

\$15,000. It was paid for 1896 output \$5,000, and for 1897 \$1,603 95, and it claims for 1898 \$8,654 27, but the proofs of claim have only been received to-day."

Mining Locations.

Dealing with the subject of mining development, Hon. Mr. Gibson said:—"In 1898 the Crown disposed of 798 locations, having a total area of 68,440 acres. There were sold 292 locations with an area of 19,529 acres, and there were leased 506 locations with an area of 48,911 acres. The revenue from sales was \$40,468 87, from leases on account of the first year's rent \$48,063 63 and from rental of leases issued prior to 1898, \$9,429 62, or a total of \$97,962 12. For the seven years, 1892-98, the number of locations sold has been 1,171 with an area of 81,618 acres, and the number leased has been 1,908, with an area of 196,453 acres, being in all 3,079 locations, with an area of 278,071 acres.

The revenue from sales during the seven years has been \$172,306 87, and from the first year's rent \$192,043 66. Adding rents subsequent to the first year of lease (31,111 03) the revenue from mining lands sold and leased has been \$395,461 56, which, together with miners' licenses, fees, etc., collected in the Michipicoton mining division in 1897-8 (\$6,244 50) make an aggregate for the seven years of \$401,706 06.

"Under the act of 1891 the price of mining lands ranged from \$2 to \$4 50 per acre, and by the act of 1892 the maximum price was reduced to \$3 50. In 1894, owing to the business depression of that time, the prices were further reduced to a range of \$1 50 to \$3. The present buoyancy of trade and business with the accompanying activity in mining enterprise appears to justify a small increase. Prices and rentals are graduated according to distance of lands from railways and the situation as to surveyed and unsurveyed territory. Discovery and development in the older parts of the Province within the last three or four years, and notably the proven occurrences of gold ore and corundum in large quantities, justify the course taken in the bill of abandoning the distinction of different prices and rentals for mineral lands in the older and newer portions of the Province.

Encourages Exploration.

"The provision in section 3 of the act is intended to encourage exploration in parts of the Province far distant from surveys and settlements. The cost of taking a survey 20, 50 or 100 miles acts as a deterrent on exploration in unknown districts, but if the prospector is allowed to stake out a location and is required to do substantial development work upon it within two years, he will be able to satisfy himself as to its value before incurring expense for a survey, or paying in the purchase price or first year's rental as he is obliged to do under the mines act. The area of unexplored lands in the Province is probably not less than 100,000 square miles, and it is very desirable that opportunity should be given for examination of it upon the easiest terms, and under conditions to prove what it may be worth as a mineral-bearing country.

Gold Bullion Produced.

"The production of gold bullion in the Province during the year 1898 was 16,075 ounces, worth \$271,906 48, not including the output of one mine for which the returns have not yet been received. Compared with 1897 it is by weight 4.633 ounces, and by value \$31,662 48 more

than in that year. Extensive development work was carried on in various parts of the Province last year, and with the mills now in course of erection it is hoped that a large increase in production will be shown this year.

Copper and Nickel.

"There was produced at mines and works in the Sudbury district last year over 40,000,000 pounds of matte, the metal contents of which are computed at 8,373,560 pounds of fine copper and 5,567,690 pounds of fine nickel. At the selling price of matte at the works the value of copper was \$268,080 and of nickel \$514,220, being in all \$782,300. The industry employed 609 men, whose earnings for labor were \$315,501. During the seven years, 1892-98, the aggregate production of the Sudbury mines has been 34,570,560 pounds, and of nickel 30,705,190 pounds. The value of copper computed at the selling price of matte at the works has been \$1,302,805, and of nickel \$3,294,060, being for both metals in the seven years \$4,596,865. The amount of wages paid for labor in the seven years has been \$1,929,894."

In his concluding remarks, Mr. Gibson stated that the work of the Mining Bureau was greatly increasing. The establishment of new mining enterprises here and there all over the Province had necessitated further work and imposed further responsibility upon not only the officials but the head of the department. While that was the case, however, the increased mining activity which prevailed all over the Province might be considered a source of congratulation.

Mr. Matheson admitted that the principle underlying the resolutions which had been submitted to the House was a good one. He doubted the wisdom, however, of giving a bonus for the use of any very large quantity of foreign ores.

Mr. Whitney strongly approved of the resolutions. The policy embodied in them was a measure of judicious protection which the Government was justified in extending to this industry. He was sorry Mr. Pattullo was not present, because he would like to have heard what that gentleman had to say in regard to the Government's policy of protection.

The resolutions were reported, and the bill amending the mines act was read a second time.

Prorogation Uncertain.

Mr. Whitney wished to know what the chances were of proroguing before Easter.

Hon. Mr. Hardy could not give any very definite information. By sitting next Friday and Saturday the business of the House might be closed at the end of the week, but a lot of printing would require to be done before prorogation could take place. The Municipal Committee would sit as late in the week as Wednesday morning, so that it would be seen there was still considerable business to be dealt with.