

Commission of Three Proposed as Stimulant To Mining in Ontario

Details of the report appear on the Financial Page.

Abolition of the Ontario Securities Commission and Board of Review set up under the Securities Act, and its replacement under a new act by a part-time commission of three, were among the recommendations for betterment of Ontario's mining industry contained in the report of the Ontario Mining Commission, tabled in the Legislature yesterday.

The report, divided into three sections and dealing comprehensively with three phases of mining, deals with the necessity for stimulating prospecting, Northern Ontario educational policies, and regulations governing the financing of mining development. It was signed by Norman C. Urquhart, the commission chairman.

Under the proposed new act the part-time commission of three would be appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council, operating through a registrar, appointed by the commission. Personnel of the new commission should include a member skilled in law, one skilled in securities dealings, and one in the requirements of the industry and its financing and development.

General Registration.

The new act proposed would include registration of all mining companies, partnerships, brokers, salesmen and others dealing in securities, assurance of integrity of the applicant, refusal of registration to persons not resident in Canada for three years or when it appears that a person proposes to use a trading name other than his own, and insistence on a bond approved by the commission.

It is recommended that the Dominion authorities be requested to treat all expenditures on outside exploration by mining companies in any part of Canada, other than capital outlay, as an operating cost to be deductible from taxes to be paid the Dominion under any of its taxing statutes. Outside exploration is deemed to include surface exploration of all kinds, diamond-drilling and prospect shaft sinking.

Rigid inspection of claim staking and appropriate penalties when claims are staked contrary to the provisions of the act are urged, as well as rigid inspection of assessment work and appropriate penalties where fraud is found.

Appointment of geologists in mineral areas to promote sound prospecting activity also is suggested, geologists' duties to include holding of prospectors' classes for simple geological instruction. Policing of staking or assessment work should under no circumstances be included in their duties.

The report also advises that the work of the geological surveys be augmented at as early a date as pos-

sible and that provision be made for prompt release of reports and consideration given by both Dominion and Provincial Governments to provision for geophysical and other similar surveys in areas not amenable to ordinary geological surveys.

Employment of R.C.A.F. personnel in aerial surveys in postwar years is advised. No prospecting concessions should be granted in mineral areas.

Consideration should be given, the report says, to building of roads in or to mineral areas where such roads would serve to stimulate prospecting and development of new mineral resources or materially lower costs of operations in presently productive mineral areas.

In explanatory remarks concerning its recommendations, the commission says: "Restrictive legislation dealing with financing of mining developments has definitely played an important part in bringing about the decline in mining activity. The practices of fraudulent staking and blanketing of claims have developed to a serious degree and are detrimental to the bona fide operator."

"Representations made and information obtained would indicate that the provisions for recording of assessment work under the Mining Act have been prostituted by fraudulent practices," the commission declares.

Amendment to Liquor Act Would Ban Under-Medicated Hair, Face Lotions

Alcoholic hair and face preparations which do not contain sufficient medication to prevent their use as spirits for internal consumption are banned from public sale under an amendment to the Liquor Control Act now awaiting second reading in the Legislature.

In an effort to prevent the use of perfumes, lotions, toilet water and similar compounds as a substitute for alcoholic beverages, the amendment requires that all such preparations must contain enough medication to make them unpalatable for internal use. The act, as it now

stands, specifies the word "perfume." The amendment adds the words "lotion, toilet water or other similar preparations."

A heavy demand on face lotions and similar compounds containing a large percentage of alcohol has been noted in recent months, and at least one death has been reported as a result of the stuff being taken internally.

Municipal authorities in Ontario have been disturbed over the growing evidence that certain elements of the population are prepared to drink anything calculated to "give them a bang."