

northern Alberta has more resources than any other part of Canada. I may be wrong but I believe it has. Do not let us ruin the future of that great country by unfair criticism, from motives of political expediency. I believe I know the feelings of the old-timers in the province of Alberta, those who came and settled there from the old provinces of Quebec and Ontario, and others from the United States, up through the Kootenay and down the Peace river to Edmonton before 1880, and those who came later. We all love that country and love Canada more than anything else. We never allowed political differences to interfere with what we believed would be for progress of that part of the country. I believe that the Department of Mines and Resources is not asking for enough money. We should vote enough money to ascertain the possibilities and the resources of that country. We know that gas and oil are there and also great water powers. Everything is there to make the country north of Edmonton a Mecca for thousands of our young men when they come back from overseas.

Mr. JOHNSTON (Bow River): Mr. Chairman, I had not intended to say very much about this. I thought I had made the record quite clear by my statement of March 21 when I spoke in this house. But the hon. member for Athabaska has gone to some length to misquote statements of mine, and I wish now to correct him.

He seems to be quite disturbed because there is some criticism in this house of government policy and government expenditure of money. But it seems to me that that is the very reason we are here, and I am sure that his constituents will agree with me when they read over the hon. member's speeches in *Hansard*—if they can find many of his. Constructive criticism is what we are here for. I have listened for quite a long time, expecting to hear the hon. member give the government some suggestions or offer some constructive criticism, but apparently he is quite satisfied with the way in which the development of the tar sands is going on. For my part I am not satisfied at all, and I may say that I have tried to go carefully into this matter.

Before I start to deal with the subject I wish to correct some statements which were put on *Hansard* just before the dinner recess by the hon. member for Athabaska. He quoted some statements which I made on March 21, 1944, as reported on page 1733 of *Hansard*. I will read some of these so that the committee will know exactly the words I used. On this particular occasion I was discussing the samples of sand which were sent over to England back in 1920 by the government of the day. As a

[Mr. Dechene.]

matter of fact two carloads, or a little over forty tons, were sent. I will not stop to refer to the way in which it was sent over, although that in itself is amusing. When the question was asked of Doctor Ells, he said:

I have heard of it but I think the results have not been given out.

Then I go on to say:

He does not know for sure.

May I say I was criticizing Doctor Ells at that time for his apparent lack of memory with regard to this transaction. I was commenting upon the testimony he gave before the committee, and I believe I was entirely justified in doing so. I said:

He does not know for sure. He says: "I have heard of it." That is a vague recollection. Mind you, two carloads of Athabaska tar sands were sent clear to England at an expense of \$500,000.

Mr. DECHENE: Who said that?

Mr. JOHNSTON (Bow River): I was speaking there.

Mr. Ells, who was giving evidence, said: "I have heard of it but I think the results have not been given out." He was then further questioned about this matter and on the next page he says: "No, I have not any definite recollection." That is, he has no definite recollection of its having been sent to England. I think I should go back to the next page and read the question of the hon. member for Davenport, which was as follows: "Have you any recollection of the sand having been sent to England?" The answer is, "No, I have not any definite recollection." If anybody sent two carloads of Athabaska tar sands over to England at an expense of—with the investigation which was carried out—\$500,000, there is something wrong with his memory if he does not even remember it.

Mr. CRERAR: Did Doctor Ells make that statement?

Mr. JOHNSTON (Bow River): Yes, exactly so. But Doctor Ells recollected a little later on. He said that it was sent to England, at whose expense he does not mention, but he says that an expense of \$500,000 was incurred. I am not criticizing that point of it; I am putting on *Hansard* what I said that day, which the hon. member for Athabaska entirely misconstrued and misrepresented. The answer of Doctor Ells goes on:

I do recall that some years before that there were two carloads went over to England, to Cardiff, Wales, and a rather large amount of money spent in testing a method—I think about \$500,000.

Mr. MacNicol: It was sent over to Cardiff?

Doctor Ells: Yes, two carloads; I shipped them myself.

At that time Doctor Ells was an employee of this government, and he says most definitely that he sent two carloads of tar sands over to