

# NEW ONTARIO ZINC ORE UNRIVALLED.

Splendid Mineral Resources of the North.

INADEQUATELY REALIZED.

Mr. Gamey Concludes Speech in Debate.

Mr. Whitney Intimates House May Adjourn Over Easter Week for Governor-General's Visit—Budget Debate to be Interspersed With Consideration of Estimates.

In continuing the budget debate yesterday afternoon Mr. R. R. Gamey distinctly advanced his reputation by a clever speech dealing with the resources of new Ontario. He exhibited intimate knowledge of mining questions, and presented an array of statistics in an interesting manner. The simplification of mining regulations, the development of zinc and Bessemer iron ore mining, and the establishment of weather and agricultural observing stations on the northern watershed, were among the topics treated. The debate will be continued on Tuesday by Mr. S. Clarke. The Premier suggested that the House should adjourn for Easter from Thursday next till the following Monday week. The debate and the consideration of the estimates might go forward together.

### Bills Introduced.

The following bills were read a first time:

Dr. Smellie—An act respecting the town of Fort William.

Mr. Crawford—An act to amend the municipal act.

### Grants to Volunteers.

Hon. Mr. Foy, replying to Mr. Munro, said no decision had been reached by the Government as to introducing, during the present session, any legislation amending the volunteer land grant act, so that the volunteers who were enrolled for active service in 1866 and performed military duties and training at inland points in the Province and at headquarters of corps, but not detailed for duty on frontier, will be entitled to grants.

### Engagement of American Expert.

Hon. Mr. Hanna, replying to Mr. Auld, said the engagement of Mr. L. E. Thorne of Port Huron, Michigan—who is making an examination of the bookkeeping system of the public institutions—was made verbally in Sarnia on or about March 4. His salary is \$200 a month while his work continues.

### Factory Inspectors.

Hon. Mr. Reaume, replying, in the absence of Hon. Mr. Monteith, to a question by Mr. Preston (Brant), said the Government had not yet decided as to an increase in the number of factory inspectors.

### Water Power Grants.

With a bouquet of roses before him, Mr. R. R. Gamey rose to resume the debate. One of the greatest grievances in new Ontario was, he said, the renewal of licenses on townships where the pine is all cut off, so that no patents could be issued to settlers. Notwithstanding the

concessions of thousands of acres and hundreds of square miles of pulpwood, there were practically no returns from this source. The Montreal River was one of these enormous concessions, practically a principality in itself, yet with no revenue showing from it. Not only was there no revenue, but the water powers granted to these pulp companies were granted for ever, and every one of these given absolutely for nothing, so that the companies had them for nothing for ever. He mentioned the Spanish River power of 25,000 horsepower, which had been bought from private individuals who had got it for nothing. Farther up the Spanish River fifteen or twenty thousand more horsepower was given away by the late Government to the company representing the International Nickel Company. The Sturgeon Falls power was another example. The revenues of the Province might have been considerably swelled had reasonable care been taken to protect the public interest.

### Mineral Lands Tied Up.

He criticized the policy of railway land grants, under which, as in the cases of the Algoma Central and Manitoulin & North Shore lines, any number of townships of mineral lands were tied up. The Government should have provided that the railway companies must sell mining locations at the same price and on the same terms as they were sold by the Government. The railways could not sell it, as they could give no patent. The Government could not interfere with the railways, and so the lands lie idle.

He would like to have dealt with the management of the Crown Lands Department by the late Commissioner, but would let him slip through his fingers on this occasion for lack of time. It was not generally known that there were three watersheds in new Ontario: one drained by the Ottawa River; one sloping to Georgian Bay, Huron and Superior, and the third the great watershed of the north, fronting James Bay. The knowledge of new Ontario was confined to the south of the height of land. The Government, he held, should have prepared maps indicating where to locate farm settlers, where to reserve timber, and where to encourage mining. He suggested the establishment of observatories throughout the north country. They had surveyed townships, and had millions of acres of land, but except through Hudson's Bay Company gossip they did not know as a fact whether they could grow anything there or not. Observations of snowfall, depth of frost, duration of seasons, should be available for the public.

### Zinc and Other Ores.

Mr. Gamey proceeded to an exhaustive review of the mineral resources of the Province. Nature had done wonders for it, with 13,000,000 acres of copper-bearing land, but these advantages had not been availed of. Where could any information be had, he asked, of the zinc ores of the Province, amounting to millions of tons? The value of zinc was well known. Missouri was treating zinc ores of 15 per cent., while Ontario ores of 20 and 25 per cent. were neglected. Germany, Austria and the United States, which produced the zinc of the world, had not a deposit which began to compare with that of Ontario. There was no smelting plant in the Province, and when an attempt was made to ship ore to Belgium the late Government imposed an export duty of \$5. They did not mean what they did perhaps, but they did not know any better. He would not kick a man for not knowing, but it was the business of the Government to know. The possibilities of the silver, nickel, and cobalt industries were dwelt upon, and, commenting on the United States contracts of the Soo Company for 165,000 tons of iron ore, he declared that a great part of this might have been obtained in the Province. If Bessemer ore could be obtained in Ontario the Government should compel its use, and they would make a serious mistake if they allowed such large quantities of foreign ore to be contracted for, as was done last year.

Information concerning the iron ores of Ontario should be furnished to speculative capitalists throughout the world.

### What Should be Done.

In conclusion he made some suggestions to the Government. The mining offices which had been established in certain sections of the country had not sufficient power. They should be furnished with location maps, and have full authority to say whether any location had been previously applied for. Uniform regulations should be adopted throughout the Province, the present methods of location being too numerous and diverse. An assay office should be established at Sudbury. He advocated giving a great deal of the country to the actual explorer, provided, of course, that development be undertaken. Money must be spent in new Ontario by the Government for its permanent benefit, and he hoped the members from old Ontario would be prepared to permit the Government to take that course. They were prepared to grapple with all these points, and in good time he believed the late Government would see that the Conservative policy would make for the permanency of new Ontario.

Mr. S. Clarke (Northumberland) moved the adjournment of the debate, which will be resumed on Tuesday.

### As to the Easter Recess.

The Premier, replying to Mr. Graham, said the budget debate would be resumed on Tuesday. He thought there was no reason why they should not adopt the plan of the Ottawa House, of considering the estimates before the budget debate was closed. They could adjourn the latter from time to time, interspersing speeches with consideration of the estimates. As to the Easter recess he thought it would not be unreasonable if on adjourning the House on the Thursday before Good Friday they should make the adjournment to stand until a week from the following Monday. This idea he threw out as a suggestion. During Easter week the Governor-General would be in Toronto, and hon. gentlemen were more or less interested in his stay. Others who were engaged in agricultural pursuits, like