

Mr. McFARLANE: Are there any surveys planned for the southeast corner of British Columbia under that name?

Dr. HARRISON: I am not sure of the name. Just a moment. There is none by that name. But we are working as far south as the 49th parallel in south-east British Columbia. That is the area which includes the southern part along the Okanagan lakes.

Mr. McFARLANE: No, no; just in the eastern section, right near the Alberta border?

Dr. HARRISON: Yes; that is the work done by Dr. Leech and Dr. Price in the area extending west from the Alberta border, or boundary, to the 116th degree of longitude.

Mr. McFARLANE: I understand there are large deposits of phosphate rock in this area. Would you confirm that for me?

Dr. HARRISON: There are deposits of phosphate rock there, but I never heard that they were particularly interesting commercially.

Mr. McFARLANE: At the present time there are large quantities of phosphate rock required in British Columbia and I was wondering if there is enough there of commercial value to make it reasonable for a company to go in there.

Dr. HARRISON: I would suggest the best answer may be the fact that the commercial organizations are still importing phosphate rock. I know they have made investigations in that region and possibly are continuing; but the actual investigation for commercial exploration is not a function of the Geological Survey and is more properly a function of private industry.

Mr. McFARLANE: The angle I am getting at is the fact that if there are large quantities of phosphate rock in that area for commercial purposes would you encourage a company to come in there?

Dr. HARRISON: We would certainly bring it to the attention of the public.

Mr. HARDIE: I notice that you are going to do some work on Baffin Island this year. Could you tell us what geological surveys have been carried on prior to this time on Baffin Island?

Dr. HARRISON: In detail I cannot. However, I could supply the information for you. I can give you a general indication of what was going on.

Mr. HARDIE: Would you say there would be enough work done up until now to estimate an iron ore body on Baffin Island?

Dr. HARRISON: We have found indications of concentrations of iron on Baffin Island; whether or not they are commercial is outside the province of this organization.

Mr. HARDIE: It would not be from your branch that the Minister of Northern Affairs has received his information that there are 400 million tons of iron ore on Baffin Island?

Dr. HARRISON: I think this is a result of investigations carried out by prospectors in 1957 and 1958. I am not sure of the name of the organization, but a well known prospector named Ross Toms made some investigations up there and did find large bodies of magnetic iron. Whether or not this material is ore in terms of a commercial product is something I do not know.

Mr. HARDIE: Before Mr. Toms or any other prospector or group of prospectors could estimate the tonnage of ore in any field in Baffin Island would it be true they would have to drill?

Dr. HARRISON: Yes. I know drill rigs were up there last year.

Mr. HARDIE: But they just have not done enough drilling at Baffin Island to estimate there are 400 million tons of iron ore there?