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Speech from Throne Refers to New Mining Activities

James Bay Development Also Specially Mentioned. Forest Conservation Has Attention. Air Protection Service Commended. Other Matters of Particular North Land Interest.

Following the inauguration ceremonies of the seventeenth legislature of Ontario at Toronto on Wednesday of last week with the usual military and social features, His Honour W. D. Ross, Lieut-Governor, read the Speech from the Throne, foreshadowing the new Government Control Bill and other legislation. W. D. Black, M.L.A., for Addington was duly elected speaker, on the nomination of Premier Ferguson, and the House adjourned for the speaker's reception, after the conclusion of the ceremonies. The floor and galleries of the chamber were crowded with the brilliant assemblage. It was remarked that there was a new legislature, with a new Lieut-governor, a new speaker and a new clerk of the house, A. C. Lewis, former M.L.A. for Toronto

East.

With practically a solid representation on the Government side from the North Land in the new Ontario House, it was particularly fitting that the Speech from the Throne should pay special attention to matters of interest to this North. Mining, forest conservation, James Bay district exploration and development, were among the items specifically mentioned in the Speech from the Throne.

Naturally the most important general item in the Speech was the paragraph reading:—

"Legislation will be introduced to recognize and give effect to the expressed desire of the people of the province for an improvement in the method of the control and administration of the sale of liquor."

Among other measures which will be submitted to legislature are:

A bill to increase the exemption of income under the assessment law.

Measures regarding the Amusement Tax Act.

Measures to amend the Marriage Act.

Revision and consolidation of a number of existing laws.

The speech noted that despite unusual weather conditions results from agriculture last year closely approximated the average yield. Inauguration of the grading of cream has brought about gratifying improvement in the quality of the commercial make of butter. Plans which were put into effect during the past year for the placing of British boys on Ontario farms were said to warrant material expansion of the project in the near future.

In connection with sessional matters, the speech announced that the government was pursuing the policy of providing increased facilities for advanced courses of instruction at local centres, the aim being to place the benefits of higher education within the reach of all. The plan recently inaugurated by which pupils in remote settlements are being given primary instruction for the first time by means of travelling schools has been markedly successful and will be extended as required to cover all districts not at present served with schools. The hope is expressed that the inquiry into certain schools attended by French speaking pupils will be concluded this year.

The speech adds: "A measure of progress has been made in preliminary steps for development of powers of the St. Lawrence River in international waters. As this power will not be available under the most favourable circumstances, in time to meet the immediately approaching needs of the province, the Hydro Electric Power Commission has entered into agreements to secure a supply of electrical energy from the Gatineau River. Furthermore, my ministers and commission has conferred with the Government of Quebec with a view to utilization of the powers of the Ottawa River in interprovincial waters. Owing to the fact that the city of Fort William has now entered the family of municipalities served by the Power Commission, the output of the Nipigon development is fully taxed and provision is being made by additional power. Extension of hydro-electric service into rural districts continues to make satisfactory progress.

"The policy of perpetuating our timber wealth by segregating areas adapted to natural reproduction of forests has received much consideration from my ministers and legislation may be introduced in that connection. During the past season, the air protection service demonstrated its utility, not only in detection, but

in suppression of fires and prevention of loss of public domains.

"Mining activities during the past year were productive of an unusually large number of promising discoveries of gold, copper, zinc and lead. The two last named metals have so far been unimportant factors in our mining operations but there are good prospects of their shortly providing a substantial addition to the output of the province. The situation of mining in Ontario justifies the growing confidence of the public in the future of the industry.

"Owing to the promising outlook of that portion of the province lying north of the present terminus of the Temiskaming and Northern Ontario railway it would appear that the time is now opportune for making further progress towards James Bay, thereby opening up additional areas for exploration and probable development.

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CANADA SOON TO EXCEL U. S. AS GOLD PRODUCER

Prominent Mining Writer Refers to Increase in Canada's Gold Production and the Prospects Ahead

Mr. H. N. Lawrie, managing director of the American Gold Institute, Washington, D.C., in a recent article refers to the increase in Canada's gold production, and points out that unless conditions change, Canada will soon outdistance the United States as a gold producer. In part Mr. Lawrie says:—

The world's gold production in 1926 is estimated at \$388,500,000, a decline of \$100,000,000 from the revised estimate of 1925. Through the co-operation of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, cable estimates were obtained from a large number of the principal producing countries, and this year it was possible also to obtain through the Soviet Information Bureau a cable estimate from Moscow of the 1926 Russian production.

Under favourable labour conditions, the Transvaal in 1925 produced 9,598,000 oz. of gold, valued at \$198,408,000, which was a record year. Under still more favourable labour conditions, the production of gold in the Transvaal in 1926 is estimated at 9,960,000 oz., valued at \$205,891,000, or an increase of 362,000 oz., valued at \$7,483,000, which establishes a new high record. In Mexico the production of gold declined from \$16,310,000 in 1925 to \$12,821,000 in 1926, or a decline of \$3,489,000. The production of refinery gold in continental United States declined from \$47,957,000 in 1925 to \$45,268,000 in 1926, or a decline of \$2,689,000. Russian production, in accordance with the best estimates obtainable, is about the same as last year, \$17,500,000, with a probable increase of \$500,000 with more complete returns. The production of the Province of Ontario, Canada, it is estimated will exceed \$31,000,000, indicating an increase over last year of more than \$1,500,000. The incomplete returns from the Yukon and western Canada indicate declines, but the production for the Dominion this year should not be less than \$36,250,000, an increase of approximately \$500,000 over that of last year. These are the principal changes in production, there being only minor variations from last year indicated in the productions of other countries.

The refinery production of gold in the United States (including the Philippine Islands), as estimated by the U.S. Mint in co-operation with the U.S. Bureau of Mines, amounted to \$47,299,000 in 1926, a decline of \$2,561,200 from the production in 1925. This is the lowest production since 1915 when the highest production was recorded, of \$101,035,700. Production of gold in California in 1926 amounted to \$11,574,400, a decline of \$1,693,800 from that of 1925; in Colorado, \$6,859,300, a decline of \$521,300; in Montana, \$1,248,800, a decline of \$488,100; in Nevada, \$3,505,900, a decline of \$222,300; in South Dakota, \$5,932,000, a decline of \$24,800; in Utah, \$3,681,200, a decline of \$63,900; in Arizona, \$4,759,200, an increase of \$532,400; in Alaska, \$6,467,300, an increase of \$240,700, and in the Philippine Islands, \$2,031,300, an increase of \$128,000.

"The United States produced 21.5 per cent. of the world's highest production in 1915, \$468,799,812, and has since contributed a continually decreasing percentage, until in 1924 it was 13.4 per cent.; in 1925, 12.8 per cent., and in 1926, only 12.2 per cent. Canadian prospects for increased production in the near future are good, and unless some constructive assistance be rendered the domestic pro-

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MAKING GOOD PROGRESS AT LAKE SAVANT PROPERTY

According to a despatch last week from Buck Station on the C.N.R., the Noranda interests are making good progress toward the opening up of the Simmons property at Lake Savant. The long trail and the severe Winter conditions are a handicap, but despite this the work of the next few months will provide a good idea of the value of the property. A cash payment of \$5,000 accrues due in March, after which there is a period of nine months without further cash payments on the purchase price. This will give Noranda the entire Summer during which to thoroughly explore the possibilities of the property.

ARGONAUT NOW DOWN OVER 1080 FEET IN FIRST SHAFT.

Information over Arthur E. Moysey's private wire from Kirkland Lake is to the effect that sinking operations from the 1,000-foot level are making good progress, having reached a depth of 1,080 feet.

It is the intention of the management to sink the shaft to a depth of 1,250 feet, establishing levels at 1,125 and 1,250 foot depths and from that point continue cross-cuts to open up the ore bodies encountered by diamond drills.

Diamond drilling is also being carried on to the south from the 700-foot level to explore No. 833 vein. The mine is looking good with all faces in excellent ore.

The mill is running about 98 per cent. time, treating an average of 100 tons daily.

INTEREST CONTINUES IN BLACK TOWNSHIP CLAIMS

The discovery recently of high-grade lead ore in Black Township, near Ramore station on the T. & N.O. has interested several of the big mining companies. The Timmins Brothers are understood to have been the first in the field with financial and other assistance for the development of the new discovery, but this is the usual thing in this North Land, where the Timmins interests usually lead in financing anything that looks at all promising. It is understood that members of the McIntyre staff also hold good interests in the Black Township lead area, while the Nipissing Mine is also represented with a number of promising claims. It is understood that Mr. Cyril Knight, chief geologist for the Nipissing will go in this week to look over the properties under the option to the Nipissing Mine.

A euchre and dance, under the auspices of Rebekahs, will be held this (Thursday) evening in the I.O.O. F. hall, with the usual very enjoyable time assured to all attending. Refreshments will be served, and the music will be by the A.S.D. orchestra.

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ducers of gold, the production in Canada will probably overshadow that in the United States in the not distant future.

"The purchasing power of the 1913 dollar for the first eleven months of 1925 was 63.0c., increasing to 66.1c. in the corresponding period of 1926. Notwithstanding the apparent decrease in the cost of production resulting from a deflation of commodity prices, domestic production of gold continued to decline. This indicates further that reserves are becoming depleted and that even though a deflation in commodity prices should continue in 1927, the production may still further decline. It is true that monetary demands for gold in foreign countries are becoming increasingly great, and as it becomes more difficult to satisfy these demands, a world-wide deflation will probably result. The impending deflation, however, will probably not involve serious price declines, extending, as it probably will, over a long number of years."

A euchre, five hundred and bridge will be held in the church basement on Thursday evening, Feb. 17th, in aid of the Church of the Nativity. Lunch will be served during the evening.

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