

The Address—Mr. Simmons

mines in this area contain vast quantities of gold, and the ore already blocked out assures operations for many years to come. The fixed price of gold and the mounting costs of operation have placed the industry in a precarious position, and it is to be hoped that the action recently taken will result in a price commensurate with the cost of producing it, so the operators can stabilize their position and look forward with confidence in planning future operations, so necessary for the future of gold mining in Canada and particularly throughout the Yukon-Mackenzie River riding. I should like to remind the house that it was the new gold from the Yukon in '98 which started Canada upon her twentieth century era of progress.

Interest in oil is not confined to the western provinces. The wells and refinery at Norman Wells, along the Mackenzie river, continue to meet to a large extent the requirements for oil products of the Mackenzie river district. Exploration for oil and natural gas is being actively carried out in the Great Slave lake and Peace river areas where some millions of acres are now under permit, and where a score of drilling operations are now under way.

In the Yukon Territory placer gold was first discovered in the Yukon river in 1869, but the world-famous discovery of gold on Bonanza creek, a tributary of the Klondike river, which made the Yukon world famous and which started the Klondike stampede rivalling the California gold rush of 1849, was not made until August 17, 1896. To date the Yukon Territory has produced approximately one-third of a billion dollars of mineral wealth for Canada, a great deal of this when gold was valued at \$15 per ounce.

The Mayo district with its high grade silver-lead-zinc deposits has been perhaps the most active mining field in Canada during the past year. Last year the mines in the Mayo-Keno area produced nearly \$5 million of mineral wealth and the production for this year is running at a much higher figure.

Further impetus to mineral development in this area will be given upon completion of the Mayo river hydroelectric project now under construction by the Department of Resources and Development. This will provide the district with cheap power, so that the vast mineral resources may be adequately developed.

Other parts of the Yukon, including the Whitehorse area, have been most active from the mining standpoint during the past year. We now have sufficient information to anticipate that the Yukon is destined to become one of the largest mineral-producing areas in Canada. It has long been the largest placer

gold-producing area in Canada. It also has large deposits of coal, copper, antimony and lode gold; interesting deposits of platinum, molybdenum, tungsten, tin and mercury; and intriguing possibilities for iron and petroleum. A large asbestos deposit of excellent quality has been discovered just south of the Yukon in northern British Columbia, and also a large body of tungsten ore near the Alaska highway in southern Yukon is awaiting development.

While the Yukon Territory covers an area of over 207,000 square miles, the Northwest Territories contain an area of over 1,300,000 square miles, or more than one-third of the total area of Canada. This figure includes, of course, the Arctic islands to the north. The mainland contains three main geological areas of which two are tremendously interesting for the production of mineral wealth. To the east of the Mackenzie river valley lies a huge area covered by the Canadian shield which contains the same kind of rock as that which has produced such famous mining camps as Sudbury, Kirkland Lake, Noranda and Flin Flon. This area has produced the well-known Yellowknife gold field and the world famous radium-uranium mine at Eldorado on Great Bear lake. Huge lead-zinc deposits on the south side of Great Slave lake are being actively explored. This region has promise of becoming one of the most important in Canada.

The installation of air services between 1935 and 1940 in the Peace river districts of British Columbia and Alberta, and the extension of these services from both Vancouver and Edmonton to the Yukon, on to Alaska, and into the Northwest Territories, have greatly helped in northwestern development. I cannot pay too much honour to the bush pilots who laid the foundation for the present great system of airways across the west and north. We need more air services. They should be extended in all directions. Airways are the keys to northern wealth. This is proved every day. Our great mining operations are serviced by air. Our armies are serviced by air. Air services out over the Aleutian chain are but extensions of the air services begun by the pioneers of aviation. I visualize the day when Canadian airways will be extended to all points of Asia and the south seas, when air service will be one of the great commodities exported by Canada. I hope that more and more young men may be trained to operate northern airways. Here again our defences will be made stronger if we have a great army of young men fit and trained to handle aircraft in war or peace.