

Mr. DECHENE: I regret that this has arisen. This matter had to be checked up. When a man says on the floor of the House of Commons that \$500,000 was spent, as it appears at page 1733 of *Hansard*—"Two carloads of Athabaska tar sands were sent clear to England at an expense of \$500,000"—

Mr. JOHNSTON (Bow River): That is correct.

Mr. DECHENE: And when he says that Mr. Ells, who was giving evidence, says he does not know anything about it, I want to check it up, because that is absolutely untrue.

At six o'clock the committee took recess.

After Recess

The committee resumed at eight o'clock.

Mr. DECHENE: Mr. Chairman, I am sorry I was unable to complete my remarks before six o'clock. I have in mind the great possibilities of the development which we are now discussing. I have briefly touched on the great resources of that far north country, not only the tar sands we are now discussing but its water powers and its great salt mines, et cetera. Its waterways are the portals to this tremendously rich north country, which some day will be the richest part of Canada. I can envision the building of a great city at the junction of those rivers, the Athabaska and the Clearwater. The old timers, the Hudson Bay travellers, used to call it the Hudson Bay portage. That was a hundred years ago or more.

If I became a little heated this afternoon it was because I feel so keenly about that great north country. I have seen it as a little fellow; I have lived in it since I was a young boy, and I hate to see it discredited and criticized. I am getting to be an old man, but I hope to live long enough yet to see a big city rise at the junction of those two great rivers, the Athabaska and the Clearwater. If I criticized a member of another legislature this afternoon, a minister of the crown, which may have appeared to you, Mr. Chairman, perhaps a little uncalled for—but I have his own words which appeared in the press—it is because of this fact. He poses as a brave man who criticizes this government so bitterly. He was elected in his own riding in 1935 through a fluke, in the catastrophe of 1935. Then in 1940 he was not so good, but got elected, and now he knows he cannot be elected from that same riding again. This man who puts all these statements in the press, which now appear

in our own *Hansard* because they have been transmitted here by some of the members from Alberta, is now running in a northern riding where he thinks he, as provincial minister of public works, may have some influence against the soldier candidate. This soldier candidate has served overseas since 1939 and is now in Sicily or elsewhere overseas, where unfortunately most of us are too old to go to serve. This great big man, this minister of public works of Alberta, this brave man who uses the press and information given him by a lot of drunken men in the hotel at Edmonton, now quits the riding where he knows he cannot be elected and is a candidate in Grouard against a soldier officer. The officer's name is Tremblay. He has a brother in the commons, also a returned soldier, who fought in the last great war as well. The minister of public works of Alberta, this brave man who finds all this fault, is pleased to run against a returned soldier in Grouard, a man who is now overseas and cannot defend himself against his opponent. I will not say any more about the matter.

Mr. KUHL: Because you are on dangerous ground.

Mr. DECHENE: No, I am not on dangerous ground. What I said about the \$500,000 is in *Hansard*; it was not in a committee's report.

Mr. JOHNSTON (Bow River): You are changing your story now.

Mr. DECHENE: I quoted from *Hansard* and nobody can deny it.

I was saying, Mr. Chairman, that I believe a great city will rise at the junction of those two great rivers, the Athabaska and the Clearwater, because in that northern country we have everything—water powers, coal mines, gas and oil, salt, everything that goes to make a country prosperous. I have already stated that I think a highway should be built from Edmonton to McMurray because it would enable us to develop that country much more quickly. To-night I have a vision of northern Alberta. I wonder how many members have seen northern Alberta at the end of May or the beginning of June. I have known that country for fifty years and I know what a grand country it is. I do not think there is another place in the world as beautiful as northern Alberta, when the prairie is a mass of flowers and along the road are wild roses growing up almost to the height of this ceiling. We might call it the wild rose country. That is something you cannot see anywhere else. I was going to say that it talks to you, but most certainly it appeals to you. I think