

## EMERGENCY GOLD MINING ASSISTANCE ACT

EXTENSION OF APPLICATION TO YEARS  
1952 AND 1953

The house resumed, from Tuesday, May 13, consideration of the motion of Mr. Prudham that the house go into committee to consider the following resolution:

That it is expedient to introduce a measure to extend the application of the Emergency Gold Mining Assistance Act to the years 1952 and 1953 and to clarify the provisions of subsection five of section three so as to provide for the assistance intended when this subsection was enacted in 1951.

**Mr. Rodney Adamson (York West):** Mr. Speaker, the principle at stake in this legislation is a simple one. Should we in this house ask that the gold mining industry be bonused? A number of members have expressed the opinion that it is of doubtful value to dig gold from one hole in northern Canada and put it in another at Fort Knox or in some private hoard elsewhere. That is a justifiable doubt. I can sympathize with those members who feel that way because today the average citizen does not use gold and does not see gold.

**Mr. Gibson:** He does not have any.

**Mr. Adamson:** He does not have any.

**Mr. Weir:** He cannot eat it.

**Mr. Adamson:** Therefore they may question what good the entire industry is doing for the economy of Canada. The details of the legislation can be discussed in committee. At the present time I merely wish to deal with the principle of the measure. I think the first question we must ask is whether gold is of any value to the Canadian economy. I wish to give three reasons in support of the contention that it is. In the first place many northern municipalities are entirely dependent on the gold industry. There is a belt running from the town or city of Timmins for three or four hundred miles right through to Val d'Or which is entirely dependent upon the gold industry for its existence. If the gold industry ceases to exist each of these municipalities will become a ghost town because, with the exception of the base metal industry at Rouyn-Noranda, there is no other industry that would keep these towns in existence.

Therefore we have to make a decision whether these municipalities, towns and settlements are to be preserved or whether we should ruthlessly allow them to disappear and become ghost towns. From every point of view I think that would be an unthinkable action for parliament to take. The second point about gold is that it is the colonizing metal which has been instrumental in pushing the farm frontier northward. The great

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clay belt of northern Ontario and the great colonizing efforts of the government of Quebec are dependent upon the mining industry for the disposal of farm produce. These northern farms operate under climatic conditions somewhat more severe than their competitors in the south. They are much farther from the markets of the south. Therefore in order to exist at all there must be a market for their farm produce close at hand. The employment of men in the gold mining industry provides a market for the farmers' produce.

There is another point about gold mining and colonization. Gold has been the magnet that has developed a great part of this continent. It was the gold rush of 1849 that brought about the development of California and opened up the Pacific coast. It was the discovery of gold in the Yukon that opened the great Northwest Territories and the Yukon. It was the discovery of gold in New South Wales, Australia, that resulted in the development of the great agricultural industry of that part of that continent. The gold mines in that district of Australia have long ceased to exist but it was the magnet of gold which brought people into the area where they subsequently established a stabilized farm economy.

In reality it was gold in the Elizabethan era that prompted the Spaniards to develop the Spanish Main, and the English, under Drake, to explore that part of this continent. Gold was the magnet that brought the adventurer. Gold is still the magnet which will bring adventurers.

The third point is that in Canada gold has brought about the development of many other metals. Gold was really responsible for the development of the Eldorado uranium mine. Eldorado was originally a gold company. When their original deposits proved to be non-commercial in value La Bine and the others in that company continued their prospecting and discovered the uranium at Great Bear lake. Much more recently it was gold that brought the original prospectors to Lynn Lake, which I think it is fair to say may prove to be one of the great nickel producing areas of the world. So, Mr. Speaker, we have gold maintaining our northern municipalities. We have gold responsible for pushing back our northern frontier, and we have gold, the metal of discovery, bringing other metals into production. On those three counts I say gold is of supreme value to this country.

Let us look at it as a matter of dollars and cents, from the point of view of our mineral production last year. I include both ferrous and non-ferrous metals, oil and other minerals. Our total mineral production