

lands from ~~the~~ committee was appointed to lay the views of the meeting before you.

The committee gladly recognize the interest always shown by the Ontario Government in the development of the mining districts of the Province and feel confident that in order to remove any disadvantages the people of those districts may be under at the present time they have only to bring the matter to your attention.

The Mining Act has in the past worked very well, and given general satisfaction to the residents of the district, and with the amendments which are deemed necessary and to which the committee would draw your attention, the present act will be much more in the interests of the people of the Province than a new act changing what has been in the past the settled policy of the Government.

The first change that our committee would suggest is that in the future when an application is made accompanied by the usual affidavits the applicant shall have the first privilege of purchase for a period of 30 days only, and in the event of the purchase money not being paid and the purchase completed within 30 days the location shall be open to other applicants as if no prior application had been made.

(2) That a prospector may upon filing an affidavit of the discovery of mineral and paying a fee of five dollars be granted a certificate entitling him to hold the land (not exceeding 80 acres) upon which the mineral has been found for one year. Such certificate to be granted upon the condition that the party applying therefor shall forthwith do at least \$100 worth of work upon such land and furnish the department with satisfactory proof thereof. And if these conditions are complied with, and within one year from the date of the granting of the certificate the party holding it pays the purchase money, he shall become the owner of the lands. If the conditions are not complied with and the purchase money not paid, the certificate to be cancelled. No person to be permitted to hold more than two certificates at any one time.

(3) That it will be greatly in the interests of this district, if the territory described in the order in Council of November 29, 1890, be declared a mining district and an office opened at Sudbury, where all business can be done and an official appointed to settle disputes and examine when necessary into all rival claims on the ground.

The committee feel confident that these changes which they have been instructed to recommend to you will, if made, tend to encourage prospectors to discover minerals and promote the development of the mining districts of this Province. We would respectfully submit that any change by which mineral lands would be disposed of in the same manner as timber lands now are would discourage the actual workers and probably lead to the mining districts of our country being locked up for many years in the hands of one large monopoly.

A royalty on the ore produced or an increase in the price of land would also tend to limit the number of those engaged in the work and thus check development.

In many States of the Union regulations similar to those recommended are in force, and much of the mineral development there is, we believe, due to them.

We submit these recommendations trusting that they may meet with your approval and in confidence that your policy will in the future as in the past result in the development and building up of the great mineral interests of our Province.

Mr. Loughrin explained that the meeting at which this committee was appointed had been called at his suggestion, and that he had told the people that, if they didn't want the whole earth but were prepared to adopt reasonable views, they would have a good chance of getting what they asked for. He had the honor to represent this great mineral region, but he did not pretend to have the knowledge necessary to discuss the questions at issue, and he asked Mr. Conmee to speak.

#### The Prospector's Place.

Mr. Conmee gave it as his opinion that it would not be the interest of the mining industry if the mining lands were dealt with in the same manner as the timber lands were now. They had to have the prospector find out where the mineral was before any development could take place, and the prospector should be encouraged in every reasonable way. The Sudbury district had long since been surveyed and had been examined by the geologists of the survey at Ottawa, but no important discoveries of mineral were made. Even the building of the Canadian Pacific failed to bring to light the mineral resources of that district. It was only by the energy and perseverance of the prospector that this hidden wealth was brought to the knowledge of the world. He pointed out further that a mining venture was very hazardous, that a plant once established represented so much money actually sunk, for it could not be removed to another location and urged to treat other ore even a short distance away. It was calculated by experts that the life of a mine was about ten years. In that time not only must there be enough produced to pay interest, but also to repay the capital expended. Otherwise there would be a loser. There had been but little mining development in Canada thus far and it was of the utmost importance that the attention of capitalists and miners now directed to Ontario should not be diverted. He expressed his own dissent from that part of the resolutions which, as he understood it, would allow the capitalist to buy and hold unlimited quantities of land, while the prospector was required to do \$100 of work before he could hold his claim for more than a year. All should be compelled to make affidavit that they had discovered minerals and to do development work under proper regulations.

#### A School of Mines.

Mr. Stobie was called upon. Without venturing to outline a policy, he would, he said, give them some of his experience as an explorer. He had been prospecting since 1885, and at

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first he was looked upon as a crank, his specimens were treated as useless and his expectations of great mineral wealth laughed at. After some time he sold out the Stobie mine to Mr. Ritchie for a small sum, that he might have capital to go on with his work. Even Dr. Peters, when he was designing the smelters now in operation, was told that the works would never pay. Now the impression was that the prospectors were all millionaires. As a matter of fact comparatively few had met with success, and some good men who had worked faithfully for three years had made nothing out of it. He suggested, in addition to what was said in the requisition, that the Province should take in hand the work of educating men to be practical miners, so that, knowing the work of smelting, they could establish smelting works on comparatively small capital. Mr. Hardy suggested that this could be learned by young men working at the smelters already in existence, but Mr. Stobie said a man might work about a smelter for years and not really learn anything about the process or the scientific principles involved. This proposition of Mr. Stobie was discussed at some length, partly as a school of mines and partly as a custom or experimental smelter, at which the owner of a mine could get his ore smelted. Mr.

Ryan pointed out that these features were united in the institutions of some of the mining States. Mr. O'Connor dwelt upon the advantage to the poor man of such an institution, enabling him to have the ore he took out of his mine reduced to a form in which he could sell it. In this connection Mr. Conmee pointed out that such an institution could be made nearly if not quite self-sustaining, by a charge upon the ore smelted, for at present men desiring to know what they had in a mine had to send shipments out of the country at great expense to have a test made. The mere assaying of a hand specimen proved nothing. More extensive tests had to be made, and these the owners of locations were ready to pay for.

The Attorney-General, on behalf of the Government, assured the deputation of their deep interest in the great question of mineral development, and thanked them for their attendance.

## THE ADVANCE OF EDUCATION.

### The Annual Report of the Minister,

HON. GEORGE W. ROSS,

### A Special Report on the French Schools.

Use of Bi-Lingual Readers—Training of French Teachers—Growth of the Public School System.

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The report of the Minister of Education for the year 1890, together with the statistics for 1889, has been laid before the House. It gives the school population of the Province for 1889 as 616,028, of which number 500,815 pupils were registered, 263,047 were boys and 237,768 girls. The school population that year was only 675 more than in 1888; the number of pupils registered had, however, increased 4,492. The average attendance in rural sections was 47 per cent. of the registered attendance, while in towns it was 60 per cent. and in cities 64 per cent. With regard to the average attendance as compared with the registered attendance, the report says it is evident that the power conferred upon trustees to compel the attendance at school of children between the ages of seven and thirteen years is not exercised. In 1882 the number of absentees between the ages named was 87,444; in 1889 they numbered 86,515. There are now 5,677 school houses in the Province. Notwithstanding the large expenditure for school sites and buildings and the large increase in the teaching staff of the country, the cost per pupil has but slightly advanced in thirteen years. The average cost per pupil on the number enrolled in 1889 for counties was \$7 14; for cities, \$15 35; and for towns, \$9 19, or an average of \$8 44 for the Province. In 1877 the average cost was for counties, \$6 01; for cities, \$7 52; for towns, \$6 51; or an average of \$6 26 for the Province.

The number of Roman Catholic schools open during the year were 243, the number of pupils 32,790 and teachers 546.

#### High Schools and Collegiate Institutes.

The number of High Schools, including collegiate institutes, was 120, with 18,642 pupils and 427 teachers. The report refers