

process for making magnesium was not a good process. What happened? Private enterprise went in; one of my constituents—now dead—Mr. Segsworth, took up the process and developed it and made a great contribution to the war effort on that account. Then the minister mentioned another matter in which the national research council or his own department erred, namely the expenditure on the Abasand development. I remember talking with an official of an oil company some years ago when this matter of Abasand was brought up in this house, to a large extent by one of my own colleagues, and I was told then virtually that the process was not feasible, although there was no doubt that oil was contained in the various sands.

So, in view of the fact that everyone is apt to make errors from time to time, I believe, on the record as displayed by the minister himself, that the national research council should make its report to parliament or, if parliament is not sitting, to the public, so that we and our constituents may know of it. As I pointed out, one of my constituents took up the magnesium process where the national research council left off, and did a real job. So I believe that the council should make its report available to the public in short order, not in a period of fifteen months or two years.

Mr. HOWE: I have in my hand the report of the National Research Council of Canada, 1944-45. It was tabled at the session of parliament preceding this. I cannot give my hon. friend the exact date; I shall have to look it up. I am sure, at least I am reasonably certain, that this parliament will not adjourn before the report of the national research council for 1945-46 is laid on the table. It is published as quickly as it can be published after the close of the fiscal year, just as the reports of other departments of government are published. It so happens that the Canadian National Railways closes its year with the calendar year instead of the government's fiscal year.

Mr. JACKMAN: But it reports monthly.

Mr. HOWE: No, it does not report monthly.

Mr. JACKMAN: Well, it reports its earnings monthly, which is what we are interested in.

Mr. HOWE: I am sure my hon. friend cannot find monthly earning reports of the Canadian National Railways for the last twelve months. It just does not make them any more. He is thinking of the Canadian Pacific Railway company.

[Mr. Jackman.]

Mr. JACKMAN: No, I am thinking of the C.N.R.; and if the minister will read the evidence in the committee he will see where I made the statement.

Mr. HOWE: In any event, I think the matter of the report is somewhat exaggerated. No government department is required to report to parliament within a certain time limit, but as soon as it can prepare its report and have it printed.

Mr. JACKMAN: Now the minister is branching into new fields and streamlining the national research council.

Mr. HOWE: Let us take the nonsense out of this talk of streamlining. What new field am I branching into? I am setting up a corporation to patent discoveries of the national research council and market the patent.

Mr. JACKMAN: Is it new or old?

Mr. HOWE: It is new.

Mr. JACKMAN: That is what I said.

Mr. HOWE: That is all I am doing. We are told that a vast enterprise is started. But this is all that is being discussed under this bill. Another possibility I have mentioned is that a corporation which the government owns and bought as a corporation, not a government corporation, may have a home found for it under national research, and it may not.

Mr. GREEN: Which one is that?

Mr. HOWE: Eldorado Mining and Refining Limited, which has been a corporation for many years. It is wholly owned by the government, and there will be no change, whether it is placed under the research council, or the atomic energy commission, or under a department of government. It is there today. Then I mentioned that the atomic energy plant at Chalk River may very well be operated as a corporation. That is three, and that is all there is any intention of handling at the moment. One would think we were running the whole country by government corporations. It is perfect nonsense. I never heard a debate conducted in just this style in discussing serious matters, because the national research council is a serious enterprise, and all that we are doing here is to stream-line the work of the corporation at the request of the council which is responsible for these matters. Let us see whether we can use a little less extravagant language.

Section agreed to.

Sections 5 and 6 agreed to.