

*The Address—Mr. Simmons*

experiencing a rapid and phenomenal expansion of our industrial and economic life. We are planning wisely, with imagination and courage, to develop the natural resources which God has given us, while at the same time extending social and cultural benefits to our people.

It will be noticed that from the Atlantic to the Pacific, from the iron mines in northern Quebec and Labrador, through Lynn Lake in northern Manitoba, lake Athabaska in northern Saskatchewan, Kitimat and Atlin in British Columbia, Pine Point, Yellowknife and Eldorado in the Northwest Territories, and Whitehorse, Dawson and Mayo in the Yukon Territory, Canada is moving northward in a big way.

At this time of international strain and tension, when the free nations of the world are once more girding themselves to resist aggression, it would be well for us to assess the sources of our potential strength. The solid enduring strength of Canada comes from the character of its people. Supporting this are the natural resources which come out of and from the ground. The insatiable demand for minerals, which is ever increasing, causes us to look around for further mineral supplies. Fortunately for us we have in the Yukon and Northwest Territories huge areas which have hardly been scratched, but which have every indication of being the last undeveloped reservoirs of mineral wealth on this continent. These indications have been known for a long time but the remoteness of the areas and the lack of adequate transportation facilities precluded development while more accessible mineral deposits were available.

The development of these resources to the advantage of Canada will be largely through the efforts of those hardy, courageous and resourceful prospectors who have played such an important role in opening the north. These adventurous men often encounter great hardships in their work, and at times find it difficult to finance their operations, from which Canada as a whole benefits. Mr. Speaker, I am strongly in favour of some plan whereby a bona fide prospector in the north would receive a measure of assistance from the government in financing his exploratory work. I am satisfied that the return to Canada in mineral wealth would justify this expenditure. Despite all the advances which modern science has made in improving and speeding up methods of geological investigations the prospector still has a most important part to play, for it is he who discovers the leads and does the pioneering work in uncovering the mineral

wealth. It is our responsibility to see to it that the industry grows with Canada, and that it continues to be enterprising, vigorous and increasingly productive.

There was never a time in our history as a nation when mining and the products of the mine were so vitally important to our safety and to our future in the world. Actually Canadians cannot be strong or remain free in the face of perils today without the products of our mineral industries. Mining in Canada is now a billion dollar industry. The value of its output passed that mark in 1950 for the first time in our history. We can all feel proud of its pioneering accomplishments, opening up new territories and winning over the wilderness.

Inflation can be checked by the Canadian people if they produce more, we are told by the Minister of Finance (Mr. Abbott). I hold that inflation can be checked if we produce more natural wealth in Canada. We are making our Canadian dollar strong when we in the north pour into the economy of the country gold, silver, copper, lead, zinc, wheat, lumber, fish and oil. Every manufacturing city and town in Canada shares in the market created by the development of new wealth beyond the great lakes, and in the northern areas of Ontario and Quebec. In the Northwest Territories, Yukon Territory and the western provinces, thousands of our young men are employed in new industries. More are needed. Nowhere in the world is there a better and safer place for capital investment. Money spent on frivolous things, on luxuries and vanities, adds to inflation. But money spent on picks and shovels, gas engines and other power units, on trucks and tractors, farm machinery and mining equipment, materials and equipment for the pulp mills, the smelters, the railways, airways and the ocean-going ships, goes to stop inflation and make our economy sound and solid. The implications of this on our national economy are very apparent. It is an easily accepted fact that, with such strides in our natural resources development, this nation advances to greater heights of achievement among the free nations of the world. Labour, manpower, commerce, transportation and natural wealth will be and are being benefited. The worth-while needs of our people are being satisfied, and our national importance intensified.

In all these developments our government has had a hand, has encouraged and supported free enterprise to build and develop the action of the pioneers of our industry.

The first gold brick produced in the Northwest Territories was poured at the Con mine at Yellowknife in September, 1938. The gold