

ANTHRACITE COAL FOUND IN ONTARIO.

Important Statement Made by
Minister of Mines.

NURSES BILL GOES BACK.

Will be Again Discussed by the
Special Committee.

First Supply Bill Passed by the Legis-
lature—The Bill to Enable Govern-
ment to Raise a Loan of Three Mil-
lion Dollars is Also Passed—Bill to
Amend Drainage Act.

The Legislature made excellent progress in committee yesterday afternoon on the Government's new mining bill. During the discussion Hon. Mr. Cochrane said he had seen specimens of coal discovered north of the height of land, and he thought the Government should have power to withdraw such lands for the public benefit. Later Hon. Mr. Cochrane said that the specimens were anthracite, but for the present he was not able to make any public announcement as to just where and how the coal had been discovered, or who had discovered it, or to give any other information beyond his statement made in the House. The first of the supply bills—that embodying the main estimates—was passed, as was also the measure enabling the Province to raise a loan of \$3,000,000. The nurses bill was referred back to the special committee which first considered it, and Mr. MacKay's bill to amend the law respecting actions of libel and slander was read a second time.

An amendment to Mr. Downey's bill to amend the pharmacy act was reported, providing that it should not come into effect until August 1 next.

Banks Likely to Assist.

In Committee of the Whole the resolutions in connection with the new \$3,000,000 loan were adopted. The bill respecting the loan was read a second time. Hon. Mr. Matheson said that it was expected that the banks would assist to a greater extent than before in floating it. As the money was raised in Canada it would be spent in Canada, and would thus come back to the banks. The resolution respecting the money held in connection with the Gamey case were also carried, and the bill respecting same was read a second time.

Following the Ottawa practice a supply bill was passed through all stages to cover the items already concurred in of the estimates.

Two Government Bills.

Hon. Mr. Hanna introduced a bill to amend the drainage act.

Hon. Mr. Foy introduced a bill to amend the devolution of estates act.

The following bills were read a third time:—

Respecting county houses of refuge—
Mr. Eilber.

To amend the act for the improve-
ment of highways—Hon. Mr. Reaume.

Respecting agricultural associations—
Hon. Mr. Monteith.

To amend the Ontario election act—
Hon. Mr. Whitney.

Mr. Preston's (Brant) bill to incor-
porate the Bell Telephone Memorial As-
sociation was reported.

Second readings were given to Mr.
Kennedy's bill respecting the Port
Arthur blast furnace and the coal and
ore dock at Port Arthur, and Mr. Tuck-

er's bill to authorize William J. Church
to practise as a veterinary surgeon.

Libel and Slander.

In moving the second reading of his bill to amend the act respecting actions of libel and slander, Mr. MacKay stated that it was founded on the English act of 1888. Under the bill fair and accurate newspaper reports of all Parliamentary proceedings would be privileged. Hitherto there had been some doubt about the proceedings of select committees. Privilege is also extended to the meetings of other public bodies except when sitting in camera. The whole or a portion or a fair synopsis of any bulletin, document or notice given out by a Government office or official in the public interest is also privileged, providing a denial or explanation be published when required.

Hon. Mr. Foy thought the definition of a public meeting went beyond the present law. The other clauses might be discussed in committee.

The bill passed its second reading.

Premier Whitney stated that he had received a number of objections and several statements in favor of the bill respecting the Graduate Nurses' Association of Ontario. No objection was had to the bill being passed, but to certain of its provisions. When there was so much feeling on both sides he thought it should have every consideration.

Mr. Crawford having signified his assent, the bill, on motion of Premier Whitney, was referred back to the special committee which had already had it under consideration, and which was re-appointed for the purpose.

Mr. Jamieson secured an order of the House for a return showing on what terms the assets of the Equitable Loan Company were taken over by the Colonial Investment & Loan Company, and what percentage was paid in stock of Colonial Company to holders of terminating stock in Equitable Loan Company; the names and addresses of directors and officials of the Colonial Investment & Loan Company, and the names and addresses of directors and officials of the Imperial Trusts Company.

Discovery or Work?

When the mining bill was taken up in committee, Mr. MacKay said he had received several communications urging that so long as prospectors or miners carried out the work laid down in the act and were willing to spend money on locations they should not have to give them up because some inspector declared there was no valuable discovery.

The Premier held that the provisions regarding discovery were the best guarantee that parties would not simply squat down on the land belonging to the Province with speculation in view.

Hon. Mr. Cochrane supported this view, and further thought the provisions a protection against "blanketing."

Mr. Gamey thought no mines act would be complete without the Minister of Lands and Mines having the power and right of inspection, particularly in regard to rich areas like the Cobalt mining field. Inspection, however, should only be made where it was considered really necessary. In the ordinary mining regions the working conditions without inspection would probably be sufficient.

Mr. Smith (Soo) expressed the fear that the working permits might lead to blanketing. As to the discovery clauses, cases could be imagined of poor men spending all their money prospecting a claim without discovering minerals. Afterwards a capitalist or syndicate might send 40 prospectors in there, and some of them might make an immediate discovery without doing anything like the amount of work of the first one. The latter should have some compensation in such a case. The law did not seem to encourage the poor prospector. In this connection he was sorry to see the Government demanding a bonus of \$50,000 for the right to mine on the Temiskaming Railway right of way. That shut the poor prospector right out. He thought the prospectors should have a chance, and if they found minerals they could pay royalties.

Hon. Mr. Ross asked if it was really necessary to have a mining commission-

er. Inspectors and recorders were to be appointed; a commissioner would have to be paid a considerable salary. Was it not possible that the department, as formerly, could deal with and settle disputes?

Hon. Mr. Cochrane said he had spent the greater part of last summer in listening to disputes to the detriment of the work of the department. The mining industry had practically doubled in the last few years, and there would be lots of work for the commissioner.

Want Stable Regulations.

Mr. MacKay thought there should be provision made for communicating notice of decisions to prospectors.

Mr. Smyth (Algoma) suggested making provision for keeping the public off claims on which appeals were pending.

Mr. Smith (Sault Ste. Marie) desired an assurance that there would be stability of regulations, so that prospectors setting out for mining territory would not find it withdrawn after they started.

Premier Whitney pointed out that the clause in question (No. 84) was intended to protect prospectors by dividing up rich territory in small claims.

Mr. Gamey said the whole north country was opposed to legislation by order in Council, of which there had been too much. The member for the Sault had made a good point, and the prospector should not be subject to unexpected changes in the law.

Coal For Ontario People.

Hon. Mr. Cochrane said he believed there was coal over the height of land in northern Ontario. He had seen some specimens, and thought the public ought to be protected. If power was not taken to withdraw certain areas it might all be taken up by private parties.

Further discussion which occurred over clause 99 was closed by Mr. Gamey, who declared that no previous Minister or Government had had practical knowledge of the north country. If the present Government withdrew tracts of country such as had been the case at Michipicoten and elsewhere in the past he would immediately lodge a complaint.

In reply to Hon. Mr. Ross, Hon. Mr. Cochrane said the Government were not ready to make any statement as to operating the Gillies limit for minerals.

Mr. Smith (Sault) inquired, in view of the resolution adopted by the last Conservative convention, if it was intended to give the settler possession of everything above and below his land.

Mr. Smyth (Algoma) agreed with Mr. Smith that the actual bona fide settler should get the full benefit of his holding.

Hon. Mr. Cochrane appeared to demur, and the matter was dropped.

The committee reported progress. The House adjourned at 5.50.