

Mr. NIELSEN: Does it not amount to the same thing?

Mr. BUCK: Except that the United States smelters are financing it at the moment and not the government.

Mr. NIELSEN: Would it be correct to say that the imposition of these quotas has no effect on the lead and zinc industry to date?

Mr. BUCK: No; I do not think it would. Production has not been decreased. If it is not soon decreased, it could reach a point where the quotas can be drawn out in a matter of days or hours. This is a matter of concern to the industry.

Mr. PAYNE: If a Canadian producer exports in bond to the United States it is held by whom?

Mr. BUCK: The American smelter.

Dr. BOYER: I think Mr. Buck would agree with me that, if the situation of import quotas in the United States continues, there will be damage to the Canadian industry. At the present we continue to export at the same rate we did before, but we are exporting, particularly in zinc concentrates, more than the quota allows, and this is piling up in the United States. If the quotas continue for any length of time at some time harm will be done.

Mr. NIELSEN: Have you estimated what period of grace the lead and zinc industry has in respect of the maintenance of the quota restrictions in the United States? How long will it take before it starts to affect our lead and zinc industry?

Mr. BUCK: It is felt that by the third quarter of this year the backlog will be almost sufficient to take care of the full quota. It is a matter of some urgency.

Mr. ROBICHAUD: Could Mr. Buck give us the total production of lead and zinc for 1957 and 1958?

Mr. BUCK: Zinc in all forms in 1957 was 412,000-odd tons; in 1956 it was 422,000-odd tons. I do not have the 1958 figure with me. I will get it for you. I do not think there has been too much of a change.

Mr. ROBICHAUD: Could we have it at our next meeting?

Mr. BUCK: Yes. Lead, all forms, in 1957 was 187,000 tons, and almost 188,000 tons in 1956.

Mr. DUMAS: What was the domestic consumption for the same period?

Mr. BUCK: This is in terms of refined metal. The total consumption for zinc in 1957 was 52,000 tons. In 1956 it was approximately 61,000 tons. For lead, again in refined terms, for 1957 it was 74,000 tons and for 1956, 75,000 tons.

Mr. HARDIE: Has the department any estimate of the known reserves or known bodies of ore in Canada?

Mr. BUCK: Yes, we would have. They are certainly tremendous, without any doubt. I cannot give any figure right offhand, but they are very large.

Mr. HARDIE: I wonder if we could have that supplied to us.

Mr. BUCK: Yes.

Mr. NIELSEN: I am going to ask a question which perhaps either the minister or the deputy minister could answer, in preference to Mr. Buck. I am wondering if the only reason for the railroad to Pine Point was the exploitation of the low-grade lead-zinc deposits there.

Mr. HARDIE: High grade.

Mr. NIELSEN: High grade—I am sorry. If the railroad were complete, would the introduction of the production at Pine Point have any deleterious effect on the markets of the lead-zinc world, so far as Canadian sales are concerned?