

Thursday, April, 8th

GEOLOGICAL PARTIES TO AID PROSPECTORS IN RED LAKE FIELD

Hon. Charles McCrea Tells
House Three Groups
Will Be Sent

MINING DEVELOPMENT

Announcement was made yesterday by Hon. Charles McCrea, speaking in the debate in the Legislature, that the Department of Mines and Fisheries would send three geological parties into the Red Lake district this year with a view to facilitating the prospecting work being carried on there. One party will work between the Manitoba boundary and Red Lake; the second will be stationed at Red Lake itself, and the third will operate to the east of Red Lake.

The department, however, is not confining its assistance in this respect to the newest mining field. Two geological parties will be sent to the Sault district; another will enter Kirkland Lake field, and still another will be engaged north of Cochrane where the discovery of china clay and lignite, and reported coal deposits, have attracted much attention of late.

Gives Account of Stewardship.

Hon. Mr. McCrea furnished the House with a very comprehensive account of the administration of his department. Total receipts for 1925, he said, were \$632,411; expenditures, \$285,860; and the surplus resulting, \$327,000. Some of the departmental sources of revenues he listed as follows: Sand and gravel, which the department handles for the Province, \$101,000; special mining tax, \$287,000; acreage tax, \$32,000; mining lands, \$40,000; mining licenses, \$44,000; and recording fees, \$38,000.

Dealing with the commercial side of mining, Mr. McCrea furnished figures to show to what extent the industry has developed in late years. In 1911, he said, there was an annual gold output of \$50,000. Last year Ontario produced over \$30,000,000 worth. Up to the end of 1925 the Province had produced \$184,493,106 in gold, and by doing so had earned for itself the reputation of being the third greatest producer of this mineral in the world.

Future of Red Lake.

Mr. McCrea referred briefly to the different mining areas, pointing out that, while the Government had not yet pronounced upon the strength of the Red Lake field, surface indications to date had led men of good judgment to anticipate a wonderful future for the new district. Referring to the work of prospecting, he said that the Government was lending all possible encouragement in this direction. The Government had started prospectors' classes, and was giving a total of twelve free assays over a fixed period in order that prospectors may determine the value of their claims. In addition, a testing laboratory had been established at Cobalt as a further source of education.

Follow African Methods.

Drawing the House's attention to actual work in the field, Mr. McCrea spoke of the increase in gold output that might be derived from sinking of shafts to greater depths after the fashion obtaining in the South African fields. In this regard he spoke of the visit to South Africa of Chief Mining Inspector Sutherland, of his investigations, and of the information obtained, which now was being put to good use in the Ontario camps. Mr. McCrea also expressed satisfaction that the industrial disease (silicosis) — prevalent in mining areas — was being brought under the jurisdiction of the Workmen's Compensation Act, thanks to the combined efforts of his department, the Department of Health and Labor, and the mining operators.

Ontario's silver output to date, said Mr. McCrea, had reached the \$200,000,000 mark, with the surface but slightly scratched. Nickel was "coming back." After several years — following the war — of flat production — this industry was again climbing.