

*The Address—Mr. Dumas*

diene, et ses jolis yeux doux" and follow up at once with "Oh ye'll take the high road, and I'll take the low road". I can assure you that anyone interested, no matter what his racial origin, can understand, the difference being that, as opposed to the lyrics of the song, the tryst is always kept.

Thanks to federal grants, the towns of Rouyn and Val d'Or now have municipal airports which allow quick transit to Montreal from our district. This service, which is provided by the Canadian Pacific Air Lines, is popular and necessary. However, to be as useful as they should be, these two airports require many improvements. Founded only a few years ago, the towns of Rouyn and Val d'Or have had to meet heavy obligations in order to provide their people with proper municipal services; they may, therefore, be unable to maintain those fields and improve them as they should be.

A look at the map of Canada, Mr. Speaker, will show us that, as the crow flies, Rouyn and Val d'Or lie along the air route which joins the great military base at Fort Churchill to the eastern centres of Quebec, Montreal, Toronto or Ottawa. The Department of National Defence would be well advised to develop those two airports, Rouyn and Val d'Or and convert them into advance bases for the protection of the industrial centres of eastern Canada.

If the county of Villeneuve is part of north-western Quebec, it is also fully comprised in that vast natural area known as the Canadian shield, and partakes of its economy. That V-shaped region surrounding Hudson bay takes up half of the Canadian territory. It includes part of the province of Newfoundland in the east, covers four-fifths of the provinces of Quebec and Ontario, the greater part of Manitoba, the northern sections of Saskatchewan and Alberta and loses itself in the Northwest Territories, at the mouth of the Mackenzie river.

Before the twentieth century it was said of that area, then a wilderness and an essentially Canadian region if there is one, that it divided Canada. As a matter of fact, the railways hastened to cross it to create an artificial link between the east and the west of Canada. The industrial development of Canada, which started with the first great war, has changed the economy of that region.

First of all, in Ontario, silver was discovered at Cobalt, then nickel at Sudbury, and gold at Timmins and Kirkland Lake. Then came

the tremendous discoveries of copper, gold and zinc at Noranda, Malartic and Val d'Or, and the discovery of gold at Red Lake in Ontario, of iron at lake Superior, of gold and copper at Snow lake, at Flin Flon on the border between Manitoba and Saskatchewan, and finally at Yellowknife in the Northwest Territories. These were followed by the discovery of uranium deposits, which are all-important for our country, and quite recently by the discovery of iron ore and titanium in New Quebec and Labrador. The Canadian shield, formerly so underestimated because its value was unknown, is now the arsenal of Canada and supplies the raw material of our industry in times of war or of peace.

The fabulous Mesabi iron mines in Minnesota gave rise to the great American industry. Economists already agree that New Quebec and Labrador will do the same for Canada and eventually for the whole of North America. Although not easily accessible these ore reserves would be easy to work. Already the preliminary work has been completed in order to build a railroad of more than 350 miles.

Within a few years, the St. Lawrence will see many ships carrying this ore to central Canada and when the deepening of this great waterway is completed, it will be due to the mining contribution of New Quebec. The tremendous amount of water power available allows us to foresee the day when electrical blast furnaces will be built and the ore smelted locally. At Sorel, in the Richelieu valley, such blast furnaces are being set up and titanium-bearing iron ore from lake Allard will be smelted there.

Spectacular though they be, those discoveries are but a beginning. To mention an example, the county of Villeneuve has been open to prospecting for twenty-five years but it was only in 1947 that the extent of the copper-bearing deposits of the East Sullivan Mines, Limited, near Val d'Or, was established. It is essential that prospecting be continued and any measure intended to facilitate prospecting will increase potential mining production.

While this district is rich in native gold-bearing minerals, it is also covered by an evergreen forest which supplies most of our pulp and paper industries and provides lumber for local use and exportation purposes.

The forest resources of the Canadian shield are to be found for the time being in