

duty. We have in the Province of Manitoba valuable mining districts which are receiving a great deal of attention, and there is a considerable amount of machinery being imported. When I was in that district the other day, I was requested to press on the attention of the Government the subject of admitting mining machinery free of duty. Such machinery is not manufactured in Canada, and the revenue of the country is fortunately in that position that it can do without the duty levied on that particular branch of our industries. The development of our mining industries is a most important question. We have an enormous amount of hidden wealth in the country, and every encouragement should be given to those who are taking part in the development of our mining industries. So far as the question of coinage is concerned, I cannot express an opinion upon it, but anything that would promote the mining industry is, I think, worthy of the consideration of the Government.

HON. MR. MACINNES (Burlington)—I do not rise to make any speech on this subject, but I should like to draw the attention of the House to the fact that a large part of the profit made by the United States on the coinage of silver is by the issuing of a debased coinage. I think the House is indebted to the hon. gentleman for the very interesting speech he has made. It is a most interesting subject. What the profits would be on the coinage of silver or gold in this country I am not in a position to say. With reference to the other subject to which he alludes—that of the admission of mining machinery free of duty—I know that a very large part—in fact, nearly the whole of the machinery—that is required for mining purposes is manufactured in Canada. It is true that our manufacturers do not keep a stock of this machinery on hand, but they are always prepared and ready to accept an order to manufacture it. I believe there are one or two of the articles required for mining purposes which are not made in this country, and perhaps it would be advisable to make an exception in favor of such machinery as we cannot and do not make in Canada.

HON. MR. REID (B.C.)—After the remarks of the hon. gentleman from New Westminster, I desire to say a few words on one of the subjects to which he has

referred. I am glad that he has brought this matter up, and I can support what he has said, not because of any great necessity for a mint, but for what the discussion may lead up to—that is, drawing the attention of this House and the country to the importance of the mining industries, not only of British Columbia, but of all the Provinces of this Dominion. More especially I will endorse the remarks he addressed to the leader of the Government as to admitting mining machinery free of duty for a short period. As to the remarks of the hon. gentleman from Burlington about the manufacture of mining machinery in Canada, I have made inquiry, being more or less interested in that industry, and I find that there are some kinds of machinery manufactured in Canada; but if I were to give an order to anyone in Canada for plant to reduce the gold ore in British Columbia I would have to come over here and superintend the whole matter myself. I know that I would not get what I require unless I came. When I send to San Francisco for plant for certain kinds of ores, that is all that is necessary. I get the machine in its entirety—there is not a piece lacking. I have been for the last year trying to get the prices of different mining machinery. There are some articles that are known in British Columbia by their own peculiar names, and if I should send an order to manufacture them in this part of the country the manufacturer would not know what I wanted at all. For instance, in hydraulic mining, if I were to ask for a monitor of a certain size they would ask me what a monitor was; they would think it was something used in naval warfare. I would have to go and explain. In fact, they do not know anything about it. It is true they manufacture ordinary gold stamp mills. I do not know even in Ontario where they are manufactured. I think the least the Government could do to encourage this industry, which is a very large one and has not had the attention of this House and the country that it deserves, is to admit mining machinery free of duty. I fully endorse the remarks of the hon. gentleman from New Westminster, not, as I said before, because of any immediate necessity of a mint, but as a means to an end.

HON. MR. ABBOTT—I must confess that I do not myself feel competent to discuss