

—and that is what I mean by “exploring”—the work can be undertaken and is chargeable to this vote.

Mr. DIFENBAKER: That is my complaint, that you cannot convince the metals controller that Saskatchewan and Manitoba have these resources.

Mr. CRERAR: I would not say that.

Mr. HOWE: Saskatchewan and Manitoba are the biggest producers of base metals of any of the provinces, in proportion to area.

Mr. DIFENBAKER: Yes, developed by themselves, by private industry.

Mr. CRERAR: A moment ago my hon. friend asked me about Manitoba. There are chrome deposits in Manitoba, though so far not a great deal is known about them. There are evidences of tin in places in Manitoba, and I am told that evidence of tungsten has been found there as well.

Mr. MacNICOL: Up on lake Athabaska.

Mr. CRERAR: That is not in Manitoba, and I am speaking of that province. Several of these possibilities have been investigated under this vote. If a prospector came along with information in regard to claims that he had registered in northern Saskatchewan, and convinced the metals controller that he had a property worth investigating or exploring, to use the language of the vote, it would be investigated. That is the purpose of this vote. The ordinary business of development, of geological surveys, of mapping surveys, the work done in the mines bureau—all that comes under the civil estimates of the department. These are special votes provided to meet possible demands that may arise during the coming year for further investigation of these strategic minerals, and should not be confused with the ordinary estimates.

My hon. friend raised the question of the taxation of mines. Perhaps that question could be better discussed when the budget is brought down. If I were to express my own personal view, I think taxation in nearly all respects is too high to-day; and I have said publicly within the last two years that in a peculiar way it is onerous and heavy on mining development. If we are to secure the mining development that is possible in this country I think that matter must have attention, and I do not for a moment disguise my opinion.

As far as returned men are concerned, certainly they should be given every opportunity. I did not quite understand the point my hon. friend was making in that connection; I do not know whether he was suggesting that the

government should engage these men and send them out as prospectors, with the idea of getting into governmental development of mining. I believe the part of the government is to provide all possible facilities; that is, the geological surveys and information, the mapping surveys, and all the necessary technical knowledge which may be made available to the prospector, so that he can study it and go out on his search for metals. I feel sure that a great many of the men coming back from overseas will want to return to mining, because I doubt if enlistments in any other branch of our economy were heavier than in the mining districts.

Mr. SLAGHT: Hear, hear.

Mr. CRERAR: When those men come back they will probably go to those districts and we want to have as complete information as possible ready for them so that they will be able to expend their efforts on prospecting in a way that will help.

Mr. MacNICOL: I have a recollection of receiving from a man living west of lake Winnipeg in Manitoba a letter giving information about manganese. The hon. member for Lake Centre mentioned manganese and the Minister of Munitions and Supply stated there was none in Canada. As I recall it, I sent this letter to the Department of Mines and Resources asking them to write to this man and tell him where he could make a sample shipment of manganese. Having been in the iron and steel business I was interested in this matter, because I know how important manganese is to the industry. I am sorry I did not follow the matter up and I have no recollection of having heard from him again. Perhaps the minister could tell us if there is any manganese in northern Manitoba.

Mr. CRERAR: There is some evidence of what is known as bog manganese, but I am quite frank in saying that I do not know anything about it. It is found, not in rock formation, but in other forms. Several of these deposits have been examined, but they were found to be low grade and would not be practicable for the production of manganese.

Mr. GREEN: This vote is one method under which development work for the supply of strategic minerals could be carried on. I understand that this work is also carried on by means of advances made by the Metals Reserve Corporation of the United States. The minister can correct me if I am wrong in that. Could he tell us whether there are any other means by which mining development is encouraged, and could he give us some