

TO DEVOTE MILLIONS TO NORTHERN ONTARIO

Government Will Use the Money Left From \$5,000,- 000 Loan to Aid Settlers— Effective Speeches by Mr. Rowell and Lieut. Lang of Cochrane

The Ontario Government plans to devote several million dollars to the development of New Ontario. Intimation to this effect was made in the Legislature last night by the Hon. G. Howard Ferguson, Minister of Lands, Forests and Mines, who has charge of the measure introduced some days ago for the development of Northern and Northwestern Ontario. Mr. Ferguson did not definitely state the sum the Government proposes to set aside, but he indicated that the amount would be in the neighborhood of two or three millions. Dealing with this point he said: "There is no limit to the extent of the work we anticipate will be done under this act. We purposely and advisedly avoided putting limitations in the act that might prevent us in carrying out the purpose of the act."

Two or Three Millions Left.

He added that the Government would use what was left of the recent \$5,000,000 Northern Ontario loan and that the Government might find it necessary to ask the Legislature to duplicate that loan. He said they had two or three millions left.

In reply to a point raised by Mr. Allan Studholme (East Hamilton) he said the Government expects to make arrangements to loan money to settlers so that it would not cost the settlers more than six per cent. interest for the money they borrowed. The information they had been able to gather was that \$500 would in practically all cases meet the requirements of the settlers.

Loans May Reach \$750.

"If \$500 per settler proves inadequate we will see to it when the time comes that the settler will get more," said Mr. Ferguson in reply to a suggestion by Mr. Sam Carter (South Wellington) that the limit might be raised to \$750. What the Government intended to do, went on Mr. Ferguson, was to assist the settler in any way that would materially aid him in making his home and developing the country. They would help him to buy live stock, erect buildings and install a drainage system on his land.

Should Tell House More.

The announcement of Mr. Ferguson followed timely speeches by Messrs. N. W. Rowell, Sam Carter and Malcolm Lang, in which the needs of the north country as they saw them were set forth.

Mr. Rowell observed that there was more in the speech of the Minister of Lands, Forests and Mines when the bill was introduced than there was in the bill itself. He thought the Legislature had got too much into the habit of leaving important matters, particularly of finance, to the Lieutenant-Governor in Council. He suggested that some limit of money to be devoted to the purpose should be specified in the bill.

Mr. Rowell said there was not only the question of clearing that was important, in his opinion, but there was the question of draining. Another important thing would be assistance that would be required for schools in the new districts. The roads of that region, upon which several million dollars had already been spent, should also be kept in good repair. Mr. Rowell hoped the Government would launch out into a large scheme. They would be helping to bind together eastern and western Canada by settle-

ment of New Ontario.

What North Really Needs.

Lieut. Malcolm Lang (Cochrane) was very pleased with the announcement of Hon. Mr. Ferguson. He said the bill showed the Minister was trying to work out some system whereby the people of the North country would receive assistance. He would like to see greater powers given to the Commissioner who is to administer the act as experience shows, in order that the Commissioner might work out the scheme in the best interests of the people of New Ontario.

"One great thing we need up there just now," said Lieut. Lang, "is further aid for schools." In some sections the school accommodation was quite inadequate, and the population was growing rapidly. Another question that should be taken up was that of medical aid. There were too few medical practitioners in New Ontario, and the result was that if a settler had sickness in his family it took him something like twenty-four hours to get a doctor. There should be a doctor in each settlement, Lieut. Lang contended. It was a serious matter with the settlers if they had to wait twenty-four hours for a doctor to come from the next town, which might be twenty miles distant.

Estimates Presented.

The estimated expenditure of the Province of Ontario for the financial year ending October 31, 1917, is \$9,636,741, according to a statement presented to the Legislative Assembly yesterday. The following is a summary: Civil government, \$909,992; legislation, \$320,900; administration of justice, \$841,711; education, \$2,293,433; public institutions maintenance, \$1,633,157; agriculture, \$801,991; colonization and immigration, \$96,300; hospitals and charities, \$527,254; Maintenance and repairs of Government Buildings, \$207,212; public buildings, \$425,475; public works, \$80,300; colonization roads, \$87,000; Highways Department, \$55,770; game and fisheries, \$145,300; Attorney-General's Department, miscellaneous, \$175,200; Treasury Department, miscellaneous, \$53,450; Provincial Secretary's Department, miscellaneous, \$218,445; charges on Crown lands, \$623,750; Refunds account, \$92,500; miscellaneous expenditure, \$47,600; total, \$9,636,741.

May Allow Larger Percentage of Alcohol

For fully two hours yesterday afternoon the members of the Conservative party in the Legislature were in caucus, wrestling again, it is understood, with the temperance measure. There is stated to have been a drift in the last few days towards increasing the alcoholic content from two and a half to four per cent., but Ministers spoken to on the subject have nothing definite to say.

There is likely to be a change in the number of members of the Ontario License Board, as outlined in the act. Hon. W. J. Hanna, in reply to a question by Mr. Rowell in the House last night, stated that for the first year it was probable there would be five members. The act at first proposed three.

This will mean that Messrs. J. D. Flavelle (Chairman), Dingman, Ayearst, Dane and Smith will continue to sit on the Commission.