

matter of living conditions above ground (in the Buchans report they speak of the conditions the men work under), I was just wondering if they had gone into the matter of the underground working conditions. I don't see any reference to that. I don't know if you went down yourselves.

Mr. Higgins The members of the Committee were underground, Mr. Harrington, and, the members of the Committee are not miners, but it did appear to our inexperienced eyes to be all right. We heard no complaints.

Mr. Harrington Did you hear anything about this silicosis that's supposed to affect miners?

Mr. Smallwood Bearing on that, who carries out the Mines Regulations Act now? In the old days we used to get some member of the Opposition wanting to know how many men had been injured or killed in the mines, and who had handled it, and what compensation had been paid. In those days the Government Engineer was the only one to enforce that. What is the position now?

Mr. Higgins I understand there is not a permanent mine inspector, but there is a Newfoundland who is employed in Canada who comes down each year and inspects the mines. The actual post of Mine Inspector is not filled, but we were informed that it would be filled shortly.

Mr. Vardy In answer to Mr. Harrington's question, the members of the Mining Committee did go in all sections of the mine that they could possibly get into. I did not miss any opportunity to get to the lower depths, and I was pleasantly impressed by the conditions I found in every one of the cuts; and well out under Conception Bay you will find that there is a barn where horses are kept, which is much cleaner and much better than many human beings' houses in the city of St. John's. I have seen some of the places and I found the men quite satisfied. I was particularly interested in that phase of it because I am chairman of the Health and Welfare sub-committee, and I missed no opportunity, as our chairman can testify, and I have yet to hear a single complaint of the working conditions. There were complaints of the high cost of living, but not of the conditions under which they work.

Mr. Chairman Those who are in favour of the section passing as read please say "aye", contrary "nay".

[The motion carried]

Mr. Higgins Mr. Chairman, we have a slight correction in the bottom of the report. Mr. Thomas advises me today by telegram that the area leased from the AND Co. is 30 miles radius from center of shaft: "We pay running rates to AND Co. on 14 mile section of railroad from Millertown Junction to Buchans Junction. We own 22 mile section of railroad Buchans Junction to Millertown Junction." We hope you will remember that and make any necessary corrections yourself. With respect to the question that Mr. Fogwill put concerning the Labrador report, I have since asked the government geologist the position with respect to that \$6 figure we quoted in our Labrador report, and we were informed that that figure is that quoted by the Lake Superior Iron Ore Producers Association. That would be the association of all iron ore producers in the Lake Superior district. That is the f.o.b. value of Lake Superior ores of 51% iron, the iron ore being laid down at Lake Superior ports. Mr. Howse informs us that you have to figure into that \$6 price the moisture, silica, manganese and phosphorus, there is a deduction made for these. As you will remember the sulphur and phosphorus content of the Bell Island ore is quite high in comparison with the Lake Superior ore, and that would mean that off that \$6 you would have to take all those deductions. Mr. Howse did not have the time to give me all that, but his opinion was that \$2.55 is a very fair price. That is the figure we submitted in our report. Now Mr. Chairman shall we go on to fluorspar, St. Lawrence?

[The Secretary read the section concerning fluorspar at St. Lawrence]

Mr. Smallwood On the first page, the third paragraph: "The second largest known field of fluorspar is in Newfoundland at St. Lawrence". Does that mean the second largest in the world?

Mr. Burry That's the information we received from Mr. Poynter, that it was the second largest known in the world.

Mr. Higgins By the way the refrigerant mentioned, freon, Mr. Poynter says that practically every man who has a refrigerator in his home has some of the Newfoundland fluorspar in it. This is a point of interest.

Mr. Smallwood Do they pay the same type of taxes as the other companies?