

## Opening the Canadian Northern in New Ontario.



On the 30th of December last in the Rainy River section of New Ontario a scene was enacted which marked a most important epoch in the history, not only of two provinces, but the whole Dominion as well. On that day the last spike was driven in the Port Arthur section of the Canadian Northern Railway and the practical completion of 810 miles of the main line of what is destined to be the second trans-continental railroad of Canada became a fact. Atikokan Station was the scene of this most interesting ceremony and here, almost within the shadow of the great iron range from which the station derives its name, the bright sunlight of a Canadian winter afternoon suffusing the scene, the spike, a silver one, was driven home by Honorable E. J. Davis, Commissioner of Crown Lands for Ontario. Although inter-provincial in character the ceremony was a simple one, and, though simple, yet pregnant with meaning, for the driving of the spike meant the opening up of rich tracts of New Ontario for settlement, a new and much needed outlet for the granaries of the West, and the forging of a substantial link in Canada's second trans-continental road. The leading men of the district, the officers and officials of the road, and some of the leading men of the two Provinces most immediately affected by the completion of the road met at Atikokan to witness the event. As the last stroke of the hammer rang against the rail the assemblage bared heads and sang "God Save the King," concluding with three hearty cheers that reverberated with crystalline distinctness across the sparkling snowfields and through the adjacent pine wood forest. The group surrounding Mr. Davis, as he drove the spike, included Mr. James Conmee, M.P.P., who held the spike in position, William Mackenzie, President, and D. D. Mann, Vice-president of the C. N. R.; B. E. Walker, General Manager of the Canadian Bank of Commerce; Z. A. Lash, K.C., solicitor for the C.N.R., and Messrs. W. H. Moore, Lewis Lukes and Alex. MacKenzie, Toronto; J. J. Long, Collingwood; Honorable C. H.