



STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

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THE CONTRIBUTION OF MINING TO A GREATER CANADA

An address delivered by Mr. James A. MacKinnon, former Minister of Mines and Resources, at the Annual Dinner of The Canadian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy, in Montreal, April 26, 1949.

I wish at the outset to thank you for the kind invitation you extended to me to address you tonight. I warmly appreciate the opportunity to meet with you. Such contacts contribute greatly to a mutual understanding of interests common to all who are identified with mineral development in Canada. I have great faith in the future of our mineral industry.

Credit for much of the progress of the industry must go to technical associations like the Canadian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy, who have been responsible for the free interchange of techniques for the solving of mutual problems. Closely associated with these efforts has been the work of the Chambers of Mines in various centres. I wish to mention the work of the Mines and Natural Resources Section of the Montreal Board of Trade, which has been so active in stimulating interest in the mineral possibilities of the Province of Quebec.

That we are edging steadily closer to the billion dollar mark in our annual output of minerals was in evidence in 1948. In 1938 it was \$441,000,000. Last year it was well in excess of \$800,000,000. Quebec, which has been making such spectacular headway as a mineral producer, reported a record year as did all the other mineral producing provinces. Our export trade in metals and minerals was greater than in any past year.

But the improvement is by no means confined to production and trade. Our mineral estate is greatly increasing in value. We now have in the Prairie region a potential self-sufficiency in crude petroleum mainly as a result of recent developments in the Leduc, Redwater, Golden Spike and Woodbent sectors of the Edmonton oil field. That is a great change from a year ago when it was necessary to import upwards of 20,000 barrels of oil a day from the United States to help meet the requirements of those three provinces. In marked contrast, there is now no doubt that much of the oil produced in Alberta will be exported to nearby areas in the United States.

I need scarcely stress the importance of recent developments in the Labrador-Quebec region, though the full significance of these developments can be foreseen only in part as yet. There is a suggestion of this significance, however, in a statement appearing in President Truman's recent Economic Report to Congress. Dealing with capital outlays that will be required by mining in the United States, the Report notes