

Various estimates, all more or less vague, have been made of the approximate quantity of iron ore in this district. Dr. Gilpin estimates that every thousand feet longitudinal and 500 feet vertical of the northern beds worked out will produce 1,800,000 tons of ore—practically three years' supply at 2,000 tons per day. His estimate to a depth of 800 feet for the district so far developed is not less than 300,000,000 tons.

Consequently, the small extent to which, so far, the ores of Nictaux and Torbrook, those of the East River of Pictou and other localities in Nova Scotia have been used, can only be explained, as suggested by Dr. Poole, by supposing that they are harder to smelt; that they are not so high in metallic iron as foreign ores or that they cost more to mine and deliver at the furnaces.

### PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE ONTARIO MINING LAW.

To the Editor:—

Sir,—I would respectfully submit that the proper policy for the Ontario Government to pursue from the standpoint of those interested in the mining industry would be for the Temiscamingue & Northern Ontario Railway Company to extend its line of railway to Hudson Bay at the earliest possible date, and this line of railway with that of the Grand Trunk Pacific, together with the numerous large rivers emptying into the Hudson Bay would open up an empire of mining lands to the explorer. It would cost some \$10,000,000 to construct the railway and about \$1,500,000 to pay interest on the investment and the expense of operating the line of railway. If the company is to succeed they must adopt the policy that would be pursued by a modern railway company and erect, or secure the erection of, a refinery at some point on their line of railway.

The marvellous wealth of the silver Cobalt district and the promising mineral areas existing both in Northern Ontario and Northern Quebec, and also the attractions of Temagami and other similar attractions. If properly brought to the attention of explorers and capitalists in Great Britain and United States, should bring to Northern Ontario 10,000 explorers and \$50,000,000 of mining capital, and that, with the assistance of the agricultural interests in the Clay Belt, would secure a remunerative traffic for the provincial line of railway for all time to come. The present working conditions are somewhat similar to those imposed under the laws of the United States and British Columbia and are quite ample and satisfactory if owners were compelled to perform such development operation, *or in default have their leases cancelled*. The Temiskaming Mining Regulations should be amended requiring the explorer to commence development operations within ten days after he locates his claim and perform at least twenty days' work during each of the next succeeding three months, except during the winter season, and this would obviate the necessity

of an inspector being called upon to decide whether the licensee has made a valuable discovery or not. The United States courts hold that a valuable discovery is the finding of a vein or lode in place which an experienced miner would consider himself justified in spending his time and money on the location with the reasonable expectation of finding ore in paying quantities, and it is always preferable that a man's title should rest on his own acts than on the discretion of an official, and this is one of the cardinal principles in the United States mining law.

2. The advocates of a royalty on mineral are playing into the hands of the nickle trusts in the strongest possible manner, as they are perfectly confident that even if it became law such a tax would never be enforced; and yet, on the other hand, it is a most powerful ghost to frighten away American capitalists who have not yet invested in Ontario, as they at once come to the conclusion that, if the farmers of Old Ontario are prepared to impose a royalty on the infantile mining industry; that, if the mines did prove of great value and extent that that would be a signal for the imposition of still greater and more unjust taxation on the minority in Northern Ontario, and they come to the conclusion that they will invest their money in the States and other countries where the importance of the mining industry is appreciated by the manufacturers and farmers of such country.

The advocate of the royalty is sowing seeds of discord in Northern Ontario, and if persisted in will eventually mean the creation of Keewatin and Algoma into a separate province and the placing of Old Ontario in a third rate position among the other provinces in the near future.

3. For the convenience of the explorer it is preferable that all locations should be staked out, and a discovery post planted so that another explorer passing over these lands at a subsequent date will know that it is useless for him to spend his time in exploring same as some other licensee has acquired such location, and by examining the discovery he may secure some valuable information in assisting him to explore the adjoining lands, and it makes a better check as to whether a valuable discovery has really been made or not. Application should be made within fifteen days and then if such applicant is the first discoverer, and the first to stake out, his right thereto should be valid, *even although he may not have staked out his claim in accordance with all the regulations applicable thereto* and his application should then be the basis of his title.

The acquiring of a large agricultural and mining population for New Ontario is of supreme importance to the manufacturing, mercantile and financial interests of Old Ontario.

JOHN McKAY.

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To the Editor:—

Sir,—Although we have now a Minister of Lands and Mines in Ontario, I do not expect to see