the value of total exports of farm or wood products, and about 71 per cent of our total exports of farm and animal products combined. I mention that fact, Mr. Speaker, to show how vitally important the mining industry as a whole is to Canada. Furthermore it is axiomatic that if we are to become a nation we must have a population that can consume a greater proportion of our secondary production than heretofore. Therefore it is imperative that we have population. Many figures have been given in this connection. The United States bureau of mines and the chamber of commerce of the state of Utah have issued figures which are well known, and they have variously estimated that from ten to twelve people are supported by one man operating in the mines. A committee of this parliament which sat some time ago very conservatively estimated that a married man working in a mine gives employment to 4·6 persons, and that a single man gives employment to one other person. The Canada Year Book gives the figure of 112,000 people employed in the mineral industry, 64,000 of whom were hard rock miners.

So I want to say that any curtailment in this industry has a proportionately greater effect upon the economy of the country, because of what is known as the leverage principle, in that one man's job at the mine creates several men's jobs elsewhere. In Quebec and in the clay belt of northern Ontario mining and agriculture went hand in hand. Colonization followed the mines, and a ready market for all produce of the farms was provided by the mining communities. This pattern is a common one throughout the world, and it may be said that in Australia, the states of Victoria and New South Wales were opened up to a large degree by mines whose pioneer discoveries in the interior of these states brought about the development of an agricultural economy. Many of the mines in these states in Australia have subsequently ceased to exist, but they were in production long enough to allow agriculture to become firmly established. If the mines in northern Quebec, particularly the low-grade properties from Bourlamaque to the Ontario border, are forced to close, the agricultural and colonization efforts will also fail, because they have not yet been established long enough to be self sufficient if the immediate and local market is taken away from them.

Furthermore, because of the rigour of the climate, they cannot live off the land with the ease of residents in the southern states of Australia. Therefore we face an added calamity. Not only do we destroy great mineral resources, but we run the danger of making it impossible to develop our northern agriculture. This in turn will limit our population possibilities with its attendant out-of-balance economic structure.

I now wish to discuss very briefly the use of gold as a monetary metal and an economic stabilizer. What I am going to suggest will I believe answer all those who say that the government is generously buying a metal which is not desired anywhere else, and that the somewhat fantastic procedure of taking gold out of one hole in northern Canada and putting it into another hole at Fort Knox is a useless procedure. Actually it is the desire of the government, and it is particularly the desire of the United States government, to own much of the gold of the world that aborts the proper functioning of gold as an exchange medium. Gold may be worth $35 an ounce, it may be worth more or it may be worth less. But as the government of the United States was not prepared to free gold from its control it was difficult for the true world price of gold to be arrived at. Up to the present time it was reasonable to think that action in establishing of a free market for gold could be taken only by one of the major powers, more particularly the United States. However the drastic action that the Minister of Finance was forced to take last Friday night puts an entirely different face on the matter.

I believe, Mr. Speaker, we are now in a position to act independently. I believe, further, that we must do so. Canada faces an economic crisis of great severity unless the restoration and encouragement of the mining industry can be brought about. Mining, next to agriculture, is Canada's greatest industry. And after this hurt the reaction upon us will obviously be severe. Some people have suggested that an appeal ought to be made for a subsidy, and that the Canadian government should bonus gold to the extent of $3.50 an ounce. This is defeatist talk. I reject it, and I am sure that most gold producers would reject it immediately. What I do ask for, and I plead with the minister to give it serious consideration, is that a free market for gold be established right here in Canada. I make the following suggestions: I want to urge upon the government that in order to save the industry and Canadian economy in general, some immediate steps must be taken. I urge (1) that a free market for gold be established, and that buying and selling of this metal shall be carried on as the buying and selling of any commodity without any restrictions from any government agency whatsoever; (2) that corporations and banks in Canada have the opportunity of