

It is true that certain minutiae are lacking, but, for our own part, we are quite willing to accept the report as it stands.

The first annual report of the Hollinger Gold Mines, Limited, is a milestone in Porcupine's history. More than that, it marks the turning point in the chequered story of gold mining in Ontario. Our felicitations are proffered to Mr. Robbins and to his directors.

#### SIR JAMES DECIDES.

On Monday, February 12th, history was made. On that day Sir James Whitney electrified the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, gladdened the hearts of all those who live in the new north, and administered a terrific solar plexus to the vaulting ambition of the Leader of the Opposition, by delivering himself of the news that his Government was prepared to spend the vast sum of \$5,000,000 in colonizing Northern Ontario.

For the purpose of controlling expenditure a special commissioner is to be appointed. His task will be sufficiently onerous, for the territory is enormous, the needs of each section are apparent and pressing, and no amount of money could conceivably satisfy everybody. Yet the judicious distribution of \$5,000,000 will go far towards ameliorating conditions that are now intolerable.

Roads, of course, are the first need. Then, gradually, all the other prime essentials of transportation and commerce must come. Already the Government has had several lessons in the art of making roads—at least it should have learned by this time how not to make them. So the North may reasonably hope for practical sympathy and help.

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The Government of Ontario has taken a serious view of its duties. It has risen splendidly to the occasion that now offers. In all its future efforts to open and colonize the north it must not, however, lose sight of the fact that the country was opened first by the prospector and the miner, that the mining investor has spent millions in roads and general culture, and that without the mines of to-day and of to-morrow the Province would be poorer by many millions of dollars. It is the bounden duty of the Government not to overlook in any respect the welfare of the mining communities. For a long time to come agriculture will be entirely tributary to mining.

Many good men and true will hanker for the job of distributing and allocating that \$5,000,000. It is our belief that no one man should be clothed with too much authority. An advisory committee composed of prominent citizens of northern towns should be called upon to aid and direct. Most certainly the mining towns should be given a very large voice in the whole matter.

No doubt Sir James and his Cabinet will have considered every aspect of the question. We make bold to

throw out these suggestions on the chance of correcting a possible sin of omission.

#### BENJAMIN FRANKLIN PEARSON.

Few men have left a deeper impress upon the industrial development of Canada than the late B. F. Pearson, whose untimely death, as noted in another column, occurred recently in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Mr. Pearson's was the unique distinction of having promoted the organization of the two largest coal mining and iron making concerns in Canada. In a large sense the Dominion Coal Company and the Dominion Iron and Steel Company were children of his singularly fertile brain. Other important enterprises too numerous to mention owed their birth to the same active intellect.

In addition to his wonderful range of commercial activities, Mr. Pearson was a successful politician, a lawyer, a journalist, and a notably public-spirited citizen.

It will be long ere Nova Scotia produces another B. F. Pearson. His name stands highest in the list of Canadian promoters, far outshining the rapacious product of later days.

#### THE BRITISH COAL SITUATION.

The prospect of a peaceful settlement of the dispute between the coal miners and the mine owners of Great Britain seems dim. The latest cables, received just as we go to press, indicate that a deadlock still exists. The last conference of the representatives of nearly one million miners brought out the fact that the majority strongly favoured a general stoppage of work on the last day of this month, unless the principle of a minimum wage for all underground employees be accepted and applied.

Already some 30,000 Derbyshire miners have notified their employers of their intention to quit work. It is expected that within a few days every union coal miner will have followed suit.

The situation is grave. The operators, still sore over the Eight Hour Act, feel strongly their humiliating position. Concession after concession has been wrung from them. Seemingly no reasonable measure of compromise will satisfy the miners.

What the outcome will be, no one can guess. Certainly a strong statesman is needed to bring the conflicting parties to a settlement.

#### LE ROI NO. 2.

One of the instances where even the English investor cannot complain that he is not getting a fair return for his money is Le Roi No. 2 mine at Rossland, B.C. On its capital, the company has paid eleven annual dividends ranging from 5 per cent. to 30 per cent., but nearly always more closely approaching the latter. It was recently decided at the eleventh annual meeting of the company's shareholders in London, that in future the dividend rate would be fixed at 10 per cent. per annum.