

Newfoundland

some reference was made to that power. Was that power given away to the iron people? That is something I should like to know. It is a big power resource.

Mr. St. Laurent: I am sorry to say that I have no information about that. It was an asset that was not being affected in any way by the arrangement entered into between Newfoundland and Canada, and we did not go into that question. It is, however, one of great interest and it may be that others have information about it. But as it was to remain under the exclusive control of the provincial authorities, in our discussions no inquiry was made as to what the position was.

Mr. MacNicol: They have control of it?

Mr. St. Laurent: They have control of it themselves.

Mr. Low: If the government of Newfoundland are to be expected to render their people the services they require, it seems to me that the resources will play an important part. If the provincial government finds, however, that it has control of only a small portion of the resources, then their chances of rendering to the people a high type of social services, and so on, will be much less than would otherwise be the case. In so many provinces, it was found after confederation that a large percentage of the resources had been alienated from the crown. I do not know what the situation is in Newfoundland, but it seems to me that the people of the rest of Canada should know just what it is. Can the Prime Minister give us some idea as to what portion of the resources has already been alienated from the crown so that they would not be under the effective control of the new provincial government? Perhaps, if it is possible for him to do so, he would supply the house with a list of the concessions that have been granted, together with the names of the holders of timber areas, land grants, or any other part of the natural resources of Newfoundland, and give us some idea of the extent of these particular concessions. I think this information should be on the record.

Mr. St. Laurent: I am sorry, but I have not that information here. I know that a large area of timber lands was made available to the company now known, I believe, as the Bowater's Paper Company. It belonged at one time to the International Paper Company, I believe. I think they have obtained a concession of large timbered areas, from which they expect to be able to get their pulpwood supplies for a long period. With respect to the other resources, especially those in the Labrador coast territory, my impression is that the water powers are still under

the control of the provincial government and will remain under their control. There have been a few mineral leases in that area, but my understanding is that the greater portion of those resources are still for the people of Newfoundland in the same fortunate position that most of the resources of Alberta are in for the people of that province.

Mr. Low: After the resources had been turned back to us in 1931 we found of course that about 52½ per cent of a good many of these resources had been alienated from the crown. That was true of oil. That is why today the people of Alberta cannot recover, for their own services, the royalties from those parts that were alienated. I appreciate the statement the Prime Minister has made, but I just wondered if it would not be possible to obtain a list of the concession holders in order to have it on the record. I say that for this reason. Some day the people of Newfoundland may come back and ask for a revision of the financial arrangement, at any rate. The people of Canada ought to know under what conditions they are operating. If the rest of Canada has on *Hansard* a record of the list of concessions and the extent of them, then the people will have at least some basis on which to form a judgment as to whether or not the Newfoundland agreement should be revised.

Mr. St. Laurent: I am sorry, but I have not that information.

Mr. Gillis: Can the Prime Minister give us any indication as to how the Labrador iron ore deposits are situated at the present time? Has the Newfoundland government granted the exploration rights in that area to a United States exploration company?

Mr. Howe: I understand that the rights have been granted to a company that is owned in Canada, with a minority interest in the United States. It is the same company that is exploring for minerals on the Canadian side which has rights in Newfoundland. It is the Labrador Exploration Company.

Mr. Gillis: I heard the accusation made from the other side of the house that the only reason Canada was now interested in bringing Newfoundland into confederation was that we were after the Labrador deposits. That answer given by the Prime Minister explodes that particular argument because Canada, through that exploration company, with a tie-in in the United States, now has the leases and the right to exploit those resources for the next ten years. I wanted that answer for the purpose of exploding that particular argument.

Section agreed to.