

Mr. JOHNSTON (Bow River): It is no use trying to push off the responsibility on another government.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver Centre): That is the worst nonsense I have ever heard in this house.

Mr. JOHNSTON (Bow River): The responsibility lies right here. We have spent over a million dollars on the development, and the Minister of Mines and Resources has not shown us one pennyworth of value that has come from it, other than a little bit of construction.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver Centre): Mr. Chairman, I rise to a point of order. The hon. member for Bow River is quoting a lot of allegations which were made in a provincial assembly by a responsible minister of the crown. My hon. friend should do one of two things. He should either not waste the time of this committee by repeating statements made by a minister of the crown in a provincial assembly, who is not here to support what he has said, or make the charges himself on his responsibility as a member of this house.

Mr. JOHNSTON (Bow River): That is not my responsibility at all. If the minister had told me that about nine years ago I might have fallen for it, but not now. He knows, from the statements I have made, it is up to the federal government to do the investigating, not me. I am not the one in charge. I can only bring these things to their attention and, if they want to disregard them, that is their affair. My conscience is clear and whether theirs is is a matter of indifference to me. The charges have been made and they know them as well as I do. They know who made them.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver Centre): He had the right as a minister of the crown to follow them up, and he did not do so.

Mr. JOHNSTON (Bow River): The government and the Minister of Pensions and National Health have the information; why do they not follow it up?

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver Centre): Is my hon. friend making any charges on his own responsibility?

Mr. JOHNSTON (Bow River): I am just stating exactly what was said.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver Centre): The hon. member is taking this indirect route of quoting a provincial minister who did not have the moral courage to prosecute the charges he made in the legislative assembly.

Mr. JOHNSTON (Bow River): That is just the trouble with this government; they have not the moral courage to go ahead and hold this royal commission and call the minister of public works of Alberta as a witness. If they did that they would find out whether he is guilty—I am not trying to defend him—they could find out whether he is right or wrong. Mr. Fallow was quite agreeable to this. He would not be so anxious to appear before a royal commission; he would not have suggested that a commission be appointed unless he had good grounds for the statements he made. I think it is quite evident that up to date we have not had any actual practical results from the development carried on in Athabaska. It seems to me, and it seems to a great many other people that there is something wrong with the organization which was sent up there to do this work. The minister says that he is not competent to judge of these mistakes, and I doubt if he knows whether there have been many mistakes made. But he should investigate to see if such is the case. He should certainly get after those who are responsible and see that they are required to pay whatever penalty they should pay. He should appoint a royal commission and put the minister of public works of Alberta on trial along with the rest.

An hon. MEMBER: Call his bluff.

Mr. JOHNSTON (Bow River): Call his bluff, yes.

Mr. CRERAR: In the opening part of my hon. friend's remarks he referred to a shipment of sand sent to Great Britain, and he said something about some committee that had been set up, or some arrangement that had been made between the federal government of that day and a Mr. Lindsay. As a matter of fact it was General Lindsay who was interested in the project at that time. This happened many years ago, long before my period in office. The information I had is that the federal government of the day who controlled the resources were prepared to give General Lindsay and his associates leases on oil-bearing sands sufficient to enable them to carry on an operation if they could prove up a useful commercial method of extracting oil from these sands.

Mr. JOHNSTON (Bow River): Something like 1,795 acres.

Mr. CRERAR: So far as the evidence given by Doctor Ells before the reconstruction committee is concerned he said, according to the quotation which my hon. friend read, that he was not very familiar with the matter. I do not know whether the total experiments cost \$500,000 or \$5,000,000. The government of the