

THE PORCUPINE ADVANCE

Vol. 3. No 21

TIMMINS, ONTARIO, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4th, 1917.

Single Copies 5 Cents

Taxation on Mines Increased From Three to Five Per Cent.

GOVERNMENT MEASURE APPLIES TO ALL MINING COMPANIES AND IS RETROACTIVE IN CASE OF NICKEL. MAYOR AND CLERK IN TORONTO TO SECURE FURTHER REVENUE FOR TIMMINS.

In the Provincial Legislature last week Hon. G. Howard Ferguson introduced the Government's new Mining Taxation Bill. The main features of this bill may be summarized as follows:—

Every producing mine in the Province of Ontario will be required to pay to the Provincial Government a tax of five per cent. on its annual profits in excess of \$10,000 and up to \$5,000,000; on profits in excess of \$5,000,000 and up to \$10,000,000, the tax will be six per cent.; upon annual profits in excess of \$10,000,000 and up to \$15,000,000, 7 per cent.; on profits in excess of \$15,000,000 the percentage will increase with each additional five million dollars profits in the same proportion as in the case of the second and third five million dollars annual profits.

The present rate of taxation is three per cent.

The new taxation will take effect in the case of all nickel and nickel-copper mining companies from January 1, 1915. The date on which it will go into effect with other companies is not yet announced.

On the retroactive feature of the bill, there becomes payable to the Province from the International Nickel Company alone, the sum of \$1,714,380. Of this amount \$980,000 represents the tax payable upon the estimated profits for 1916, as recommended by the Ontario Nickel Commission, upon whose report and recommendations all the clauses regarding nickel taxation are said to be based.

From the annual profits of a mine may be deducted all taxes upon profits payable to the British or Canadian Governments.

The income tax payable to municipalities is not to exceed one per cent., according to the new Act, except in the case of the town of Cobalt where it is 1½ per cent. In this connection Mayor J. P. McLaughlin and H. E. Montgomery, Clerk and Treasurer, left this week for Toronto to place the case of the Town of Timmins before the Government. After a special meeting of the Council the course was decided upon as it was felt that the Town of Timmins should receive a part of the increase imposed in the taxation by the Government. The particular needs and circumstances will be clearly and fully placed before the Government.

Another new feature of the bill is a clause requiring municipal corporations to expend the income from the

mines under the provisions of a by-law approved by the Mines Commissioner. Councils have to treat the income tax as a separate account, and expenditures must meet the approval of the Mines Commissioner. The Timmins Town Council does not expect any difficulty in their case with regard to this clause. Some of them think, however, it may affect some of the townships where the money from the mines may sometimes be expended for public works or other purposes in other parts of the township away from the mining properties concerned, and at the same time roads or sidewalks may be neglected in the vicinity of the mines that are contributing so large a percentage of the total municipal income. It is no doubt the intention of the clause that a fair share of the money thus taken from the mines shall be spent in districts where it will be of benefit to the corporations paying the tax.

The object, of course, of the increased taxation on mines is to raise more needed money "on account of the war," and for this reason the increased taxation will be borne with more or less grace and patience. There will be a general hope, however, that it will not be necessary to place any additional burdens on the mining industry of the North Land, which is now laboring under many disadvantages and difficulties. The gold mines are especially in a difficult position, and it speaks volumes for the ability and energy of the various managements that they have held so unusually good a position. The production of gold at this time is a patriotic work, yet at the same time while labor is scarce and not so efficient as before the war, and while materials have greatly advanced in cost, THE PRICE OF GOLD REMAINS THE SAME. It is in this respect that gold mines have a more difficult position than even silver or nickel corporations. Also it should not be necessary to emphasize the fact that the general public demand much bigger returns from mining investments than from other industrial investments. Thus it is that though the producing mines of the Porcupine gold area are paying now handsome dividends in most cases, they may be handicapped, and the development of the country retarded, and the production of gold curtailed, if the burden of taxation is piled on with too free a hand.

MINERS TO VOTE ON PROPOSED WAGE SCALE

Recent Convention of Union Representatives Drew Up Scale to Be Submitted to Members.

Representatives of the union members of the various mines of the North Land met recently in Cobalt to consider the question of drafting a new scale of wages to be submitted this spring to the mine owners. There were sixteen delegates present, including three from the District Executive, four from the Porcupine, three from Kirkland Lake, and one from Gowganda. Although no public report has been given out of what took place at the Convention, it is understood that a scale of wages was drawn up for submission to the employers if a majority of the members of the unions endorse the scale and endorse its submission. The minimum wage scale is said to be only about 50 cents per day higher than the present rate of wages, and in view of the increased cost of living is a reasonable increase under all the circumstances. It is believed that the mine owners will make no objection to its adoption, unless it is accompanied by other demands not considered so warranted. The general feeling seems to be that all danger of a strike is now at an end, as when left to themselves, without outside interference, there is every reason to believe that both sides to the question will show a reasonableness and desire to do justice that no trouble will be either probable or possible.

It is said that the union members

MILLER LAKE DAM BROKE THROUGH AGAIN

Waters Flooded Up to the Police Station on Sunday But Subsided.

On Sunday the dam at Miller Lake again broke through and a regular torrent of water poured through, flooding a wide area than that flooded some weeks ago. In addition to the new store on Fourth Avenue, the old schools and the houses flooded that time, the waters on Sunday went over the roads and flooded the house at the rear of Dr. Brown's as well as coming up to the latter's residence at the back and also flooding the cells and police station. On Monday morning the cells had about six inches of water in them and the prisoners had to be removed to South Porcupine. The water, however, went down gradually as the water lowered in the lake. The chief difficulty in attempting to dam the water back at the lake was the fact that to block it one place would simply mean its breaking through at another. However, it goes without saying that the water was dammed forcibly enough just because it could not be dammed effectively any other day.

will have an early opportunity to vote on the proposed new wage scale, and in some cases it is hinted that the demands to be made on the mine owners will be more than met before they are made. This is already the case with some of the mines in Cobalt and the Porcupine, where the wages and bonuses paid more than average the new scale.

HOLLINGER REPORT FOR FOUR-WEEK PERIOD

Gross Profits for Four Weeks to Feb. 25th Were \$210,868

The Hollinger Consolidated report for the four weeks ending Feb. 25th, was issued last week, and shows gross profits of \$210,868, as against \$217,100 for the corresponding period in January, \$225,057 in December, and \$240,175 for November.

The current assets compare as follows:—February, \$383,170; January, \$368,776; December, \$491,737; November, \$438,814.

Gold assets for the period ending February 25th were \$492,267, as against \$544,574 for January, \$489,526 for December, and \$471,611 for November.

The working costs for the period just reported were \$191,096, as against \$136,928 for January, \$187,028 for December, and \$188,468 for November.

The tons of ore treated for the four months were as follows:—February, 48,252; January, 48,119; December, 49,106; and November, 50,304.

The average values per ton were:—February, \$8.54; January, \$8.71; December, \$8.49; and November, \$8.78.

The running time possible during the four months was as follows:—February, 83 per cent.; January, 85½ per cent.; December 85.3 per cent.; and November, 91½ per cent.

The decrease in average time of running possible is no doubt due to the labor scarcity, and the difficulty in securing supplies, etc.

228th EXPECT TO GO TO FRANCE SOON

"Northern Fusiliers" Now Known as the "Sixth Canadian Railway Battalion.

A comic post card was received this week from Sergt. Albert Reid, who went overseas with the 228th Railway Construction Battalion, and who is now with that unit at Carlisle, England. The post card bears a very amusing picture showing a fat and wicked-looking convict breaking stone while the equally wicked-looking guard sits at a distance with a rifle across his knees. The wording on the picture is, "My time is nearly up at Carlisle." As will be noted by the correspondence on the card the wording has an apt and laughable construction. Sergt. Reid writes:—"We are all settled down in our 'huts' about three-quarters of an hour's ride from the heart of London. The boys have just had four days landing leave. Have been in Bradford and Carlisle for the last five days and return to camp to-morrow. We are now known officially as the "Sixth Canadian Railway Battalion," and expect to leave inside of three weeks. Had a lively trip across. The 159th went to France five days before we landed. They went as a Railway Battalion. I could write a book on "England in War Time." Kind regards to all my friends."

Notes, Comments and Opinions Of Interest To Mining World

With the dividend of 3 per cent. payable April 2nd, the Porcupine Crown has paid to date total dividends to the amount of \$780,000, or 39 per cent. of its capitalization.

Some of the richest ore ever found in that district has been reported as among the recent "finds" in the drift at the lower workings of the Kirkland Lake Gold Mines.

The Peerless Gold Mines Limited has been organized with a capitalization of \$1,500,000 to develop the Cullen-Renaud and McCrea claims at Boston Creek. The company is composed of Montreal capitalists.

The shaft at the Tash-Orne property at Tashota is now down to the 100-foot level, where about 100 feet of drifting has been done, with very satisfactory results. A first-class mining plant, including ore cars, rails and all modern equipment is in use. A special general meeting of the shareholders of the Dome Lake Mining and Milling Co. is called for to-

BUSINESS MEN ASSISTING THE FORESTRY DRAFT

Enthusiastic Meeting Thursday Night at Which 21 Pledge Themselves to Secure One Recruit Each.

In the Council Chambers on Thursday night there was an enthusiastic meeting attended by most of the leading business and professional men of the town with a view to assisting the recruiting work of the Fourth Forestry Draft. Mayor J. P. McLaughlin was appointed chairman, and Mr. J. P. Taillon, manager of the Timmins branch of the Canadian Bank of Commerce, was appointed secretary. Mayor McLaughlin outlined the purposes of the meeting, and Lieut. Gordon suggested ways in which all could assist. Among the plans brought forward by Lieut. Gordon was the signing and supporting of a card reading:—"I do hereby pledge myself as a member of the Porcupine District Recruiting League to obtain one recruit for the Porcupine Platoon of the Fourth Forestry Draft on or before the 15th day of April, 1917." That this plan appealed to the thirty present is proven by the fact that twenty-one cards were signed that evening, and the number of recruits being secured, as noted elsewhere in this issue, is proof of the other fact that there is enthusiastic effort to live up to the pledges on the cards. Since the meeting, others have signed the cards, and any who wish to thus aid in doing "their bit" at home by joining this recruiting league will no doubt be welcomed by the Secretary, Mr. Taillon, at any time.

Lieut. Gordon is at the Hotel Goldfields, where he will be pleased to give any information or particulars desired to any who are thinking of enlisting, or to receive the names of any eligible men who may be interested in the Porcupine Platoon of the Fourth Forestry Draft.

PORCUPINE MEN WIN MILITARY HONORS

Hugh McEachren and Leslie Mills Decorated at the Front.

Among the Porcupine men at the front who have won honor and distinction by their service to King and Country may be mentioned now the names of Hugh McEachren and Leslie Mills. Mr. McEachren was formerly foreman under Mr. Alex Stirling on the Government Roads here, and was well-known and popular in the north. Announcement was recently made that he had won the Military Medal in France. Mr. Leslie Mills was one of the Dome Mines staff in 1912. He has done such work overseas that he has won the coveted D.C.M.—the Distinguished Conduct Medal,—one of the medals conferred for special coolness bravery and daring.

Worst Snow Storm of Year; No Outside Mails for Five Days

ALL RAILWAY TRAFFIC BLOCKED FROM TUESDAY MORNING TO SATURDAY NIGHT LAST WEEK. TELEGRAPH WIRES DOWN ALSO SOME DAYS. SOME INCIDENTS.

The North Land last week was visited by one of the worst snow storms in its history. In any event, connection with the outside world was cut off for a longer time than in any of the recent years remembered by old timers. From Monday evening until Saturday night no mails came in here, and from Tuesday morning until Saturday night none went out. During intervals of this time also, the telegraph wires were out of commission, so many suffered serious inconvenience, to say the least. About 18 travellers were at the Hotel Goldfields, and during their enforced stay at that usually pleasant hostelry they found difficulty at first in being able to keep cheerful and occupied, but Mine Host Mulhern and his staff rose to the occasion so that when the blockade was lifted some were nearly sorry it was over. At South End another fourteen or fifteen commercial men were stranded and had a whale of a time putting in the time. Among the other features they enjoyed, however, was a banquet and dance at the King George Hotel in aid of a fire sufferer, for whose benefit about \$100 was realized by the event.

The "tie-up" caused much inconvenience to business in general, particularly through the lack of mails, but the chief loss was to those on the road either coming home or going away when the storm came on. Pass-

engers returning here have many stories to tell of what was endured. The majority of these were taken off the train at Englehart and New Liskeard, and while some of them were given their first meal at the expense of the railroad, all had after that, it is said, to shift for themselves at their own expense. In one case, it is also said, a collection had to be taken up to care for some women and children who would otherwise have been penniless, with no place to sleep and nothing to eat. It is understood that the Commercial Travellers' Association intend to take up the matter of the support of their members during the blockade, and secure a refund of the expense disbursed, as in such a case the railway is supposed to look after its passengers en route who are delayed through the action or lack of action of the railway. A proper equipment of snow ploughs, these travellers claim would have cleared the track days before it was cleared, and from past years and past experience the railroad should be prepared for such occasions.

One of the features of the blockade was the discovery of a small-pox patient in one of the stalled passenger trains.

Another feature was the bags and bags of mail that swamped the post office here Saturday night or Sunday morning when the train arrived here.

NO STRIKE NOW AT IROQUOIS FALLS MILL

Men Given Increase of Wages and Matters are Adjusted

The news that there was a strike on at the big paper mills in Iroquois Falls did not remain "true news" very long. The men declared the strike last week, but this week all are ordered back to work. The difficulty was over increased wages and the recognition of the unions by the company. Although only about 700 men were affected at the end of last week it was probable that the difficulty would spread with a consequent closing down altogether for a time of the big industry. The men and the Abitibi Power & Paper Company, however, "got together," and this week there is the real "pleasing news" that the difficulties have been adjusted and the men are back at work as usual. The men were given increases in pay approximately about 15 per cent. As an interesting sidelight it may be noted that the paper-makers at Iroquois Falls now receive 15 per cent. higher wages than paid at any other paper mill in Canada.

BUSY TIME FOR POLICE MAGISTRATE

No Court Last Week, But Several Unusual Cases for Thursday

Police Magistrate Atkinson missed his weekly visit to Timmins last week but he will have a heavy docket tomorrow to more than offset this. In addition to the charges of contravention of the Temperance Act, more or less common in this court, and a sprinkling of the common variety of drunks there will be several more serious charges. One man faces a particularly serious and peculiar charge under the section of the criminal code referring to "gross indecency." Another is accused of rape or attempted rape. A third will receive preliminary trial for attempt to murder. The latter, after making some threats against the life of another citizen, was arrested and found to be carrying a revolver.

On account of the flooding of the jail building on Sunday from the waters of Miller Lake all the prisoners,—and there was a full house,—were driven over to South Porcupine Monday morning and accommodated in the cells there. They will be brought back here for trial to-morrow before the Magistrate.

A drunk arrested on Sunday was taken before a local Justice of the Peace Monday morning and fined \$10 and costs for his little spree.

FIREMEN'S BALL FRIDAY, APRIL 13th

Big Event Changed from Easter Monday Evening on Account of Iroquois Falls Ball

The annual Fireman's Ball will be held in the Masonic Hall, Timmins, this year on Friday evening, April 13th. It was intended, as noted recently in The Advance, to have the event on the evening of Easter Monday, but the date has been changed to the Friday evening following, April 13th, out of a neighborliness for Iroquois Falls. There is a big ball being held in the Big Paper Mill Town on Easter Monday evening, and many from the Porcupine district would like to attend it. As it is understood that a special train will be run for the accommodation of those wishing to attend the Iroquois Falls event, there will likely be a big attendance from Timmins and the district.

SIXTEEN RECRUITS FOR FORESTRY DRAFT

In the past week no less than sixteen young men have been recruited here by the Fourth Forestry Draft. They are:—S. J. Fleming, W. T. Samson, Gordon Irving, W. M. Widdifield, James Nash, Robt. G. Carmichael, David J. LaLonde, W. King, J. Andreechek, Ernest Blodgett, Ed. C. Quinn, Stephen McAndrews, Eugene Fournier, Louis Lambert, Geo. A. St. Denis, and John E. Tieg.

The quality of the young men being signed up is especially pleasing. Lieut. Gordon is still at the Hotel Goldfields and will be pleased to see any other eligible men thinking of enlisting.

Messrs. J. P. McLaughlin, Mayor of Timmins, and H. E. Montgomery, Clerk-Treasurer, left on Monday for Toronto to place before the Government the town's case regarding an extra ½ per cent. share in the mines royalties. At a special meeting of the Town Council earlier this week, it was agreed that Timmins needed 1½ per cent. at least out of the 5 per cent. proposed by the new Mining Tax Act. For permanent improvements of various kinds and for the growth and development of the town and district it would be well if the Government would place Timmins on the same basis as Cobalt, the latter town being allowed to receive a tax to the amount of 1½ per cent. In the case of Timmins it would mean an increase of over \$10,000 badly needed for extensions and improvements.