

REFINE ONTARIO ORES IN PROVINCE.

Minister of Lands and Mines on Smelter Policy.

LOCAL OPTION PETITIONS.

Mines Act Amended in Matter of Fees.

**Mr. C. N. Smith of Sault Ste. Marie
Would Encourage Prospecting for
Iron of Bessemer Grade—Increasing
Powers of Railway and Municipal
Board—Sudbury Judicial District.**

That the bill introduced by Hon. Mr. Cochrane, Minister of Mines, to encourage the refining of metals in Ontario, did not go far enough, was the claim made by Mr. C. N. Smith, the member for Sault Ste. Marie, in the Legislature yesterday afternoon. The bill, which was up for a second reading, provides a bonus of six cents for the refining of metallic nickel and the same for metallic cobalt. For refining metallic copper one and one-half cents is to be paid, according to the bill, and on white arsenic one-half cent a pound. Mr. Smith thought a straight bonus would be better instead of so much per pound. While such a sum might look large at first, it would be small in comparison with the benefits that would come.

Local Option Petitions.

Again the proceedings of the House were prefaced by the presentation of a number of petitions from churches and church organizations asking for the repeal of the three-fifths clause in the local option act. Two of these were presented by the Attorney-General, Hon. J. J. Foy.

Hon. Mr. Cochrane moved the second reading of his bill to amend the mines act of 1906. He explained that since the act came into force last May there had not been an appeal to the Divisional Court on the decisions of the Mining Commissioner. The amendment which he proposed to adopt was simply to make the clauses more clear, so that only one meaning could be taken from them. There had been a minor change in regard to miners' licenses. It was felt that it would be well to reduce the license fees to \$10 and on the other hand to raise the filing application to \$10. It was felt that the miner would prefer to pay the filing claim, for then he would have the knowledge that he had something to warrant the expenditure. Mr. Cochrane added that he had had the Mining Commissioner make note of the clauses coming before him during the past season in order that all the indefinite features might be cleared up.

Mr. Harcourt (Monck) thought that while the bill might be ideal for Cobalt, it might not be satisfactory for other parts of the Province where the discoveries were not so rich. He had no doubt that the Minister had given a great deal of study to the subject, but nevertheless he was repeating the opinions of practical mining men.

Mr. Cochrane replied that no such representation had been made to him, and he could not see why there should be any difference in the application of the law in different parts of the Province.

Mr. Harcourt retorted that his point of view was perfectly clear to members on his side of the House.

The House will go into Committee of the Whole on the bill, and it is on the order paper for to-day.

Refining of Ontario Ores.

Hon. Mr. Cochrane moved the second reading of his "bill to encourage the refining of metals in Ontario." At the outset the Minister stated that Ontario's supply of nickel, corundum and cobalt was the finest in the world, yet it could not be bought in this country in a refined state unless first imported. He felt that by the offering of a bonus for the refining of these metals it would encourage their treatment in this country. The Minister stated that it was the Government proposal to lump the nickel bounty to \$60,000, on cobalt to \$30,000, on copper to \$60,000, and on arsenic to \$15,000. The bounty on arsenic, the Minister explained, was not applicable to Cobalt, owing to the bonus being otherwise appropriated to the output of that district. The arsenic bounty would apply to the output of Hastings county, the deposits of Temagami, Port Arthur and elsewhere in the Province. The Province would derive more than enough revenue from the tax on mines to offset the bonuses, and the whole of Ontario would derive some benefit from the measure.

Did Not Go Far Enough.

Mr. Smith (Sault Ste. Marie) thought the terms of the measure might be extended so as to include iron, and particularly iron of the Bessemer grade. Mr. Smith thought that if the proper encouragement were given, prospectors might be induced to try and find such a metal. It seemed to him that were a straight bonus offered capitalists for refining purposes it would be better than a bonus at so much per pound, as proposed. Mr. Smith, in conclusion, expressed the opinion that even a \$50,000 bounty might be paid to any person who could find ore of the Bessemer grade, no matter if he went beyond the height of land.

The bill will be considered in Committee of the Whole House to-day.

Hon. Mr. Hendrie moved the second reading of bills to amend the Ontario Railway and Municipal Board act, to amend the Ontario railway act, and of an act respecting certain railway and other corporations. It had been found impracticable for returns to be made by the railways to the boards in three months, and the time had been changed to the 31st of June of each year, Mr. Hendrie explained.

The bills will be on the order paper to-day for disposal.

Mr. Foy, in explaining his bill to amend the registry act, said the changes were the results of the investigations of the inspector, who found some of the offices in a somewhat deplorable state. Mr. Harcourt thought that they would hear from the Registrars themselves and the County Councils in a few days.

TWIN TOWNS' RIVAL AMBITIONS.

Fort William's Bill For Incorporation Considered.

Dr. Smellie, M.P.P. in the Private

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