

# EXTENSION TO ROUYN OF T. & N. O. RAILWAY PLANNED BY PREMIER

**New Smelter for Small Miner,  
and Northern Tour, Also  
Announced**

**HOUSE ENDS ITS WORK**

**Formal Prorogation Tuesday  
—Mining Situation Is  
Reviewed**

Announcement by Premier Ferguson that the Ontario Government hopes to push the Timiskaming & Northern Ontario Railway into Rouyn in the near future, as well as to extend it north to James Bay, was made late last night in the closing moments of this year's session of the Legislature.

With the House sitting until almost midnight the Government made several important and startling pronouncements as to future activity, wound up the business of the session and set Tuesday afternoon for the formal prorogation.

**Smelter Is Planned.**

Hon. Charles McCrea, Minister of Mines, telling of the developments of zinc, copper and lead deposits in the Sudbury basin, stated that, in this connection, the Government aimed at the establishment of a customs smelter and refinery, where the small miner, the man without great capital or great ore holdings, might ship his ore, obtain payment, and turn the money back into further development of his holdings.

Mr. McCrea also announced that when the British Empire Mining Federation holds its meetings here this summer the Ontario Government will take the visiting mining men on an extended tour of the North Country, showing and explaining to them the mineral wealth of that land. The tour will be on such a scale that from three to five special trains will be employed.

It had been suggested that a tour of New Ontario should also be arranged for members of the Legislature. Premier Ferguson, noting that the trip in connection with the Federation's session would be a costly one and that the Government might not deem a further expenditure for the Legislative members a wise move, promised that the suggestion was being seriously considered. If such a trip was at all possible, he stated the Government would be glad to undertake it, and would set a date and advise the members of the House.

**Member Asks Question.**

The announcement of the proposed extension of the T. & N.O. into Rouyn came when R. F. Miller (Liberal, Haldimand) drew the attention of the Premier to a report in The Globe stating that the railway was to be extended toward James Bay in May, or as soon as the weather opened up. He wondered if it was advisable for the Government to make large expenditures in such an undertaking.

Describing the possibilities for development in that North Country, Premier Ferguson declared that the Government certainly thought it wise to push the extension of the T. & N.O. "We may not build all the way to James Bay this year," said he, "but a considerable portion can be built." He emphasized that the

business that would develop would take care of the costs and overhead of the line. "As soon as the season opens," he added, "steps will be taken to construct this line."

**Overtures to Quebec.**

"And," he continued, "we also hope in the near future to extend the T. & N.O. into the Rouyn mining country." This, he said, would mean construction of thirty miles of line. With a view to removing any friction the Ontario Government had made overtures to the Quebec authorities. "The Canadian Pacific Railway," said the Premier, "has only to build thirty or forty miles to get in to Rouyn, and survey and exploration parties have been sent in to tap that district."

"The idea of the Government is not to look upon the T. & N.O. as an entirely Provincial asset, but to develop the whole mining area of Ontario and Quebec as a Canadian asset."

"I can say that in the near future we will see a very substantial railway extension in Northern Ontario."

Mr. Miller, replying to the Premier, asked if it was wise to move "so far in advance of development."

"Take an aeroplane and go up there," retorted Mr. Ferguson.

**Major Mineral Discovery.**

This announcement of developments in the North Country was in keeping with the announcements made by Hon. Mr. McCrea. The Minister of Mines, speaking in connection with the Confederation resolution, sketched the mining activities in Ontario, the work of his department, and told of the Government's aims.

In his closing remarks he referred to what was regarded as "a major mineral discovery in the Sudbury section."

There have been major discoveries before, in Ontario, said he. Oil in 1860, nickel in 1883, silver in 1903, gold in 1909. I think we may add to this the deposits on a large scale of lead, zinc and copper in the Sudbury district. The work which has been going on there for the past year and a half by way of exploration, diamond drilling would indicate that in the Sudbury basin there is a substantial body of ore that will play a very important part in the industrial expansion of mining in Northern Ontario.

"The Government," he went on, "is keeping in close touch with this exploration and development. The work is progressing on the ground, and we have in view, as that work develops, that there will be established in association with it a custom smelter and refinery for the Province where the small miner, the man who may not have sufficient ore on his own property or may not have the capital to tackle the proposition in a big way, can mine his ore and ship it in small or large quantities to a custom smelter; obtain payment for his ore when delivered and the money go back to keep opening up his mining wealth."

**Red-Letter Day of Future.**

"When that accomplishment is achieved," declared Mr. McCrea, "the Government feels that it will be one of the big red-letter days in the history of mining in the Province."

Mr. McCrea, in his opening remarks, pointed out that, while the revenue from the mines of the Province during 1926 now stood at \$85,000,000, it was believed that reports not yet in would bring the total up to the 1925 figures of \$87,600,000.

He showed that the change in currency in India and China from silver to gold and paper had been felt in Ontario, for the demand for silver had been lessened.

In 1926 the Government's revenue from mines amounted to \$537,899, as compared with \$327,000 in 1925. This evidenced marked progress, said the Minister, a progress which had been accomplished with a saving to the Province in the way of lessened expenditures.

Since the start of mining activities in Ontario until the end of 1926 the Province's mineral wealth totalled \$882,000,000. The growth of the Ontario mining industry was greater, in proportion, than the growth of the Dominion itself.

The production of silver in the Province until the end of 1926 totalled \$233,000,000. The nickel mines in the Sudbury basin produced \$227,000,000.

**Third Largest Gold Producer.**

Until the end of 1926 the Province produced \$215,000,000 worth of gold. Ontario ranked as the third largest gold-producing country in the world.

Mr. McCrea paid tribute to the people in the mining districts of the Province, who showed "unfailing courtesy" to visitors, and who threw open their homes to folks who would

inspect the mineral wealth of the Province.

He emphasized that there was the keenest co-operation between his department and all the mines in Ontario.

**Hectic Last Day.**

To effect a wind-up, the Legislature had to make a hectic day of it, and when Premier Ferguson, at 11.55 o'clock, moved the adjournment of the House, there were many sighs of relief. The Press Gallery celebrated in particular, bouncing huge wads of "bills" off the heads of inoffensive members below them. Conservative Whip William H. Ireland struck up "God Save the King," and this anthem was sung with abandon. Then from all sections of the Chamber cheers were let loose.

Into the closing sitting of the House were carried two important resolutions—the Prime Minister's "Confederation" motion, and Hon. W. E. Raney's "control of liquor manufacture" motion. These required considerable debate before disposal was made of them.

**Tax Cut Introduced.**

Hon. Dr. Joseph D. Monteith, Provincial Treasurer, had to pick an opportunity to introduce the bill which makes "good" the Government's election announcement of abolition of the amusement tax on and up to 25-cent tickets. At the same time the Treasurer brought down the usual "enabling bill" which authorizes the Province to borrow, if necessary, to the extent of \$40,000,000 this year. These bills at once were whipped up to an equal footing with the grist of other legislation awaiting the third reading that was supplied by the House in the last half-hour of the session.

The Government also had to dispose of numerous order paper questions and to file returns on several Opposition inquiries.