

discovered by Harry Oakes, a gold mining prospector who came up from the States many years ago. He prospected in Alaska, came into Ontario and what happened? He was trying to beat his way from Toronto to Montreal and was thrown off the train by the conductor. He fell in with a Chinaman and he discovered the Lakeshore. That is one of them. It was the pioneers in Canada who discovered its wealth. The government probably assisted them later on. They did it here. They do it everywhere. Let us look at Hollinger mine — the one that is owned by Timmins. What happened? Hollinger controls probably the biggest gold mine in the world, founded by Benny Hollinger, staked by McMartin. The government had nothing to do with that. As far as mining is concerned, you have to have the pioneer spirit, the men to go out in the wilds. Someone went to the Labrador and found the ore, the government did not find it. The same thing applies to forestry. The government did not know what timber was on Crown lands. They give us some idea.

Mr. Smallwood It was only a guess.

Mr. Cashin In Canada they do not know what they have.

Mr. Smallwood Yes, they do.

Mr. Cashin Go down to Quebec, and they cannot tell you, or to British Columbia. In Vancouver, I was there 40 years ago, they do not know what they have there yet. It is being discovered every day.... As far as the Government of Canada coming down here is concerned, our people have to do it themselves. We have to get over the idea, whether we have confederation, or under Commission government or under responsible government or any other form of government, that if we are not prepared to pioneer and work ourselves, no government is going to feed us. Someone has to pay for it and it is generally the taxpayer. Whilst we appreciate the Canadian government's proposals — that is why I have sympathy with Mr. Smallwood here and it is unusual for me to say that — he is acting on behalf of the Canadian government. He is telling us what the Canadian government says — he has no more idea than I have....

Mr. Chairman That is not quite fair.

Mr. Cashin If I am unfair, that is the unfortunate position he is in; he is answering questions on behalf of the Canadian government.

Mr. Chairman He has been repeatedly under fire answering questions and giving interpretations. He has given interpretations as best he can; you may or may not accept his interpretations but that does not alter the fact that he gives an honest interpretation and in many cases he has been supported. For example, if I am in a courtroom giving an interpretation of some act, it is not fair to say I am the lawful agent of that legislature because I am giving an interpretation.

Mr. Cashin We are wasting a lot of time. The same thing has applied to every chairman of every committee; he automatically became a minister of the Crown.

Mr. Chairman Which is highly improper.

Mr. Cashin As chairman of the Finance Committee, I became finance minister overnight; same thing with the Economic Report and the other reports. We had questions fired at us, all of us.

Mr. Chairman You have been chairman of two reports since I have occupied this office, and I agree with what you say. But I suggest it is not only highly improper, but highly unfair. If you as a minister of the Crown had access to the information required, then there would be every reason to ask those questions.

Mr. Cashin That is why I say we are wasting a lot of time and not trying to finish up. I am not trying to close off the debate. We know the Canadian government may or may not come down; they have not given us any undertaking they will. It is not in the terms.

Mr. Smallwood They say that automatically they will come, if we go into confederation.

Mr. Chairman I would like to repeat that the procedure employed by Mr. Smallwood was ordained by this House before we went into committee of the whole at all. He was a member of the Ottawa delegation. He has been requested, and it becomes his duty while he remains as he is, to read and interpret the clause, and to answer any questions on the clause. It is the right of members to be satisfied or dissatisfied with his interpretation or any answers on questions addressed to him arising out of his interpretation. But I do not think, in fairness to him, it is fair to say because he is simply discharging a duty, he is acting as an agent....

Mr. Bailey Mr. Chairman, in regards to this fairness probably I did not make myself clear....