

revealed insofar as they affect the economy of this country. I have no intention of getting bogged down again in sections and sub-sections of legislation enacted by the present and past governments, the wisdom of which have been questioned.

This is primarily a fishing country and the majority of our people is dependent on that industry. For years it was our only industry. But it is a fact, gentlemen, that the more diversified a country's economy, the greater is its chance of survival and if this report is instrumental in making our people more mineral conscious, then in my opinion it will have accomplished one important thing.

It is interesting to note that the Geological Survey has to date investigated some 27 different metals and/or minerals, and have published some 25 bulletins, maps and circulars on these investigations, some of which have been supplied you by the Committee. It has been shown that mining is the most highly paid industry in the country as far as the average wage is concerned. Over 3,000 men find employment, about 2,800 of these in the two major operations at Bell Island and Buchans, the remainder at St. Lawrence and Aguathuna. Last year these 3,000 men earned approximately \$6 million. It is therefore evident how important it is that no effort be spared in developing our known mineral assets.

It is encouraging to note that the LaManche mines may again go into production after lying dormant for some 23 years, and the possibility of a townsite near the asbestos deposit on the west coast, where another 1,000 men will be gainfully employed. This augurs well for the future and I feel that if we had more holes in the ground like those at Buchans and Bell Island, we need have no fear about being self-supporting. We have in Labrador one of the greatest known mineral deposits of its kind in the world, and as far as we can see at the present time, there is every likelihood that it will be in operation in two or three years' time. It is difficult for us to realise the magnitude of this proposed operation. We have never had anything approaching it before in all our long history. Imagine, gentlemen, in the unknown interior of the vast expanse of Labrador, a self-contained modern mining town five times as great as Bell Island, insofar as

production and population is concerned. A townsite served by an electrified railway over which will pass daily ten trains of 60 cars each, carrying some 40,000 tons of ore, in addition to the traffic necessary for the normal needs of the population. It is, gentlemen, as Mr. Smallwood expressed it yesterday, "a monumental scheme".

In view of all that has been said here these last few days, it is evident that there is some difference of opinion regarding the amount by which the treasury of this country is to benefit directly. As our chairman has pointed out to you, the information regarding the Quebec agreement came into the possession of the Committee since our report was presented, therefore we have not given you our considered opinions, but instead have presented you with all the facts at our disposal. Anything I may say is not necessarily the opinion of the Mining Committee. I am still inclined to believe that the 1938 act contained more advantages than does the 1944 act, insofar as Newfoundland is concerned. But then that is only a personal opinion, and personal opinions are apt to be prejudiced, and in fact we have had legal and expert advice on the subject and all tend to discredit that belief.

It is quite possible, that conscious of past experiences, we may be loath to believe the true facts when we are confronted with them. However, those who are supposed to know, and in my opinion should have the best interest of this country at heart, state emphatically that our agreement of 1944 compares favourably with the Quebec agreement, and that under the 1938 agreement the company could not operate. If we were to have this major development in our territory it could only under the terms of the 1944 act, and if we can believe this we would be justified in accepting this agreement in the best interests of the country as a whole. I fear that any arguments I have heard expressed in this assembly would be very ineffective as compared with those advanced by mining experts whose integrity has, we are told, been long established.

However, there is one point I would like to make; I find no equivalent in our act to compare with sections A and B, clause 3 of the Quebec act¹ which would on the basis of licensed areas have netted this country \$350,000 to date. We did not get that \$350,000. True we have the benefits

¹An Act to Promote Mining and Industrial Development Within New Quebec, 10 Geo. VI, c42, 1946.