

(3) Any exclusive right granted under this section shall only remain in force during the time the keeper of such hotel holds a license under the said act.

#### A Backward Step.

Mr. William McDonald (North Bruce) declared this was going back to local option in a certain sense. The Government should take hold of the thing and make it universal all over the Province instead of a municipality here and there prescribing that the hotelkeepers have exclusive rights. Why not make it Provincial?

Mr. Mageau (Sturgeon Falls) thought they were moving in a direction to hurt some established business.

Premier Hearst said that in smaller places, particularly where a good hotel was wanted, the people might be unanimous in saying they desired to confine the sale of beverages to that hotel.

Mr. Sam Carter (South Wellington) agreed with the Government's proposal, while Mr. McDonald repeated he thought it was a step in the wrong direction, making it a municipal instead of a Provincial affair.

Mr. Hurdman (West Ottawa), who raised the matter on a previous occasion, supported the Government's action to foster the hotels.

#### The Moratorium.

The moratorium amendment provided:—

No person shall take or continue any action or proceeding in or out of court for the purpose of enforcing any contract or any right or remedy arising out of the same for the breach thereof, or arising out of any renewal or extension of said contract or the breach of such renewal or extended contract where the original contract was made prior to the 27th day of April, 1916, and was made for or in respect of or arose directly or indirectly out of the purchase of: (a) any premises in Ontario for which a license was at the said date in force for tavern, brewery or distillery purposes; (b) any licensed hotel, brewery or distillery doing business in Ontario; (c) the bonds, debentures capital stock or other securities of any licensed hotel, brewery or distillery corporation having its head office in Ontario at the said date; except by leave of the Board of License Commissioners for Ontario, made upon application to the board and after such notice to all parties as the board may direct.

The board upon any such application may by order in writing prohibit, restrict or limit in such manner as it may deem just and reasonable any such action or proceeding and may impose such terms upon any party as it may deem just.

This section, it is further provided, shall have effect during the continuation of the present war and for a period of nine months thereafter, unless in the meantime a session of the Legislature is held, and in that case this act shall cease to have effect at the expiration of thirty days from the close of such session.

#### Remission of Fine.

A matter raised by Mr. Hartley Dewart the other night is met by the following provision:

"Where a fine, penalty or forfeiture has been or is hereafter remitted pursuant to authority contained in this act so to do, such remission shall constitute also an amendment of the said conviction, and thereupon the record of such conviction shall thereby be deemed to have been and to be cancelled and avoided as if same had never been made. This section shall be deemed to be and to have been effective on and after the 27th day of April, 1916."

## MINING TAX LOWERED EXCEPT ON NICKEL

### Government Amends Bill Along Lines of Liberals' Criticism

The sequel to the vigorous criticism of the Opposition and the demand of Liberal members of the Legislature for fairer taxation of the mining companies operating in the Province is seen in the reprinted bill to amend the mining tax act which is now before the Assembly. The tax on gold, silver and other mines is put back to three per cent. on excess of annual profits up to one million dollars. The contention of the Liberal members was that gold mines especially should not be taxed as high as nickel mines. The proposed new tax on mines other than nickel is as follows:

#### New Tax Fixed.

In the case of a mine other than a nickel or nickel copper mine, three per cent. on the excess of annual profits of such mine about \$10,000 and up to \$1,000,000, and on the excess above \$1,000,000, the same rates as for nickel mines.

The tax on nickel mines is the same as in the original bill.

A new clause sets forth the method by which the Mine Assessor shall ascertain the annual profits of nickel or nickel copper companies. This provides that he shall ascertain the market value of the fine metal or other product suitable for direct use in industries or arts without further treatment, and deduct from that the actual cost of marketing the metal or other product and of each process by which it is refined or treated, as established to his satisfaction by the mine people.

## BRITISH GOVERNMENT IN CANADIAN NICKEL

### MINISTER OF MINES' ANNOUNCEMENT—FUTURE ORE TO BE REFINED IN CANADA.

Hon. Mr. Ferguson, in moving the second reading of his bill to amend the public lands act in the Legislature last night, said the discovery of the electrolytic process of treating nickel was made by the Nickel Commission. It was extremely important that the Province should provide a customs smelter.

The Minister then referred to a letter he wrote on January 13th, 1916, to Bonar Law. "The British Government realize now more than ever the great national importance of this peculiar industry, and feel that in some way they must have some direct interest in the production and refining of nickel so that they may have some control in time of necessity," said Mr. Ferguson. "They have interested themselves in a nickel corporation that is now establishing itself just outside the town of Sudbury."

Mr. Rowell asked Mr. Ferguson if his bill compelled existing nickel companies to refine the ore in Canada.

The Minister replied that the bill only involved lands hereafter patented or disposed of. They could not remedy the sins of the past without resorting to confiscation or expropriation.

"The bill simply relates to grants of land hereafter made or disposed of," observed Mr. Rowell, "and in this connection it is interesting to note that the report of the Nickel Commission states that the most valuable nickel lands in the Province have already been granted."