

ONTARIO FORCES VOTE BY PROXY

Drew Loses Long Fight
for Direct Balloting

Proxy voting for members of the armed forces, both men and women, in Canada and overseas, was approved by the House in committee stage last night after the longest debate over one single issue which has yet come before this session.

Conservative opposition, led by Lieutenant-Colonel George A. Drew and L. M. Frost, Victoria, persistently, both in second reading and last night's committee debate, pressed the Government to provide for direct voting for those members of the forces stationed in Canada who are eligible to vote in a Provincial election.

Throughout the discussions it was stressed on both sides of the House there was only the desire to use the system which was most practicable. The Conservative Leader advised that, through Ottawa, the co-operation of the various units stationed in Canada, outside of the Province be secured, and that the vote be taken directly and in the same manner as provided for the taking of the votes in the military camps in Ontario.

Attorney-General Conant contended, and in the final analysis the House supported his view, that because the Ontario vote was taken within thirty-two days of the time the election writ is issued, the shortest interval that is provided by any jurisdiction within Canada, "the wheels could not be made to revolve fast enough to get the votes in the ballot boxes."

BILL DESIGNED TO AID MINING OF IRON DEPOSIT

Estimate 100 Million
Tons of Ore Available
West of Port Arthur

Legislative action to assist in the development of the 100 million tons of high-grade iron ore lying on the bed of Steep Rock Lake, 142 miles west of Port Arthur, was launched yesterday in the Legislature.

Attorney-General Conant, sponsor of the bill dealing with essential agreements between Hydro and the interested companies, said that, while engineers' estimates placed a two-year's minimum for completing the development, the same estimates predicted that ore, 60 to 65 per cent iron—the purest ore on the continent—could be mined and turned into war channels within a year, as the lake waters receded.

The bill outlines four agreements, he said, between the Ontario Hydro Commission and the Ontario-Minnesota Pulp and Paper Company; Hydro and the Steep Rock Mines and the Seine River Development Company; Hydro and Steep Rock Mines and the pulp and paper company and Steep Rock Mines.

In survey, he said 50 million tons have already been surveyed by drilling. About \$1,000,000 already has been spent in drilling and exploratory work.

Priorities for Materials.

"We have been assured," he said, "that the Dominion Government will grant priorities for the necessary materials to develop the property. In transportation, it is fortunate that the lake lies four and one-half miles from the main C.N.R. line between Port Arthur and Rainy River, and the railway company has given assurance that a spur line will be built."

In the third main factor, the Hydro Commission will build a transmission line from Port Arthur, nearest source of substantial power, and in the contract, the mines company has placed a guarantee of \$600,000 for fulfillment of contract.

"This is probably not only one of the most important iron deposits on the North American Continent, but it is also one of the most unique in that the ore body lies under Steep Rock Lake and it is necessary, before ore can be procured, that the lake must be dewatered," said the Attorney-General.

It was estimated that 150 billion gallons of water would have to be drained before the task is completed. In explanation he said that at the head of the lake was erected Moose Lake dam and power house, controlled by the Seine River Power Co. Ltd., which in turn is owned and controlled by the Ontario-Minnesota Pulp and Paper Co. The power plant developed 10,500 h.p., which is used by the pulp company with plant and head office at Fort Frances.

Would Divert River.

In the development it is proposed to divert the river above the dam and consequently it has become necessary, and the pulp and paper company is in agreement, to supply it with power corresponding to the amount they will lose by the diversion. The agreement insists that the Moose River project be maintained ready for use in event that the Steep Rock project should fail. In the meantime, he said, Steep Rock has agreed to bear the estimated \$1,000,000 cost of the hydro transmission line from Port Arthur and to cover the cost of the 10,500 h.p. which the pulp and paper company requires during the term of the agreement. The line, in addition, will carry the estimated 6,000 h.p. required for the mine operations.

"The Government has no hesitation," said Mr. Conant, "in recommending this legislation to the House."

LAW TO ASSIST DESERTED WIFE

Will Widen Protection,
Conant Tells House

Attorney-General Gordon Conant intimated in the Ontario Legislature yesterday that legislation would be introduced next year to provide further protection to deserted wives in this Province.

Mr. Conant did not specify the form the legislation would take, but indicated it would broaden existing protection. His statement was made during consideration of a bill advanced by Welfare Minister Farquhar Oliver which would order husbands in some of these cases to report monthly on status of their support payments.

Mr. Oliver's bill applies only to deserted wives who either are on relief or about to receive relief.

Conservative Leader George A. Drew urged that the bill be extended to cover all deserted wives, and G. C. Elgie (Con., Toronto-Woodbine) moved an amendment to that effect. The amendment was defeated.