

*Natural Resources—Development*

taking over certain industries. That is not the point. The government do not need to take over anything in order to take action under public enterprise; they can start from the ground floor. For example, when the government set up a synthetic rubber plant at Sarnia—a plant which has been lauded by the hon. member for that area as one of the most modern and efficient in the country, and a plant of which all Canadians can be proud—the government did not need to expropriate a bunch of rubber companies. The government went in there to fill a need, and by doing so they discovered new techniques, new ideas and new projects. They built a new industry in this country.

There are other fields in this country which are not at the present time occupied by private enterprise but which could be occupied by public enterprise if there were some dynamic drive and some planning behind this government. We had an example last year in the gas pipe line. When we think of all the tortuous twists and turns, the heart-aches this government and parliament have gone through in order to try to give a monopoly in gas transmission to one company when it could have built this pipe line as a public enterprise and had it operating today, had they started the project 10 years ago, such wasted effort seems hardly conceivable. But the government are still trying to find some way by which to avoid this kind of responsibility; they are abdicating their position in fields of public enterprise which are crying to be filled in favour of private industry, which can only enter those fields provided it is given every conceivable advantage and concession.

Let us bring in those fields where there is a clear-cut case for public enterprise. Let us build model industries and use them as an example of what can be done using the most modern techniques, and this will help private enterprise instead of interfering with it. This can be done, and it is the only way in which this motion can have any meaning whatsoever. Under the old-fashioned idea of private enterprise being responsible for everything, this motion would have no meaning at all. Although I am not opposed to it—it can do no harm—certainly the adoption of the motion with no provision for planning under public enterprise and no responsibility upon parliament for bringing into effect the things proposed would simply amount to a declaration of good intentions. That is all you could call it.

There is another good reason why public enterprise should be used in several fields, and that is to make effective the declared policy of, I think, all parties in this house.

I have heard hon. members from every group in this house get up at different times and inveigh against the encroachment of monopolies and combines into the sphere of private, independent businesses, particularly smaller businesses. Yet we have found that in trying to apply the Combines Investigation Act from time to time to remedy that situation the results have been most discouraging. A monopoly or a combine is taken before a court and found guilty; having filched, say, \$1 million from the public the concern is fined \$25,000 and then sent back into the same field to rob the public again. All this amounts to is a licence to rob the public.

If we are serious about the control of monopolies and combines, the field of public enterprise is the one that will have to be used. If we, today, were operating, let us say, a fertilizer plant for agricultural purposes, the fertilizer companies which at present form a combine which holds a death grip on that product would not be able to soak the public to the extent they are now doing. The same could be said about farm implements and a great many other products which today are in the hands of private monopolists who are exploiting the people of this country.

The question then comes up, where are we going to get the money? It is going to cost money to go into this field, develop these crown companies and so forth. We advocate as part of our C.C.F. program, and have advocated for many years, that there should be a national development bank owned by the people of Canada, and that there should also be an investment board so the people of Canada who wish to make an investment, whether they be wealthy, poor or whatever their economic position, may know that they can make an investment in the public board which is there for the purpose of promoting the best interests of the country. That system can be used on a national scale to promote crown companies and public enterprises in order to help develop the country.

I believe there is sufficient capital in Canada to do everything we can endeavour to do. I have never been sold on the idea that we need to import huge volumes of capital from some foreign country time and again in order to do what is called for by our economy. After all, what opens up our resources, what builds our economy? It is the labour and know-how of the Canadian people that do it in the long run. It is not somebody else's money that gets the minerals out of the ground. It is not somebody else's money that builds big hydro plants. It is not somebody else's money that opens up new agricultural areas. It is the labour, muscle, intelligence and know-how of the Canadian