

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Monday, February 5, 1951

The house met at three o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS

VISITORS IN GALLERY—STUDENTS FROM GLEBE COLLEGIATE, OTTAWA

Mr. J. W. Noseworthy (York South): Mr. Speaker, I should like to call your attention and the attention of the house to the presence in the south gallery of a class of boys from Glebe collegiate in this city. I thank you, sir, for your provision for their attendance here today.

MINES AND TECHNICAL SURVEYS

SURVEY OF IRON ORE IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

Hon. George Prudham (Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys): Mr. Speaker, at the last sitting of the house the hon. member for Vancouver South (Mr. Laing) asked me to make a statement with regard to the proposals of the Department of Mines and Technical Surveys to survey iron ore in the province of British Columbia.

The geological survey of Canada has already made considerable investigation of the British Columbia iron ore deposits. Investigations made prior to 1925 were compiled in a report by G. A. Young and W. L. Uglow, entitled "The Iron Ores of Canada, Volume 1, British Columbia and Yukon" (Economic Geology Series No. 3). This report indicates iron ore minerals at fifty-seven localities in British Columbia. These iron ore deposits are dealt with quite fully in this report, and a rough estimate given of the potential tonnage of ore containing more than fifty per cent iron.

In 1930 further geological field work was conducted in the Buttle lake area, Vancouver island.

In 1950 geological survey party, in charge of Dr. J. W. Hoadley, made extensive studies in the vicinity of Zeballos, Vancouver island.

The British Columbia department of mines published a report in 1942 by A. G. McKee and Company, engineers and contractors, of Cleveland, entitled "Report on Proposed Iron and Steel Works."

The geological survey of Canada has no new plans for 1951 dealing specifically with iron ore deposits in British Columbia. However, the field work of Dr. J. W. Hoadley in

the Zeballos area will be continued, and this will include mapping and studies of potential iron deposits.

NATIONAL HOUSING ACT

STATEMENT AS TO LOANS TO HOME OWNERS, LOANS ON RENTAL PROPERTY AND RENTAL INSURANCE GUARANTEES

Hon. Robert H. Winters (Minister of Resources and Development): Mr. Speaker, the heavy demands the present international situation is imposing and will impose upon the economy of Canada for defence and other measures have made it necessary for the government to give new consideration to the problem of housing in Canada.

Through private endeavour, but also in large part owing to the assistance afforded by the government under the National Housing Act, house construction in Canada since the war has proceeded at an unprecedented rate. In 1947 the number of houses constructed was 79,359. In 1948 the number rose to 81,243. In 1949 the number of houses built was 91,000. In 1950 there was an unprecedented volume of loans under the National Housing Act, and a record number of housing starts. During the year approximately 87,000 housing units were completed but by the end of 1950 there were about 66,000 houses incomplete, which was approximately 8,000 more than were incomplete at the end of 1949.

The government is aware of the continuing need for housing accommodation in Canada, but starts at the 1950 rate are beyond the capacity of the house-building industry under present and foreseen circumstances. Building supply materials, and particularly products of steel, are in short supply, with the result that many builders and owners are unable to complete houses. One of the main problems is to complete houses now under construction, and what the government wishes most to avoid is the starting of a large number of houses which could not be completed.

Since September 1949, additional loans in the amount of one-sixth of the basic loan were being made, provided that the sale price to the home owner was fair and reasonable; but because of rising costs and the previously announced policy of maintaining January 1, 1950, lending values, this provision has become increasingly ineffective. It will be