

9-10 EDWARD VII., A. 1910

If either of the parties is not satisfied with the decision of the mining commissioner he in turn may make an appeal to the Divisional Court; that is, the ordinary court of the land.

Q. In operation how has it worked?—A. It has been one of the best features of the amended mining law, and it has worked out admirably. It relieves the minister and the department of the trouble and difficulty of settling mining disputes which will arise under any law and which are most frequent where the land is most valuable, and removes them to the jurisdiction of an officer whose sole business is to ascertain the merits of the case and to decide accordingly. If he makes a mistake, then his appeal is subject to review by the courts of law. It is a feature which I think has generally commended itself to the mining public in connection with the operation of the law, not only for the reasons I have mentioned, but also because disputes can be expeditiously and quickly settled.

*By the Chairman:*

Q. There appears to be no other question. Is there any other feature of your mining law or practice in Ontario that you would like to mention?—A. I can outline the law briefly if that would be of any interest to the members of the committee or give them any information, but I think what I have said practically covers the salient points. There is one matter that I would like to mention of my own motion, Mr. Chairman, if you will permit me to do so. That is in connection with the use of nickel or cobalt. I would like to put in a plea for a pure nickel or cobalt coinage for Canada. These are distinctly Canadian metals, and I think could be used to very considerable advantage, especially in the form of a coin to replace our present 5-cent piece. Our 5-cent piece is very small and inconvenient because of its size, and a coin of pure metallic nickel or cobalt, I do not care which, considerably larger than the 5-cent piece, intermediary perhaps in size between our present 10-cent piece and our present quarter, I think would answer the purpose very well. I believe it would strike a distinctly Canadian note, would help to advertise our Canadian resources of nickel or cobalt, and it would be a coin that would have a handsome appearance. It would be practically non-corrodible, very hard, and difficult to counterfeit. The pure nickel coins are in use in a number of the countries of continental Europe—in France, Italy, Austria, Switzerland and elsewhere—and their use has given great satisfaction. I have some of these coins in my pocket which I have carried for three or four years past for the purpose of giving them a test as to how they will maintain their appearance (producing coins). That, Mr. Chairman, (handing coin to the chairman), is a coin that I have carried for that length of time. It is a French coin.

The CHAIRMAN.—It looks like a brand new coin.

The WITNESS.—You can see for yourself. It looks as if it were turned out of the mint yesterday.

*By Mr. Congdon:*

Q. That is nickel?—A. That is a pure nickel coin. Yes, sir. There is another one (producing coin). That is an Austrian coin.

*By Mr. Goodeve:*

Q. About what would that represent in value?—A. Do you mean the intrinsic value? I have not worked that out.

*By Mr. Rhodes:*

Q. That is 20 centimes, or 5 cents of our money?—A. It represents about that.

*By Mr. Goodeve:*

Q. About 5 cents?—A. About 5 cents. I don't think the difference between the real value of the coin and the face value would be very much greater than the difference between the real and the face value of a 5-cent piece.