

Gold Mining

mere scraps of paper, with the world in the shape it is today, we are making a great mistake. Our reserves of gold held by the Bank of Canada, and to our credit by other banks, make our position very strong.

To get back to my own district, those who have developed gold mines there have made a great contribution to the development of the province. I think of one young man, out of dozens who could be mentioned, who financed the Pioneer mine. He was Colonel Victor Spencer, a veteran of the first war, who during the dull days of the thirties brought into operation a mine in the Bridge river valley which has employed hundreds of men at very good wages. By bringing that mine into operation he created a whole string of new industries; he brought about new demands for goods; he gave employment to all kinds of people, and was largely responsible for the extension of highways. The Pacific Great Eastern railway, about which we hear so much in British Columbia, is flourishing today largely because of the development of the gold mines at Bridge river, at Barkerville and at Wells, because these mines require great consignments of heavy hardware, heavy machinery, explosives, food supplies and so on. They are purchasers of trucks, automobiles, gas shovels, and all those machines required to carry on modern mining.

There was a time in the history of this country when people, reading of a new strike in the newspapers, turned over the paper feverishly to find out where the good news came from. Today, of course, the word "strike" has a more sinister meaning, and I regret that very much. But I will say this—and I am looking now at the hon. member for Kootenay West (Mr. Herridge)—that I do not think you will ever be able to pay a working miner too much. It is very easy for us to stand here and extol the merits of gold, to urge legislation along certain lines and so on. The men we should thank are those who

go down into the bowels of the earth and often risk their lives working under very dangerous conditions, despite all our modern safety devices. They bring to the surface the gold, silver, lead, copper and other mineral products which have made British Columbia the strong and prosperous province it is today.

There is one suggestion I would venture to put forward. I think we are neglecting an opportunity in this country if we do not coin more of our metal. On the Pacific coast when I first went there the \$20 gold piece issued by the United States mint was in common circulation. I would like to see Canada mint certain gold coins, especially in the year ahead as an honour to our sovereign. Then Canadians with their pockets well lined with \$20 gold pieces would be able to cross over there and share in the honour of crowning the sovereign. I think also as routine business we should coin more silver. I think our troops over in Korea—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order. The coining of money does not come within this resolution; therefore I would ask the hon. member not to refer to that subject.

Mr. Murray (Cariboo): Then I will move the adjournment of the debate. That will give me a chance to conform to your ruling more accurately.

Motion agreed to and debate adjourned.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. Fournier (Hull): Tomorrow we will take up Bill No. 93, to amend the Export and Import Permits Act. Then we will go into supply and consider estimates of trade and commerce and defence production.

Mr. Green: In that order?

Mr. Fournier (Hull): Yes.

At six o'clock the house adjourned, without question put, pursuant to standing order.