

Friday, March 25th

## MCCREA IS HOPEFUL, BUT ALSO SKEPTICAL, OF COAL AT SUDBURY

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### James Bay Lignite Finds Termed "Spotty"—Show- down on Transport Likely

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## OFFICIAL'S POST UPHELD

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The old, yet ever green, question of the Alberta-to-Ontario coal question was revived in the Ontario Legislature last night, when Premier Ferguson, in defending a main estimate vote of \$5,000 for the retention of the Fuel Controller's office, referred to the work of that office in educating the public to use Canadian coal in preference to American brands, and intimated it was reasonable to expect that within two months "there would be a show-down" before the Dominion Railway Board in the matter of transporting both Alberta and Ontario coal to this Province.

Coal was also discussed from a different angle. Members' inquiries regarding Department of Mines estimates elicited from Hon. Charles McCrea, Minister of the department, the information that as yet the Government was unable to say that coal had been discovered in Ontario.

Members referred to the "lignite" finds in the James Bay Basin, north of Cochrane. Mr. McCrea termed these finds as "spotty." He said, however, it would likely be determined this summer, with more extensive shaft-sinking, whether or not "a type of coal" that could be used for fuel was to be produced from this district.

Mr. McCrea touched upon the reported coal "finds" north of Sudbury. He hoped the optimism prevailing in certain quarters regarding these discoveries was not misplaced, but he was skeptical.

The Iron Ore Bounty Act of 1924, he said, would be kept on the statutes, notwithstanding the fact that since the act came into force no bounty has been paid by the Government.