

**THE McCHARLES PRIZE.**

The late Aeneas McCharles, a native of Cape Breton and for many years a citizen of Sudbury, Ont., was deeply impressed with the importance of improving our modern means of extracting metals from their ores, or of treating minerals generally. To stimulate Canadians to attack the problems of metallurgy and ore-dressing, Mr. McCharles set apart in his will a fund of sufficient bulk to provide a prize of \$1,000 to the Canadian who does most in any one year to advance the sciences mentioned above.

The drafting of regulations was left in the hands of the Board of Governors of the University of Toronto. These are printed on another page, and should be read carefully.

The McCharles prize should set every young eligible Canadian thinking.

**A RESOLUTION.**

The following resolution has been forwarded to Ottawa by Secretary Hayward:—

“The Mining Society of Nova Scotia beg to congratulate the Government of Canada on the resumption of the important portfolio of Minister of Mines by the Honourable William Templeman, and have confidence in assuming that the vigorous and wise policy which has brought such signal and beneficial service to the Western Provinces will be extended to Nova Scotia.”

In connection with the above we are informed that the Minister of Mines intends to visit Nova Scotia officially during the current year.

Mr. R. B. Watson, manager of the La Rose and Nipissing, paid a visit to Gowganda recently to look over some of the prospects.

## PROBABLE EFFECT OF THE ACREAGE TAX ON MINING LANDS IN ONTARIO.

Paper read by G. R. Mickle before the Canadian Mining Institute, Montreal Meeting, March, 1909.

In order to estimate the effect the acreage tax levied by the Supplementary Revenue Act, 1907, will have, it is necessary to understand not only this Act, but also the conditions under which mining lands have been patented or leased from time to time in Ontario. This Act imposes a tax of two cents per acre on all lands patented or leased for mining purposes, situated in territory having no municipal organization. The tax is a statutory one, no notice or tax bill is, therefore, required. A penalty of 10 per cent. attaches if the tax is not paid by the date specified (October 1st, each year), and after a certain time the lands in default with regard to taxes are forfeited after notice is published in the Ontario Gazette. The Act requires that a tax roll should be prepared showing all the lands taxable. This will be referred to frequently in the course of this paper.

A synopsis of the various Acts and regulations is given in Volume II, Report of Bureau of Mines. Previous to 1867, when Ontario was formed into a separate province, mining lands were disposed of under Orders-in-Council. It was intended originally to grant five square miles, or 3,200 acres, but this was never carried out, and the first grant of land as mining land was in a location of ten square miles, or 6,400 acres, the block being 5 x 2 miles, five miles being laid out along the supposed course of the vein. In those days they must have had great veins. The first “location” granted in this way was the Cutherbertson (Bruce Mines), containing 6,458½ acres, and the patent is dated at Quebec on the 5th October, 1852. In the case of islands or areas broken by any natural obstacle, the location might exceed or be less than 6,400 acres, and accordingly there appear on the tax roll to-day 22 locations containing in all 132,685 acres, the largest being 9,793 acres and the smallest 1,130. The land was sold at 80 cents per acre, and payments spread over a number of years. Priority of discovery was a first requirement.

In 1853 the regulations were changed so that by securing a license to explore good for two years and

costing \$100.00 the licensee might secure an area not exceeding 400 acres, which must afterwards be purchased at \$1.50 per acre. Subsequently the license fee was abolished and the land went to the first applicant under working conditions. These conditions were afterwards eliminated. In 1864 the Gold Mining Act was passed (27 Vict., Chap. IX.) by the Legislature of the United Provinces. This Act was occasioned by the gold excitement on the Chaudiere and other rivers in Quebec, and provided for the setting aside of mining divisions wherein licensees might stake out claims of small area (less than one acre). Under the regulations existing from 1853 to 1869 about 35,000 acres of land were granted in parcels of 400 acres or thereabouts, which now appear on the tax roll. The area of these locations in organized territory has not been ascertained.

In 1869 the first really important Mining Act was passed in Ontario (32 Vict., Chap. 34). The area of mining locations was fixed at 320,160 or 80 acres. Regulations were also contained in this Act for the declaration of Mining Divisions as in the Act of 1864, the area being 200 feet square or about one acre. Neither discovery or work was required to hold mining lands acquired by purchase, the Act simply stating “Crown Lands supposed to contain mines or minerals may be sold as mining lands,” or they might be worked as mining claims if in a declared mining division.

In 1891 the Public Lands Act (54 Vict., Chap 7) was amended, so that the mineral rights were declared reserved in grants of land for agricultural purposes, even if the reservation was not expressly mentioned.

The Mines' Act, 1892 (55 Vict., Chap. 9) is the next important one, no substantial change was made in the size of the locations except that they might be 320, 160, 80 or 40 acres. The system of leasing whereby a part of the rental money might be applied on purchase was made a feature of this Act. Working conditions were included (\$4.00 per acre during 7 years). The provisions regarding mining claims staked by licensees in