

*The Budget—Mr. Fraser (Cariboo)*

Mr. FRASER (Cariboo): Now I come to a subject which is of greater concern to the province of British Columbia than are matters which have to do with agriculture. I refer to the mining industry, and in this connection I shall try not to take up too much time of the house. I believe the mines of Canada furnish one of the most important natural resources we have, resources capable of vast expansion. If cared for they will add very materially to the progress and prosperity of the dominion. The production in 1934 was very close to the all time peak of production in Canada. We produced minerals in Canada last year to the value of \$278,337,000, and that was up twenty-five per cent from the preceding year.

Now for the place that Canada occupies in the mining world. In the production of asbestos and nickel Canada stands in first place in the world. Canada stands second place in the world in the production of platinum, cobalt and radium. Canada stands third place in the world in the production of gold and copper, and Canada stands fourth place in the world in the production of lead and zinc. There is another factor which I should like to bring to the attention of the house, and that is that Canada produces more nickel than any other country, and probably more than is produced by all the rest of the world put together.

Now to come to British Columbia, in order to show that the mining industry in British Columbia is feeling some of the benefits of the policy of this government, I want to put on the record the production in our province.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver): Do you include the gold tax as a beneficent policy?

Mr. FRASER (Cariboo): I thought we fixed that gold tax.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver): I am glad you did.

Mr. FRASER (Cariboo): I think we will have to take some measures to fix you.

The mineral production in British Columbia in 1934 amounted to 307,700 ounces of gold and by the way let me remind my hon. friend from Vancouver Centre that the government did not impose a tax on placer mines, and placer gold mining is the principal industry in Cariboo. British Columbia, as I say, produced 307,700 ounces of gold in 1934, valued at \$10,480,000, and prior to 1933 British Columbia had never produced over \$6,000,000 in gold in any one year. In that same year, 1934, British Columbia produced 8,907,000 ounces of silver valued at \$4,197,800;

[Mr. Pouliot.]

340,700,000 pounds of lead valued at \$8,313,080, and 49,400,000 pounds of copper valued at \$3,566,630.

Let me give one other item with respect to the mining industry in Canada before I deal further with the province of British Columbia.

There are in operation in Canada at the present time seventy-three metallurgical mills reducing the ores of this country and extracting from them valuable metals. Of this number thirty-one are in Ontario, twenty-one in British Columbia, nine in Quebec, eight in Nova Scotia and four in Manitoba. Here is a remarkable thing, and I wish hon. members would take note of it and think over it for a few days and see what they feel about it. In all the seventy-three mills that are in operation in Canada at the present time the metallurgical processes in operation in each and every one of them have been passed on by the Department of Mines in the city of Ottawa. You have in the city of Ottawa to-day one of the most up to date and one of the most efficient mining departments that you can find anywhere in the world, and I think this government is to be congratulated on the efficiency of the staff which they have been able to secure to direct and experiment in connection with the mines of the Dominion of Canada. In British Columbia in January, 1933, we had eight of these mills in operation; at the end of 1934 there were seventeen, and at the present time there are twenty-one.

Just to give the house some idea of some of the mines we have out there in British Columbia let me call attention to the record of the Pioneer mine. The Pioneer mine in 1934 produced \$3,045,000 in gold. It has produced altogether \$7,957,800 in gold. It has paid in dividends \$2,940,540. The Pioneer mine employs three hundred men and supports six hundred persons. Its milling capacity is 400 tons per day. In 1924 this property changed hands for \$8,000. To-day its estimated value is \$21,000,000. Listen to this, you speculators!

Mr. CASGRAIN: What about the government?

Mr. FRASER (Cariboo): Order, Mr. Speaker, please. Listen to this. An investment of \$100 in the Pioneer mine in 1925 is now worth \$265,500.

Mr. DUFF: Not enough.

Mr. FRASER (Cariboo): Better than fish. Then the Bralorne mine produced in 1934,