

say that jobs cannot be procured under the present system, we must now be in a position of having a post-war plan established so that jobs shall be made available. This is one potential source of jobs, mineral development in Canada. We have potential resources in western Canada and an unequal economy there as at present constituted; and on behalf of western Canada I ask the minister this question: Will he not this year give the three western provinces an opportunity to share in the discovery, and in exploratory work incident to the finding, of these minerals, so that our economy may be developed on a wider and more comprehensive basis than in the past? In that connection I suggest that the department give to the Department of Finance suggestions in regard to relief from taxation to a greater extent than prevails to-day for the benefit of those who are prepared to gamble their wealth and financial future on exploratory work in the finding and development of mineral resources. Taxation as it now stands prevents the development of our mineral resources as we would wish them to be developed. It denies to the adventurer the willingness to gamble on uncertain profits. It denies the development we have at our door if we but took advantage of the opportunities that are ours. Through this vote, with the minister's cooperation, much good would result if he would be willing to give all the provinces—not only one or two of them but all of them—an opportunity to join in the development of our mineral resources through the extension, expansion and discovery of those resources. Only in that way may we be sure, particularly in this one phase, of greater employment after the war than there was before the war.

Mr. CRERAR: The first comment I have to make is that the hon. member for Lake Centre has not displayed the clarity he usually brings to bear in his contributions to the debate in this chamber.

Mr. SLAGHT: A little louder, please.

Mr. CRERAR: For the benefit of those hon. members who did not hear me I shall repeat what I have said. I am afraid the hon. member for Lake Centre has not brought to the discussion of this item the clarity he usually displays when he discusses matters in this house, and I think also he has confused this estimate with the ordinary civil estimates of the department. I am just as anxious as my hon. friend is to see mining development in the western provinces, but Alberta does not have within its borders any of the pre-Cambrian shield. The northern part of

[Mr. Diefenbaker.]

Saskatchewan has a substantial area of what is known as the great shield, and of course Manitoba has a much larger area.

My hon. friend seemed to be under the impression that under this vote we send out parties to search for strategic minerals. That impression is wholly wrong. This amount is put in here to be available to meet requests from the metals controller for the exploration or development of properties that may come to his notice. I sympathize wholly with my hon. friend's appeal that a substantial part of this money should be devoted to northern Saskatchewan, for instance, but we do not know whether there are any strategic minerals in northern Saskatchewan, and the purpose of this vote is not to discover strategic minerals. Its purpose is to provide for the exploration and investigation of proposals or suggestions that may come to the metals controller in regard to properties that already exist. Thousands of properties are registered; thousands of claims have been staked by prospectors and others who have no capital with which to develop them. A prospector may have a claim registered in Ontario, or northern Saskatchewan, or somewhere else. He will say, "I have tungsten on my claim". His reports are examined; his story is listened to, and if the metals controller is convinced that there is a reasonable possibility of getting tungsten from that claim the matter is investigated. The cost of that investigation is chargeable to this vote, and that is the sort of thing this vote is for.

Mr. GREEN: Is none of the money spent for prospecting?

Mr. CRERAR: No. Under this vote we do not prospect for properties, nor do we carry on geological surveys. Such surveys are carried on under the ordinary estimates of the Department of Mines and Resources.

Mr. GRAYDON: Why do you have an item in here for exploration when you do not explore?

Mr. CRERAR: My hon. friend is quite mistaken in his understanding. Let me illustrate. A prospector in northern Ontario comes to the metals controller and says, "I understand you are in very great need of tungsten?" The metals controller replies in the affirmative. Then the prospector says, "Well, I have several claims staked in such a township, and I have strong evidence of tungsten on that property." The metals controller listens to him, and perhaps has him tell his story to the technical men of the Department of Mines and Resources. If the metals controller is convinced that the property is worth exploring