is what usually happens to questions which council members ask. Those questions are delayed and sloughed off by the administration.

Perhaps the minister will be interested to know that we have an elected body in the Yukon which asks in written or verbal form

[Mr. Nielsen.]

questions of the administration headed by the minister's appointee, the commissioner. Though the answers are available, the commissioner, the department head, or whoever it might be, says to the elected members of the council seeking information, "We will check with Ottawa first to see whether it is government policy to release this information." So the chain reaction starts, the instruction is requested and given, and many months later the answers come forth.

Mr. Laing: What information is the hon. member talking about?

Mr. Nielsen: Information with respect to questions asked by elected members of council when they are sitting. I have heard complaints from members of the council, which the minister knows is sitting now, that they have asked questions at one session which have not been answered until the next, months and months later. We wonder why that is.

Why is there this reluctance to give information to the representatives of the people of the Yukon? Why is there this tremendous loathing on the part of officialdom to release some of its powers? I appeal to the minister to give force to what he has been saying. He pays lip service to us each time he speaks in the Yukon about any governmental report, but nothing is done. He pays lip service to the democratic institutions which he would like to see established in the Yukon. Yet nothing is done. He says he wishes to move as rapidly as possible toward the day when we in the Yukon can assume control of our own destiny. Noble-sounding words and phrases. Yet nothing is done. Why? I suspect it is because on the advice of his officials he does not wish to see these developments come about. I regret very much that the sentiments expressed by the previous deputy minister, now secretary to the privy council, have been lost sight of. I speak of Mr. Robertson who said:

The Department of Northern Affairs only exists to administer itself out of existence.

That is the view which the minister and his officials should be taking with respect to the Yukon. Because of differences in history, institutions and progress, the Northwest Territories will take a bit longer to reach this point. But we in the Yukon are ready.

● (4:10 p.m.)

The minister himself went on site and spoke to a number of prominent people and others in the Yukon. He asked them whether they