

ly objected to the mining tax. It was simply another method of bleeding the north country. As it was now the genuine miner and prospector, owing to the fees for licenses, a railway fare of 3 1-2 cents per mile on the T. & N. O. Railway, and high telegraph tolls, were taxed enough. If it was necessary to have a tax it should be put on fees for companies. Instead of charging only \$100 for the incorporation of a company with a million of capital \$1,000 or even \$10,000 should be charged. If some such proportionate fees were charged on every million of capitalization it would put a stop to the wildcatting which was now doing much injury to the mining industry. He contended that the tax would seriously handicap the mining industry and added that when the Minister of Mines lived in the north, and before being elected to the House, he had opposed such taxes.

Hon. Mr. Cochrane answered in part that the miners and prospectors were now getting far better service for their fees than ever before. They were saved the trouble and expense of coming to Toronto to record their claims, etc. The rates on the T. & N. O. Railway, he said, compared favorably with those of any other railway of such comparatively short length. He quoted from a Globe editorial of a year ago, urging a tax on mines, and asked why the honorable gentleman had not in his paper or on the platform objected to that.

Mr. Labrosse's Views.

Mr. Labrosse opposed the tax as being calculated to throttle one of the country's most promising industries. He predicted that mining shares would be injuriously affected in consequence. The member recounted the many charges which were already made on the new mining company by means of various fees. It was very well to say that the T. & N. O. Railroad was built for the miners. The fact was that the Government was receiving already full benefit from that road. He wondered, in view of the rosy budget recently stated, why there was any necessity for the tax. Mr. Labrosse is one of the French-Canadian members of the House, and, though his accent was noticeable, his speech was well-balanced and delivered in excellent English.

Principle of Bill Right.

Mr. A. G. MacKay said that the Minister had quoted The Globe of a year ago. He would quote the Minister as to what he had said a year ago. He had then expressed himself as opposed to a royalty as well as an acreage and surface tax. The miner did not deal as a lumberman, who could see what he had above the ground. The principle of the bill was, however, along the line that he had suggested a year ago, and if the Minister was never more than a year behind him (Mr. MacKay) he would be a useful member in this House. There should, he believed, be some guarantee that the mine had some proven value before the Government stepped in. The weighty saddle should be put on the heavy horse. The bill should start first, not on profits, but with a view to the return of the capital expenditure. If the Minister could check the great over-capitalization he would be doing a genuine service to the country. The capital invested should first be taken out before the tax was imposed. In a risky business the capitalist was entitled to this consideration. Much had been said about discouraging capital. He had found that capital was uncommonly well able to take care of itself. It was an old Biblical doctrine that "Of him to whom much is given much shall be required."

Mr. Gamey said the question to-day was: Are we going to take some reasonable tax from the resources, especially the mining resources, of the Province? The Government had tried to take the tax in a reasonable way. When there is a substantial profit, and then only, does the Government step in.

Some Special Cases.

Mr. McDougall thought that the bill placed some of the mines in an awkward position, and seemed to work an injustice. For instance, the Right of Way Mining Company paid a cash bonus of \$50,000, and has also to pay 25 per cent. on the value of the output. The

Nancy Helen, the O'Brien and other mines also had to pay percentages of output. The case of the Cobalt Lake was mentioned. The purchasers had paid handsomely for the property. Nothing was said in the advertisement calling for tenders as to royalty or taxes and that seemed to him like getting people to buy property under misleading conditions.

Mr. Hislop Favors the Bill.

Mr. Hislop regarded the proposed tax as a step in the right direction, and one that the country demanded. He was not in accord with the proposition in another Government bill to bonus smelters, refiners and other industries. These, he thought, could be started and run successfully without bonusing.

Mr. Foy moved the second reading of his bill to create the Provisional Judicial District of Sudbury.

At 6 o'clock the House adjourned until this afternoon.