

Boundary Pipeline Corporation

he proposed to build was a 16-inch line and a larger pipe line might be as big as 24 inches.

The reserves of natural gas in the province of Alberta have increased very considerably following the intensive search for gas and oil that has been going on during the past five or six years. The story of the discovery of oil and gas in Alberta is one of the most fascinating stories of industrial enterprise in the history of the world. It is only five or six years ago that this oil was discovered in the Leduc area. I see the hon. member for Fraser Valley is shaking his head. I do not know whether he is shaking his head at what I have said or—

Mr. Cruickshank: Pardon me; it was because of some foolish remark by one of my neighbours here.

Mr. Browne (St. John's West): If it was in reference to the statement I made, I might say I was aware of the earlier discoveries and the work that has taken place in the Turner valley section of southern Alberta.

Mr. Harkness: Still one of the major fields in Alberta.

Mr. Browne (St. John's West): Yes, but nothing compared to the discovery in 1946 in the Leduc area.

Mr. Harkness: Oh, yes.

Mr. Browne (St. John's West): However, the oil and gas companies in the United States and of course our own Imperial Oil Company became tremendously interested and have carried on intensive investigation and exploration ever since. It is certain that the grant of permission by the Alberta natural gas conservation board to the Westcoast Transmission Company to transport gas from the northern part of Alberta will bring about more intensive search up there, because that is the area which is said by the Alberta government to be best protected as far as reserves are concerned. Companies will probably carry on more work there than in other parts of the province.

Reserves three years ago were supposed to be 1½ trillion cubic feet. By now the figure has risen to 6.8 trillion cubic feet; yet the Alberta government does not feel satisfied that it has sufficient reserves in all parts of the province to provide for industrial development which they feel might outstrip discoveries of gas during the next thirty years. Mr. Herring of the Fish corporation stated that he did not think they would be justified in giving permission for a large pipe line to be brought to Ontario and Quebec if they only had the amount of reserves they said they had; but it seems to me that Mr. Herring in saying that was putting a spoke

in the application of Trans-Canada Pipe Lines, which has already been incorporated and which is prepared at an expenditure of \$220 million to build a pipe line from the province of Alberta through the two provinces of Saskatchewan and Manitoba, across the head of the lakes, down to Toronto, Montreal, and even Quebec.

The chief argument that has taken place in connection with this application seems to me to be based upon whether it is preferable to have that great company put in a large pipe line which would be sufficient to supply the needs of the central provinces where the great industrial centres are situated, or to give this applicant the right to transport gas to the two neighbouring provinces where there are no such great enterprises as now exist in Ontario and Quebec. I think the house will have to make up its mind which it prefers.

What other companies are interested in this transportation of gas? In addition to Trans-Canada Pipe Lines there is also Western Pipe Lines which, according to the April 26 edition of the *Financial Post*, would draw gas from Pincher Creek and other southern Alberta fields and pipe it eastward to Saskatchewan and Manitoba communities and then southward from Winnipeg to tie in with large indicated markets in northern Minnesota, which is the same idea that is contained in the bill before us.

Trans-Canada Pipe Lines is a subsidiary of Canadian Delhi Oil Limited, who are backed by Delhi Oil interests in Texas. They plan a \$220 million pipe line from Alberta across the prairies. This proposition would use some 385 million cubic feet of gas daily. This would be the longest natural gas pipe line in the world, running more than 2,000 miles over an all-Canadian route. Canadian Delhi is busy proving up gas fields, and has had considerable success this summer. The line would likely take gas from Pakowki lake and/or Pincher Creek fields if there was a surplus, and from Princess and Cessford fields at the eastern edge of Alberta.

However, that company was refused permission to carry gas from Alberta because the government of the province did not consider there were sufficient reserves. Before the board of transport commissioners on Saturday the applications of these two companies I have just mentioned—Western Pipe Lines and Trans-Canada Pipe Lines—to carry gas eastward from the Pincher Creek field were adjourned indefinitely. The board indicated that the applications could be reopened if Alberta reversed a recent decision and permitted the companies to export gas from the province. The report went on to