

could be put on the market and used in Canadian furnaces. It is to that phase of the subject that I wish to direct the attention of the minister. A commission was appointed seven years ago, in the year 1923, by the Drury government of Ontario. That commission, headed by Mr. Lloyd Harris, made a report to the effect that we had sufficient ores here and that by proper treatment they could be used; and they suggested that the Ontario government should pay a bounty on the production of those ores of so much a ton on all ores smelted in Canadian furnaces. They suggested, moreover, that, as this work would be of national advantage, the dominion government should contribute one half of the bounty. That legislation remained on the statute books for five years but no action was taken by the dominion government. I believe it was in 1929 that the Ferguson government decided to double the rate so far as the province was concerned, and suggested that the federal parliament should contribute a considerable sum by way of assistance. That offer on the part of Ontario remains open and I suggest to the minister that the mines branch is equipped with a proper personnel for the consideration of methods to be followed for getting this Canadian ore on the market. I wish at this time to bring this question to his attention so that the staff maintained by this government may be put to work. The matter is one of vital concern not only to northern Ontario but to the railways, for they would get the haul; and it is of importance to labour and generally to the development of our own resources.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: The minister will observe that this item, which is for about one-third of a million dollars is for scientific and technical research. That, as I understand it, forms a part of what formerly would come under the head of technical education. It is a branch of the work referred to by the Minister of Justice the other day as coming within what would be regarded as work of university grade. I am pointing this out to emphasize what I said a moment ago, that this federal government is doing its part with respect to one aspect at least of scientific and industrial research which is in the nature of technical education; and I trust that if I give the minister my support for this one-third of a million he will, when the time comes, back me up in what I have said in respect to that particular matter.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): My hon. friend from Port Arthur-Thunder Bay will find, when investigation is made, that con-

siderable work has been done in connection with the beneficiation of our northern ores. I doubt whether it can be said that the real solution has been found, but I do say to the hon. members that no opportunity has been missed. I shall not have time to go into the matter to-night, but I may say to my hon. friends from Alberta that, in order to avoid overlapping in various activities of government research, the work in connection with the extraction of oil from tar sands and shale has been carried on in that province by arrangement with the national research council. The Deputy Minister of Mines is a member of the board of the national research council and sits in on all discussions relating to questions of research.

Mr. SPEAKMAN: That is my understanding based on the discussion of last year.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): My hon. friend has seen the plant set up in the yards of the Alberta and Great Waterways railway where this work was carried on by Professor Clark. The ramifications of the mines branch are many, and when one considers the national research council as well it is pretty difficult to know just what is being done. I appreciate what the hon. minister has said to-night, that he has found a very efficient staff in charge and that the work carried on has been of immense benefit to the mining industry of Canada. On one occasion we voted \$10,000 for the purpose of bringing samples from British Columbia, but very little advantage was taken of that vote. That offer was made in order to permit samples being brought here for testing purposes. The mines branch of the federal government has been of great value to the mining industry of Canada, and I agree with the hon. member for Port Arthur (Mr. Cowan) that if a solution can be found for the treatment of Canadian iron ore it would be of immense benefit to Canada. In order to assure him, I will state that I know the hon. gentleman who succeeded me will not miss any chance to assist in this matter of research work.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): Did I understand the minister to say a short time ago that no further experimental work is being carried on in connection with peat?

Mr. GORDON: No further experimental work is going on at the present time in connection with peat fuel.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): Will the hon. minister explain the item on page 92 of the estimates, peat specialist, \$2,820?