

LIGNITE PLANT WILL BE READY IN SEPTEMBER

Tests of Northern Ontario Fuel Satisfy, Legislature Is Told

A processing plant to treat lignite will be in operation in Northern Ontario by next September as part of the Ontario Government's program for the development of the Onakawana lignite field. W. G. Nixon (Lib., Temiskaming), told the Legislators yesterday. The people of the North were patiently waiting for the field to be brought into production, he said.

In telling of the results of several tests made with lignite, Mr. Nixon said that lignite dried under 200 pounds pressure had worked when used in locomotive engines and in furnaces and stoves in private houses. Some tests had been conducted after lignite had been mixed with coal, and, generally speaking, the results were satisfactory.

The new plant would process lignite under 400 pounds pressure, Mr. Nixon told the House. Laboratory tests had indicated the advisability of adopting the steam drying process at that pressure rather than at 200 pounds. It was the opinion of the experts that results of tests under the greater pressure would be even better than those obtained to date.

The tests, however, had been made with lignite dried at 200 pounds pressure in a drying unit established at North Bay. Lignite from the new plant would be that much better.

The plant, when completed, would be the only one of its kind on the continent, Mr. Nixon said. Difficulties had arisen in the obtaining of some needed equipment from the United States, but steady progress had been made since the Government decided to erect the plant. He said a plant with a boiler satisfactory to the requirements of the proposed plant had been located at Peterborough.

Mr. Nixon said it had been suggested to him on more than one occasion that it would be possible to fire the lignite seams in the Onakawana deposit. He intimated he didn't think this practical.

"The moisture content of the lignite plus the nature of the overburden, will, I believe, discourage such a process," he said, adding, that gasification of the lignite might, however, offer a field for further study.