

efficiency. This was particularly sought to enable them to carry on work with the women and girl prisoners, whose claims were presented by Mrs. Bellamy.

Metropolitan Bill Considered.

The Metropolitan Railway bill was discussed at length in the Railway Committee of the Legislature. The disputed point was the right of the company to make a connection with the Canadian Pacific Railway at North Toronto, and run a freight line up Yonge street, and down to the St. Lawrence Market. The discussion was long and thorough, and ended in its being referred to a sub-committee for further investigation. It was apparent at their investigation.

It was announced at the close of the meeting that the Toronto Rapid Transit Company bill, erstwhile Elevated Railway Company, had been withdrawn.

Waggon Road to Hudson Bay.

Messrs. Robert Jaffray, J. K. Kerr, Q.C., and other gentlemen representing the Ontario, Western & Hudson Bay Company waited upon Hon. Geo. W. Ross yesterday and asked that the Government permit the transfer of \$1,000 a mile from the subsidy granted the company last session in order to secure the construction of a waggon road from Missanabic, on the C.P.R., to Moose Factory, on Hudson Bay. The company propose, if their application is acceded to, to run a weekly stage for five years from Missanabic to Hudson Bay. In winter time sleighs will be run as far as Moose Factory. During the summer months a coach will travel to the head of Moose River, and from this point the company will operate two steamers to Moose Factory. The Premier promised a consideration of the application.

OBJECT TO MINING BILL.

Deputation Representing Various Interests Object to the Optional Tax—Say it Will Scare Capital.

A deputation representing various branches of the mining interests waited on the Government last evening to protest against the provisions of the new mining bill, on the ground that the optional tax is a scare which will deter the investment of capital. Among those present were Major R. G. Leckie, Sudbury, representing nickel and copper interests; Messrs. Leopold Meyer, zinc; Charles L. Meyer, iron; B. T. A. Bell, Ottawa, Secretary Canadian Mining Institute; J. M. Clark, Q.C., representing Dr. Mond's nickel process; W. F. Black, Great Lakes Copper Company, Sudbury; Mr. Caldwell, iron in Lanark County.

Mr. Bell argued that the tax would cripple the mining industry, and would result in the closing of a great many mines. Major Leckie contended that to have to pay a tax on the output would crush copper mining altogether. Friends of his who intended buying

copper lands in Ontario were now holding back to see the result of the measure. Mr. Leopold Meyer referred to some persons of wealth who had proposed putting money in zinc, but who immediately came out when they saw this bill. Mr. Charles L. Meyer said the 50-cent tax on iron hanging over their heads would cause them to stop their mines.

"You had the royalty hanging over your heads all the time before," interposed Premier Ross. "You are making a rise out of us."

"It puts us into a very hot box, anyway," replied Mr. Meyer. Mr. Caldwell said if it was right to tax the minerals it was right to tax the crops. He said capitalists did not want to spend money for fear the tax would come into force.

Mr. Bell interposed to say that the agitation for compulsory refining of nickel in Canada was a great aggregation of utter nonsense in appealing to the patriotism of the country, and that "it had been created by an interested party, an old shareholder of the company." Mr. Black pointed out that the capitalist interpreted the act as he found it.

Hon. Mr. Davis said he had already stated there was no intention of putting the tax in effect on iron. In reply to his question, the members of the deputation expressed their satisfaction at the provisions of the bill abolishing royalties and regulating the use of explosives, etc. He reminded Major Leckie of the resolution at the Sudbury meeting favoring a mineral tax, to which the Major replied that that meant a tax on the land, not on the ore. The interview concluded with a promise to consider the matter.

BOARD OF CONTROL.

Municipal Committee of Legislature Permits Addition of One Member—Elections New Year's Day Refused

In the Municipal Committee yesterday morning Mr. Carscallen's bill embodying a number of amendments suggested by the Ontario Municipal Association was considered in conjunction with a bill introduced by Mr. Foy containing provisions of great interest to Toronto.

One clause of the Hamilton member's bill is designed to secure the election of a better class of Aldermen, the present limited ward system having, according to Mr. Carscallen, proved a failure. It provides that in any city having a population of more than 15,000 the Aldermen may be elected by a general vote of the electors, and either by general vote or in two electoral divisions where the population exceeds 40,000, on condition that in each case a majority of the electors vote in favor of the change.

The clause was adopted on a vote, only two members of the committee declaring against it.

The committee by an overwhelming vote refused to give municipalities the right to hold elections on New Year's Day. The same clause was struck out