

## Gold Mining

on many occasions by the Prime Minister (Mr. St. Laurent) and members of the cabinet to the Canadian Metal Mining Association and other delegations to come to Ottawa and lay before the government problems of great concern to the industry.

The gold producers have always been aware of the willingness of the government to co-operate, and to this end they themselves have done everything possible to increase the efficiency of their operations in order to keep down costs. Extraordinary efforts have been made to stem the rising tide. Every practicable method has been adopted to improve efficiency. Obviously there is a limit to such process, and I want to point out the need to stabilize the position and if at all possible improve the prospects of the industry. For the gold mines the crux of the problem is the price of gold. If today the gold mining people are greatly concerned over the present situation, they are not at all pessimistic. Far from it; they feel that eventually the price of gold will have to be adjusted, and they think the day is not far distant when the important trading nations of the world will return to the gold standard. It is fully appreciated that this is a highly complex problem concerning which the Canadian government is not in a position to take entirely independent action.

We must not forget that the gold mining industry has been and will continue to be of vital importance to this country. It has produced the gold required for monetary backing and for the settlement of trade balances with other countries. It is the one thing above all others on which Canada depends for opening up new areas of settlement and potential resources. I repeat what I have said previously in this house. Gold mining is the stimulus which provides encouragement to the prospectors. Just a few days ago I saw an article in a weekly paper in Rouyn-Noranda. It is the *Rouyn-Noranda Press* of May 8, 1952. The article is entitled "Gold Still Glitters" and it reads in part as follows:

During a week-end visit to Toronto—

That was a visit by the editor of that newspaper.

—we were surprised at the number of people not connected in any way with mining that were interested in gold the moment we mentioned coming from Rouyn-Noranda.

It shows that in other parts of the nation the importance of gold mining is recognized by even the average citizen. But at the same time gold mines are having a hard time making ends meet.

Further on in the article we find this statement:

To many, gold still glitters as brightly as ever but the gold mining situation could be much brighter.

I agree with that statement. I also think that the gold mining situation could be much brighter.

Gold has always been the spearhead in the search for mineral wealth. It has led in the past, is leading now in spite of the many difficulties encountered—and will, if permitted to do so, lead again to the discovery of valuable deposits of base metal and strategic materials.

Last week there appeared in the *Globe and Mail* two articles which substantiate what I have just said. In the issue of May 7 we find an article which reads as follows:

Amos—There are high hopes in this busy north-western Quebec community that the success at Barvue Mines will once more direct the attention of the mining industry to an area that was one of the first regions of the province to be prospected before more attractive developments 70 miles to the southwest at Noranda turned the tide of prospecting away.

Further on the article states:

Gold was the magnet which drew prospectors into the area in the early days and many times since. The Barvue mine, originally staked as part of a gold rush which found no gold became, instead, a big zinc operation.

In the article in the *Globe and Mail* of May 6, we read this:

A windfall of zinc and silver from a small tract of land staked as a gold prospect, combined with engineering ingenuity and \$7 million in cash, is rapidly transforming a stretch of muddy, hungry-looking farm land lying 22 miles east of this town,—

That is Amos.

—into a bustling community of building construction and townsite planning.

Further on in the article we read this:

Contracts for the sale of the zinc are on a firm basis covering 175,000 tons of zinc concentrate at 17.5 cents a pound U.S. funds and American Zinc has an option on a further 175,000 tons of concentrate at the same price, with the addition of an escalator clause covering possible cost and wage increases.

Mr. Speaker, you can see that mining is certainly the broad foundation of Canada's internal structure. The service of mining in pushing back the frontier has given our country a pioneer quality, a spirit of independence, self-reliance and confidence.

Canadian mining is still capable of great expansion. To be convinced of this fact, we have only to look at the map and read of what is going on in the Yukon, the Northwest Territories, northern Ontario, northwestern and northeastern Quebec and the Labrador section of Newfoundland. The lead and zinc ore of Keno Hill; the uranium of Great Bear lake; the copper deposits of Victoria island; the nickel finds of Ferguson lake and Chesterfield inlet; the big nickel mine of Lynn Lake; the