

would have to be done in the summer time. The prospector staking a claim would have an interest of 10 per cent in any mineral wealth discovered, which would give him some protection. It would not be fair to a company to spend money exploring the wilderness only to have some of his employees take the best mine and leave him high and dry. I am quite sure that if the Minister of the Interior will agree to a proposition along this line which has been already submitted to him the result will be the opening up of the Northwest Territories in ten or fifteen years instead of the one hundred years it will take under present conditions. I am sure parties could be sent in from Hudson bay to work west, and I have a guarantee from a firm worth millions of dollars, that they will put in other parties from the head of Slave lake and Bear lake to work east. As conditions are at present, even if a man discovers a mine it is no good to him out there in the great open spaces where only Eskimos live. You have to discover many mines, and if a high pressure survey were made you might discover sufficient mineral wealth to justify the construction of a railway from Nelson through to the head of Bear lake or Slave lake, where you have water transportation to the outside world. I feel inclined to submit such a proposition to the government and to ask them to give it some consideration. Personally I would support it, and if it were worked out in detail I think every member in the house would be in favour of it.

The oil regulations should be treated in the same way, because there is no doubt that Alberta has great oil resources. At the present time there is an oil well 1,500 miles north of Edmonton, or the same distance north of Edmonton that San Francisco is south of that city. This oil well was discovered quite a number of years ago, but it has been capped ever since because there is no way of using the oil and no way of getting it out to market. The oil regulations are so tied up with red tape that the big companies refuse to go into the Alberta field, and I would suggest that those companies be allowed certain territories in which they would agree to place a deep-drilling rig to test the area getting protection for a period of six months, so that gamblers could not jump in and stake leases next to the well. You must protect capital to a certain extent; while I do not believe in too much protection we must have fair play, and I am sure all these problems could be worked out in a way which would tend to the early development of the mineral and oil resources of the northwest.

Now, I would like to say just a word with regard to coal rates. I have been pleading with the government for reduced rates for a number of years and I was surprised to hear some of the members on my own side oppose the establishment of a rate from Alberta to Ontario. My good friend from Moose Jaw (Mr. Ross) had the nerve to get up and object to any rate being put into effect while he was sitting in this house. When the Hudson Bay vote came before the house last year it was supported by the Alberta members, although we do not expect to derive a great deal of benefit from the completion of that railway; some day it may be used for shipping cattle, but I am afraid it will not carry a great deal of our grain. At any rate we supported that vote, but now the hon. member for Moose Jaw objects to any rate on coal being established. The hon. member for Comox-Alberni (Mr. Neill) also objected. Can you imagine a man living on Vancouver island objecting to a coal rate being established east of the Rocky mountains? Our mines produce coal equal in quality to any you will find on the Pacific coast within 500 or 600 miles of British Columbia; we have never tried to invade that market because we were trying to enter Ontario first, which would naturally relieve the pressure so far as the coast market on the coast is concerned. The hon. member for Comox-Alberni, however, says, "No, no coal rate for Alberta coal to eastern Canada". I will tell him now, in the king's English, that so far as I am concerned, and speaking for the operators in Alberta, we are going into the British Columbia market whether he likes it or not, if we do not get into the Ontario market. We are making application to the railway board, but we have refrained from proceeding any further because you cannot ride two horses at once, and we thought we would ride into Ontario first.

Mr. NEILL: And then you will invade the other field.

Mr. BLATCHFORD: Certainly.

Mr. NEILL: That is just what I object to.

Mr. BLATCHFORD: We are going into that field anyway.

Now I would like to say a word or two with regard to immigration. I think the Minister of Immigration (Mr. Forke) has a big job to handle, and in my opinion he is handling it pretty well. Everybody is trying to advise the minister. Everybody has a friend he wants to bring into the country, and the minister is worried to death at all times.