

the information they have given us with regard to the mining question, because they are about the only two hon. members who made particular reference to that industry. I refer for the moment to mineral mining, leaving out the question of coal, because we have heard a good deal about coal. I compliment these hon. gentlemen on their excellent speeches. That part of the industry to which the hon. member for Nipissing referred is an entirely new field to me, and it was with the keenest interest that I followed his very instructive address. We have heard a great deal about agriculture in this House, and I am going to say something about it myself; but we do not hear enough about the mining industry, and I give hon. members notice that while I occupy a seat in this House I am going to try to bring the mining industry into a little more prominence in the debates. I do not intend to go extensively into the matter tonight, but I want to give a few outstanding facts in this connection.

In the first place, I am very much pleased to note a substantial increase in the output of the mines in the last year. That is very encouraging; it is a move in the right direction. Even with the poor, impotent Liberal government in power, the industry has been able to make some progress; what wonderful strides it would make if there was a good potent government, one with force and vigour behind it, directing its operations. I find that the total production in that industry during last year was \$230,000,000, a very substantial sum. Hon. members must remember that fifteen per cent of the total area of Canada is considered by experts to be agricultural land, and five per cent of that agricultural land is mineralized. Therefore, outside of the area that is productive agriculturally, eighty-five per cent of our total area is valuable to this country on account of minerals of one kind or another which are contained either on or beneath the surface.

Our exports of minerals and mineral products amount to \$197,000,000, or fifteen per cent of our total exports. On the other hand, we import of minerals and mineral products, \$352,000,000 worth, or forty per cent of our total imports. The difference between these two items means that we are sending our money out of this country to pay for articles that are manufactured in other countries from raw minerals that we export to those countries. We are importing \$352,000,000 worth, or nearly \$1,000,000 worth a day, of minerals either manufactured or semi-manufactured from raw minerals which we have under our feet. The hon. member for Nanaimo (Mr. Dickie) was endeavouring to point out how the prosperity

of this country would be increased if the raw products of our forest were manufactured in Canada. Just imagine what would happen in this country if we were to manufacture perhaps not the whole, but a large proportion of this \$352,000,000 worth of mineral products that we import. It would stimulate business and help to bring back those boys and girls who have gone from this country to the other side of the line. It would give them an opportunity to earn a living in the country they want to live in—because they do not want to live in the United States; they want to live in Canada because it is the best country on the face of the earth, and there are more opportunities here for our boys and girls than in any other country. That is just a bare outline of the outstanding facts in regard to the mining industry.

If we consider for a minute where we send these raw materials and whence we get our finished product, we shall see why many of our boys and girls go to the other side of the line in order to find employment. Of the \$197,000,000 worth of our exports of minerals, the United States took forty-four per cent or a little less than one-half. As our mineral exports are pretty nearly all raw materials, the United States are taking forty-four per cent of our raw materials. When we consider the quantity we import in a manufactured or semi-manufactured condition, what do we find? We find that we are bringing in from the United States eighty per cent of our total imports of mineral products. That means that we are continually sending our raw products to the United States so that they may manufacture them into finished products and then export them back into this country for use in our different industries. The same thing is going on in other lines of production as well, and as I have not heard anyone explain to the people of this Dominion that they are being deprived of their just due in regard to mineral products, I thought I would take a few minutes of the time of the House to point out that bare fact.

I want to serve notice of warning on this government. It does not make much difference because they are not going to be here very long, but we may as well let them carry the load while they are in office. They are not discharging their duty in regard to the mining industry of this country. They are not giving it the attention to which it is entitled by reason of its great importance to Canada. I find from the public accounts that the total expenditure for the Department of Agriculture last year amounted to \$6,750,000. I am not going to argue that they are spending too much or too little; I have no