

criticism to offer in that regard, because I am not sufficiently acquainted with the facts; I am going to take it for granted that that is a fair expenditure. If we turn to the mining industry, what do we find? The government spent \$1,000,000 on that industry last year. I was very much interested the other night in the speech delivered by the hon. member for West Kootenay, in which he pointed out the necessity for more expenditure in regard to research work in our mining industry. I can add to that that a great deal of information could be collected that would be of immense value to our prospectors if the government would spend much more money on the geological survey in British Columbia. Prospectors cannot be expected to cover the whole area of British Columbia, and they should have intelligent direction. I am sorry to say that prospectors are becoming gradually fewer and fewer in number, and that is a bad thing for a mining country. It is the duty of this government to try to encourage some of our virile young men to undertake that occupation which was so attractive to our people some forty or fifty years ago. In order to accomplish that, all they have to do is to spend a little more money, take a little more time and perhaps get a few more officials with the proper qualifications whom they can send out to map out mineral areas where the prospectors might go with a fair chance of getting something that would be worth while.

In point of production the mining industry is fifth in importance of the major industries of Canada, the order of precedence being manufacturing first; agriculture second; forestry third; construction fourth, and then mining. Yet I find that in a classification in which there are twenty-one industries, mining appears in the public accounts in the twenty-first category so far as the financial assistance given to it by the government is concerned. What a contrast! Fifth in production and last in attention received from the government. That is not right, and I am here repre-

senting the people of British Columbia, and particularly a mining district, to tell the government that we shall not be satisfied until this condition is remedied. This neglect must be redressed and we are determined to have some better attention paid the mining industry. I can assure the government that nothing they can do will more quickly restore commercial balance in this country and bring about an improvement in labour conditions. And when I talk about commercial conditions in Canada I have in mind businesses of all varieties. The government must help the farmer, the labourer, the manufacturer and every other business man in the country, and there is no industry which will more readily and more satisfactorily respond to assistance than the mining industry.

Mr. BALDWIN: I would call that industry a science of the earth, I am with the hon. member in his desire to have it supported and I would ask him what allowance he would consider adequate.

Mr. FRASER: I am a new member, Mr. Speaker, and this information, which I have hunted up in the few days that I have been waiting for the government to hand in its resignation, I am not prepared at the moment to analyze. I am not going to go into exact detail in regard to the requirements of the industry in Canada but I should think that we ought to start with \$5,000,000 instead of \$1,000,000.

Mr. BALDWIN: Hear, hear. I support you.

Mr. FRASER: I am glad to find that when a reasonable proposition is put up to reasonable Liberals they are ready to endorse it. Now I come to a controversial question, and as the hour is late I beg to move the adjournment of the debate.

Motion agreed to and debate adjourned.

On motion of Mr. Lapointe the House adjourned at 10.55 p.m.