

I may say that I have under my hand a considerable number of geological reports on the Great Bear lake area. There is, of course, a good deal of doubt as to the extent of those deposits, and owing to the desire to save time now I shall not quote from those reports as extensively as I had intended. I shall, however, refer to a few of them just to show that they indicate, in the opinion of geologists, there are reasons to believe we have in that area a very considerable amount of pitchblende or radium ore. From memorandum series No. 51, issued by the Department of Mines in October, 1931, I quote the following:

From a small surface pit sunk to a depth of twelve feet at the original discovery point, eight tons of cobbled, high-grade pitchblende were taken in the early part of this year.

Again it says:

Beyond any question, the pitchblende deposits at La Bine point constitute a very valuable source of radium. At the present value of radium, ore could easily meet the cost of shipment to rail (\$400) per ton. Improved transportation facilities, however, will have to be provided if serious production is to be attained.

Then it goes on to explain what the transportation facilities are at the present time and which would appear to be totally inadequate to render any service in the movement of ore from that area to outside points. May I interject at this point that owing to the impossibility, as those reports indicate, of getting the ore out, I see no object whatever in throwing that area open at the present time, and I suggest to the minister the necessity for keeping it closed and withholding development until better transportation facilities are provided. The report goes on to give a good deal of technical information which is valuable for my argument, but owing to the limited time, I shall not weary the house with it.

Again, from memorandum series No. 48, issued in March, 1931, by the Department of Mines, I quote the following:

There is no question but that an interesting discovery of pitchblende has been made. Its possible commercial value can necessarily only be determined by the proving up of tonnage, and this will have to await results of further development work.

I quote from a similar bulletin issued by the same department entitled, "Mineral development activities in district of Mackenzie, Northwest Territories," and under the heading of "Pitchblende and Silver" I find this:

According to assays made by the Department of Mines from samples obtained at La Bine point, Echo bay, at the east end of Great Bear lake, the pitchblende deposit is very rich in uranium oxide assaying from thirty per cent to

sixty-two per cent, corresponding to a content of one gram of radium in thirteen tons and six and a half tons of ore respectively. These pitchblende veins have been traced over a number of claims. Silver is associated with the pitchblende in the form of wire silver or leaf silver. Silver contents have been found to range from 1,634 to 8,965 ounces per ton.

From a similar bulletin by D. F. Kidd, geological survey, Department of Mines, entitled "The Great Bear lake—Coppermine river district" I quote:

Two main types of mineral deposits have been found in the area; (a) copper deposits; (b) pitchblende deposits with silver and silver deposits.

The article goes on to explain the discoveries, but I shall not take up the time of the house elaborating on that.

There would appear to be every reason to suppose that sufficient radium for the world's use will be secured in that area, and Canada owes it as a sacred duty not only to our own people but to suffering humanity throughout the world to prevent this very valuable resource from falling into private hands, or at all events to see that if it does fall into private hands it shall be properly controlled by the government and be conserved for the use of suffering humanity. The existence of the Belgian trust, the activities of that body, and the extent to which the price of radium has been raised in consequence, make it urgent that the Canadian government on behalf of the Canadian people should take an interest in this matter and see that something is done before it is too late.

I had a number of questions to submit to the minister with respect to this matter, but I shall not put them on record now. In order to save time I handed a memo. to the minister this afternoon, and I trust that in his reply he will cover the questions that I raised therein.

There are other evidences on record to prove that the Belgian government are making an enormous profit out of this trust in selling radium at the price of \$70,000 per gramme. The results are of tremendous benefit to the Belgian treasury, but at the expense of sufferers throughout the world.

The Department of Mines of Canada estimates that the cost of producing radium from the Great Bear lake area should not exceed \$10,000 per gramme, and in this \$10,000 is included \$4,000 as the cost of freight under present conditions of transportation. If railways covered that area making it accessible, say, to Winnipeg or Ottawa, where there is cheap electric power, the radium could be purified at the minimum of cost—