

*Emergency Gold Mining Assistance Act*

there as a source of tax revenue. The mines which are mostly located outside the town limits pay very little taxes. In finding moneys for the building of schools, sewers and all the necessary services of a community the municipalities must tax the value of the property owned by the townspeople. The industry is of little service to the community in this way.

The municipalities are also faced with the problem of having had the more highly skilled miners locate elsewhere. I worked in the mines for many years. When I left that employment in 1956 the base rate I received as a highly skilled workman was \$1.19. Workers in the uranium fields today receive at least \$1 more than that. Some receive as high as \$2 or more for the same kind of work. It is not surprising that many miners have left Kirkland Lake, Timmins and other communities to settle in Blind River, Elliot Lake, Geko and other base metal fields where the industry is paying a fair and reasonable wage.

We have all heard stories of the wages received by the miners in Timmins and Kirkland Lake during the depression years. If the mines are making a profit today in view of the increased wage structure and increased cost of equipment they have to buy and in view of the selling price of \$35, imagine the kind of profit they must have made in the days when they paid workers like myself 58 cents an hour. If one considers this one cannot feel very sorry about an industry that is always depicting itself as poverty stricken. In my own opinion the industry has cried wolf once too often for me to have much sympathy for it but this does not apply to the people who are dependent on the industry for their livelihood. If we are to maintain the industry, and I think we must at the present time, we will have to pay sufficient money so the miners will receive a decent wage and in turn can provide the municipalities with sources of revenue from which they can supply the necessary facilities in the mining communities. I suggest to the minister, and I may very well move an amendment to this effect, that in giving this money to the mining companies we add the stipulation that a portion of it will be given to the workers in the form of wage increases.

Let us consider the situation in one mine. The *Financial Times* of November 22, 1957, points out that Hollinger Consolidated Gold Mines Limited was recently paying a regular quarterly dividend on company's stock of six cents a share, plus an extra dividend of 20 cents a share. Distribution on the stock in 1957 represented a total of 70 cents a share with extras of 20 cents a share in March and six cents a share in June having been paid

[Mr. Peters.]

in addition to the regular six-cent quarterly disbursements. It also points out that for the five-year period from 1952 to 1956 distributions on stock of 25 cents a share yearly were made. The dividend last year was 22 cents and the profit was \$1,093,260. The assistance paid by you and me through the federal government was \$530,424.21. It is obvious that the mine also should have been able to pay their workers higher wages to provide them with a better standard of living than that which they now enjoy. The company could also probably have introduced a pension plan so that when an employee is no longer able to work he would at least be able to hold up his head in the community and live like a decent human being instead of hanging around a sanatorium with silicosis waiting to die.

Mr. Chairman, may I call it ten o'clock?

Progress reported.

**BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE**

**Mr. Martin (Essex East):** Mr. Speaker, I presume we go on first thing tomorrow morning with the estimates of the Department of National Health and Welfare. Could the house leader give us the business for tomorrow and also for Wednesday?

**Mr. Green:** Mr. Speaker, I am afraid I cannot meet the wishes of the hon. member for Essex East in this regard. Tomorrow we shall start with item No. 3 on today's order paper, which is the house in committee on a bill respecting the taxation of estates; then the Customs Tariff resolutions which come under item No. 22 on today's order paper; then item No. 5, house in committee on the act to amend the Excise Tax Act; then item No. 15, second reading of the act to amend the Financial Administration Act; then item No. 13, second reading of the act to amend the Loan Companies Act; then item No. 14, second reading of the act to amend the Trust Companies Act; then item No. 11, second reading of the act to amend the Income Tax Act; then the resolution appearing under "government notices of motions" on today's order paper which will precede a bill having to do with supply; then the three items under the name of the Minister of Veterans Affairs; and the resolution standing in the name of the Minister of Transport, which is No. 23 concerning the railway grade crossing fund.

**Mr. Martin (Essex East):** And on Wednesday?

**Mr. Green:** On Wednesday we may take estimates or we may have to deal with some