

Mr. MURPHY: Might I ask from what report my hon. friend obtains the figure as \$10,000 per gramme as the cost of production?

Mr. CAMPBELL: That figure is given in one of the reports issued by the Department of Mines. I intended to quote my authority for the figure, but owing to the desire to save time I did not make a note of it, but I got the figure from one of the bulletins issued by the department. Deducting freight of \$4,000 per gramme would leave the production costs at \$6,000 per gramme, and if one figures \$200 per ton, on a basis of ten tons to produce one gramme, which I think is a conservative estimate from the reports from which I have already quoted, it would bring the production costs down to about \$6,200 per gramme. Now my argument is this. It is uneconomic and unfair to the people of Canada to try to develop this resource with the transportation facilities that are available in that area at the present time. I am not worried about the development being held up. On the contrary, let us hold it up until the proper time when proper transportation facilities are provided. If this area is as rich in radium, copper, silver and other minerals as we have reason to suppose, there is no doubt that railways will be built into the area in time, and when railway facilities have been built the cost of producing radium will be brought down to a point where it can be made available to all our hospitals.

Judged by the publicity which this area has received, there is no doubt that there will be a rush into the district this summer. Various press reports that I have under my hand would indicate this. There are great dangers in that. These claims will be taken up. With the present difficulty in getting in supplies there is little or no doubt that there will be practically no development work done at the present time. As a matter of fact, the Department of Mines itself has declared a moratorium as regards assessment work on these claims, so that those now staking claims are given one year's extension in which to do the necessary amount of work, and there is very little doubt that when another year comes around there will be demand for another moratorium. There you have a valuable natural resource held in private hands. The moratorium secures to the claim holders their rights, but at the same time the natural resources are being alienated from the public. In connection with the movement of stake-claimers into that area, may I quote from an article in the New York Sun of April twentieth last, which says that one thousand veteran gold prospectors will set out from

[Mr. Campbell.]

various parts of the United States and Canada for the Great Bear lake district in the hope of staking their claims this year.

The Ottawa Citizen of April 28 had a copyrighted article by Frederick B. Watt, referring to the silver in that district assaying ten thousand ounces to the ton, and the article states that at the present price of silver this would mean \$2,500 a ton.

May I refer to the statement made by the Prime Minister when introducing the radio bill into this house a few days ago. He stated that there was no doubt that at some future time the people of Canada would regret that any of the natural resources had ever been alienated from the crown, and that remark provoked applause from every part of this chamber. He stated that the air, which is one of our natural resources, was now to be preserved to the people of Canada. If that principle is sound with respect to the air as a natural resource, I say that it is doubly true with respect to something that is needed to preserve human life—the use of radium—and I do hope that the minister before this debate ends will indicate some policy on the part of the government that will give us a hope that this natural resource will not be alienated from the people of Canada. I trust his statement will be just as strong as, and perhaps a little stronger than, the statement from which I quoted issued by the government leader in the Senate.

Mr. IRVINE: I should like to endorse the sentiments expressed by the previous speaker, and perhaps go a little farther in respect to the natural resources to which he has referred. He laid emphasis upon the necessity of controlling the exploitation of radium in the different sections. I agree with him, but I should like to go farther and say that other natural resources in those sections no matter what they may be should also be preserved.

I was particularly relieved the other day by the statement of the Prime Minister to the effect that the air was going to be preserved for the people of Canada. All my life I have had a nightmare that some day a huge corporation would bottle the air in the atmosphere surrounding the earth and sell it to us at so much a bottle. I was afraid I would not be able to buy my bottle. Happily the radio bill has prevented such an occurrence. What is true of the air is just as true of the land and the minerals therein. They belong to the people of Canada just as much as does the air. With all the lessons history has provided, surely the time has come when a government with any vision should take steps to prevent the exploitation by individuals for