

history of the Province in that connection. They all realized the great advantage of developing our own raw materials in the Dominion of Canada. The most sanguine estimates yet made of our mineral wealth fell far below the real wealth which our Province possesses in its mines. There were indications from every quarter that we were on the threshold of a wonderful development. So far as iron was concerned, the industry was showing great activity, with a large smelter in Hamilton, another at Deseronto, and another in course of erection at Midland, and plans for still another at Collingwood. Arrangements were also being made for one at the Sault. These were indications of the turning of capital toward the iron industry of the Province.

The Nickel Industry.

Activity was also noticeable in the nickel industry. At the Sault there was a very large manufacturing concern in process of erection for the purpose of refining it and making nickel steel rails. In Hamilton there was a project of the same character. The Government were very anxious in their changes in the law to do all they reasonably could toward the treatment and refining of ore in our own country. They believed this would be a great boon not only to new Ontario, but would also increase business in old Ontario. Their endeavor was also to remove various inequalities which existed under the present law. They proposed to abolish all royalties. At present certain lands were liable to royalties, others were free, while a third class had a different royalty. No royalty money had ever been collected under the act, and it would be some time in the future before revenue would be derived from it; yet it was contended that the land's liability tended to discourage capital investing in the industry. The Province had received no benefit from the royalty, and no harm could come from revoking it.

It was proposed to ask the House to grant power, which could be placed in operation by proclamation, for the purpose of imposing a mining tax upon the ore mined throughout the Province. This was so framed that the different classes of ores are put under different headings, and discretionary power, when approved by the House, would be taken, by which certain ores, as already outlined in *The Globe*, would be placed under the operation of this act. The steps to be taken toward establishing industries in the Province would not be intended to in any way destroy those already existing, but the discretionary power was to be exercised at the proper time, so as to assist in having the refineries placed here, and also at some time in the future to impose a tax for revenue. In keeping with the popular sentiment of the day, and also with a view to the probable use of nickel steel for the British navy, there was a preference in favor of ore sent to any other colony or to Great Britain to be refined.

Mr. Matheson—Does the tax apply to those lands already patented?

Hon. Mr. Davis—Yes, the proposition is to remove all royalties and put all lands on the same level, and in the

future apply a tax if it is thought advisable. Where the refining is done in Canada the tax may not be collected or it may be remitted. That is a proposition of importance in connection with the general policy which has been laid down.

There were also, Mr. Davis said, provisions dealing with the use of explosives, and for the first time regulations were to be put on the statute books with a view to saving life in this connection.

Mr. Whitney—Is there provision that nickel matte must be refined in Canada?

Mr. Davis—Not directly. It is hoped to obtain that result by the imposition of the tax.

The Thedford License.

Mr. Marter (North Toronto) moved for a return of correspondence relating to the issuing of a second liquor license in the Village of Thedford, Riding of East Lambton, for the year 1900. He declared no census had been taken to show there was sufficient population to warrant it. Hon. Mr. Stratton said the license had only been granted by the board on a petition being received signed by nearly every resident of the village. At the last census there was a population of 616; therefore under the act they were entitled to two licenses. Mr. Marter read a letter from Mr. E. Parkinson of Thedford, his informant, imputing political influence as the reason for the license being granted, a statement Mr. Stratton met by again referring to the fully-signed petition. The motion, however, passed.

Trading Stamp Tax.

Mr. Farwell (East Algoma) moved the second reading of his bill empowering municipalities to impose a tax on trading stamp concerns. Hon. Mr. Gibson pointed out that the possible tax, \$2,000 a year in cities, was extraordinary. Hon. Mr. Harcourt declared the bill uncalled for, and said he would like to know who were asking for it. The bill was then withdrawn.

Trustees' Annual Statement.

Mr. Wardell (North Wentworth) moved the second reading of his bill to amend the Surrogate Courts act by compelling trustees under wills, codicils or other testamentary document to give an annual account of their dealings with the trust funds. The Attorney-General said he did not think there was any demand for this bill on the part of the public. He proposed to introduce a bill extending the powers of the Surrogate Judge so as to enable any trustee to pass his account before the Surrogate Judge from time to time. Mr. Whitney and Mr. Foy also opposed the bill, and it was declared lost on a division.

Mr. Lucas (Centre Grey) moved the second reading of his bill to enable municipalities to issue debentures for a sum which with interest coupon for the year will make \$100. The Attorney-General said it should go to the Legal Committee for consideration, and the motion carried.