

were \$19,221.11, but if my hon. friend wants them for fluorspar alone it will be necessary to have that figure broken down. If my hon. friend is interested I can have my officers prepare that information and send it to him.

Mr. WHITE: That will be satisfactory. Then the minister stated that the amount advanced to one H. C. Miller was \$34,196, out of an appropriation of \$35,000. In connection with the advances to this man, could the minister give the committee any information as to what led up to the granting of this appropriation, just what has been done on the property, the amount of money he has actually expended, the production of fluorspar that has been developed, the amount that has been repaid to the department on this loan, and the manner in which it has been repaid.

Mr. CRERAR: Mr. Miller received \$34,196.89. I think that information was given in answer to a question asked by my hon. friend. His total repayments to January 31, 1944, were \$7,229.95.

Mr. WHITE: I have that information already in a return brought down by the minister on February 22. I should like the minister to give the committee some information as to how Miller came to get this appropriation, what led up to the granting of this amount of \$35,000.

Mr. CRERAR: The Department of Mines and Resources does not initiate these contracts, if I may so describe them, with these individuals. In the first place they are initiated by the metals controller. He hears, perhaps from various people, or from one source or another, as to possible deposits of these strategic minerals. In this case it is fluorspar, which I understand is used as a fluxing material in the production of high grade steel. The metals controller, in some manner of which I am not aware, learned of Miller's deposit and gave the particulars to the Department of Mines and Resources. The technical officers of my department examined the deposits, gathered all the data they could, and were in a position to say whether or not this was a property that might offer possibilities of supplying fluorspar. The next step was when the metals controller, supported by the director of the mines branch, made a recommendation to me as minister, and on the strength of their recommendation the order in council was passed providing financial assistance.

Mr. WHITE: Does the minister know that Mr. H. C. Miller, the man who obtained this money, is a civil servant? In an answer which

was brought down on February 11 to a question which I had asked it is stated that Mr. Henry C. Miller has been in the employ of the government since June 8, 1942, and that he receives a salary of \$3,720 a year and devotes his full time to his position. Under the contract drawn up and signed by the minister with Mr. Miller it is stated that Mr. Miller was unable to finance the development of this mine. In proof of that there is attached to the contract a list of the debts owing by Mr. Miller at the time he obtained this grant. I should like to know if Mr. Miller put up or supplied any of his own money in the development and operation of this mine.

Mr. CRERAR: I do not know Mr. Miller; if he were to walk down the aisle right now it would be the first time I would have seen him. I understand he is employed in some capacity in the oils and fats administration of the wartime prices and trade board, but I do not know what his duties were, what they are, or what they may be in the future. All I know is that the metals controller had reason to think that Mr. Miller controlled a deposit of fluorspar that would be of use in the war effort, that the deposit had been examined by the technical officers of the Department of Mines and Resources, and on the recommendation of the metals controller and the director of the mines branch of the department I sent a recommendation to council that gave authority to make these advances.

When the advances were made provision was made for the return of them in all cases at so much per ton of the product mined. The government also retained a lien on all tangible assets that were secured for development purposes. In some cases I anticipate that these advances will be fully repaid and there may be other cases where they may not be repaid. In any event the procedure was as I have outlined.

Mr. GREEN: Does the minister's department not make any check?

Mr. CRERAR: Oh, yes. When these deposits, whether it was tungsten or anything else, came to the attention of the metals controller he asked the mines branch to have its technical officers report on the possibility of getting useful results from a working of the deposits. That investigation was made; if the report was satisfactory the metals controller and the director made a recommendation to me as minister of the department, and from that followed the order in council that appropriated the money.

Mr. WHITE: I do not think the minister has answered the question I asked, whether or not Mr. Miller had advanced any of his