

plied with. How long the United States intend to maintain that, in my opinion unreasonable, position, we cannot tell. That remains to be seen, but I am in hopes that this government will be able to induce them to recede from their present position.

The area of Yukon is about 200,000 square miles, and I should like hon. members to note that, of that area of 200,000 square miles, only about one-third has been explored. Of that one-third, only about one-half has been prospected for mineral, and from that one-sixth of that territory, we have produced to-day over \$200,000,000 in gold, or almost one-half of the total output of gold from Canada. When you realize that that amount comes from that small area, you will understand what wonderful possibilities there are for the future in those thousands of miles which show indications of mineral deposits.

The Yukon, as such, was created by act of parliament in 1898. Its boundaries were defined; it was cut out from the Northwest Territories. The Yukon Act became its constitution. The country was given a court and a local government. The court had three judges, the three sitting in appeal from judgments of any one of the three. Later that was changed and the court reduced to one judge, appeals now being made to the Court of Appeal of the province of British Columbia. The local government was composed of a commissioner and council. At first the council was appointive, consisting of the senior judge, the officer commanding the mounted police and other officials. The commissioner is directly under the authority of the Minister of the Interior of the federal government. In time the appointive council was done away with and an elective council introduced. The council has practically the same legislative powers as the legislatures of the provinces. It has no cabinet; the executive power is entirely in the hands of the commissioner. During the war, for purposes of economy, the membership of the council was cut down to three members, although it should be four, more properly to represent the whole country. I understand the government has that change under consideration, and I strongly recommend its adoption. During the war, the office of commissioner was discontinued, the duties of that office being vested in the gold commissioner or chief mining recorder without additional pay, and this arrangement still continues. The official residence formerly maintained in the territory for the accommodation of the commissioner was closed up dur-

ing the war, and it remains closed. The number of officials was materially reduced and offices were co-ordinated. All this was done in the interest of economy and to reduce expenditure of public money and the cost of government.

The climate of Yukon has always been a fruitful source of story telling. We really have there about five months of warm, bright summer weather. The rivers open early in May and do not close again until late in October or early in November. For three months of the summer we have continuous daylight and for two of those months we have almost continuous sunlight. This accounts to some extent for what is considered the remarkable speed of plant growth; but when one considers the quantity of sunlight to which a plant is exposed, the speed of growth is not so wonderful. The winter season on the whole is not so bad. Each winter we get a few weeks of extremely cold weather with the thermometer down to about sixty below; but that does not last and, indeed, some winters we escape the extreme cold weather altogether. The snow fall is light.

The Yukon is almost exclusively a mining country, everything else, including agriculture, depending upon the mining industry. It is true that agriculture can be successfully pursued, but that depends entirely on the success of mining. The country is so situated that there is no possibility of raising agricultural products for export; therefore you are limited by your local market. All sorts of vegetables can be grown splendidly. Wheat, oats and barley may be ripened, cattle are successfully bred and raised for beef; hogs locally bred and fattened on locally grown barley can be had on the market, and during the past year farmers have undertaken the experiment of sheep raising. Horses are wintered out, and without any artificial feeding or artificial shelter come through in good shape in the spring. That cannot be done in eastern Canada.

The Yukon is not looked on as a country to settle in; but a great number of splendid families have been raised there, and fine healthy children have been given their primary education, up to and including examinations for entrance to the universities. Upon entering the universities or going into the various walks of life in other parts of the world, they are found to be as well equipped with education as other young people of their ages. Good schools have been maintained in Yukon from the very earliest days.