

the object of perpetuating our forest wealth. We must remember that the future of this country may mean nothing to transients but we are the trustees, so to speak, of generations to come.

Now we come to saw mills, of which there are over 800 scattered all over the country, and which mills produce over 50 million feet of lumber annually. This industry may seem at first sight of no great importance, but when it is considered that they provide an earning power of from \$1.5 to \$2 million annually, they become worthy of real consideration. I am informed, however, that in connection with these mills there are many millions of feet of lumber sawn on which the government has not collected or is not collecting royalties, and I suggest that a more business-like system of enforcing these regulations should be inaugurated.

In the report we have been able to touch but lightly on the matter of Labrador from the standpoint of its forest wealth, and even now I cannot hope to do justice to the possibility of this possession. It would be well for those who can only conceive of our country in the terms of the 42,000 square miles of our schoolday geographies to let their eyes turn to the north — to that great unknown, unexplored 110,000 square miles awarded us by the decision of the Privy Council in 1927. As yet, we have only scratched the surface of this territory, but our search has brought to light what may one day be regarded as one of the greatest single deposits of high-grade iron ore in the western hemisphere. I am, and have always been convinced, that the potential riches of the Labrador are beyond our most optimistic dreams and that in that part of our territory alone we have the guarantee of a permanent national security. Although we have had this territory under our sovereignty since 1927, a large number of our people seem to act as if they were unaware of its existence. In view of this it is not surprising that my fellow delegate, Rev. Mr. Burry, has found it necessary to make us Labrador-conscious and to drive home the point that when we speak of Newfoundland we must include under that term Newfoundland-Labrador. But, in speaking of Labrador, there is a possibility that I may be regarded as being prejudiced or talking for political reasons. So then, let me tell you what outsiders and particularly the Canadians think of our Labrador. I

quote from an article in the November issue of the *Magazine Digest*, which bears the following title: "America's Steel Mills Saved in Labrador". Then follows this sub-heading "The most Fabulous Iron Discovery on the North American Continent has just been made in the Frozen Wastes of Labrador." This article is too long for me to quote in full, but it indicates that both Canadian and American manufacturers will find new outlets for their products when Labrador construction and development get under way and the dead iron of Labrador will turn into gold, for exports of \$350 million in iron ore annually are a distinct possibility.

As stated in the report, the quantity of timber available on the Labrador is as yet unknown. However, estimates give it as from 50 to 100 million cords. All this timber is suitable for either the manufacture of pulp and paper or for export as pit-props. It has been known for a long while that there are inviting possibilities for the construction of a sulphite mill on the southwest coast in the vicinity of Baie d'Espoir. If such a proposition should materialise the virgin forests of the Labrador would ensure a constant and steady supply of raw material and such a venture should give additional employment to at least 1,000 men and an annual payroll of another \$1.5 million.

It is admitted that the timber areas of Labrador are the last available virgin forests on the east coast of North America, and for that reason it would be well if the present government would bear in mind the advisability of hesitating to make any further concessions, without a definite assurance that the areas would be developed to the benefit of the country and the people.

In concluding my comments on the report, I submit, Mr. Chairman, that the overall picture of our forest industry is one bright with hope and encouragement, and a clear denial to those who would say that our country is lacking in the fundamentals which go to the making of a rich and prosperous people. I am aware that we have other resources and industries which offer as bright or even a more promising future. As you will note from the summary of the report, there are at the present time some 14,000 people engaged in this industry, with a total earning power of some \$16 million annually. These figures speak eloquently for themselves; and as pointed out the future expansion of the pulp and