

portune purpose in simplifying the law, facilitating the work of the prospector and encouraging the investment of capital. An important feature of the mining policy is the decision of my Government to operate for the benefit of the people of Ontario the rich mineral deposits which have been discovered in what is known as the Gillies limit. The expressions of general approval by which this announcement was met showed in an unmistakable way the minds of the people on the subject.

By providing that the veterans' land grants may be commuted by a money payment a serious obstacle to the settlement of the unoccupied parts of the Province has been removed. I am glad to learn also that another impediment to settlement has been disposed of by the surrender of 525,000 acres of land or about twenty-two townships granted by this Legislature as a subsidy to the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway.

Electric Power Question.

The two valuable reports on the question of electrical power submitted by the Hydro-Electric Commission for your consideration have resulted in a measure which is designed to secure cheap power to all parts of the Province of Ontario, and this without injury to the rights of bondholders and others who have invested money in the development of electrical energy. It is impossible to overestimate the great advantages that will accrue to all kinds of industries and the development that will ensue from the general application of electric power at reasonable rates. On all hands it is agreed that it means to the Province of Ontario an industrial revolution. It is satisfactory to know that in a session in which so much important work has been undertaken you have been able to deal carefully and wisely with this most important question.

Healthy State of Finances.

With pleasure I observe the healthy state of the public finances, which show a substantial surplus for the past year. In this connection the floating of the new loan on very favorable terms might be mentioned as indicating the undoubted credit of the Province. The liquidation of half of the sum borrowed by the industries at Sault Ste. Marie on the guarantee of the Province, and the extension of part of the guarantee for a further period, point to the eventual removal of this obligation.

I have to thank you for the liberal appropriation you have made for the public service, which will be expended with a proper regard to economy and efficiency.

In dismissing you from your duties I desire again to thank you for the great public service you have rendered, and to join with you in expressing the hope that the blessing of Almighty God will continue to rest upon our country and our people.

In the absence of the Provincial Secretary, Hon. Dr. Pyne declared the Legislature adjourned, and the ceremony was brought to a close.

Bills Passed During Session.

The full list of measures passed during the session, and their numbers and which they will have in the spring of 1906, are as follows:—

The supply bill
and supplies