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## House of Assembly Proceedings

APRIL 2, 1925.

The House met yesterday at the usual hour.

### PETITIONS.

HON. M. S. SULLIVAN presented a petition from Ship Harbour on the subject of a telephone.

MR. HICKMAN presented a petition from Bay Roberts East on the subject of employment.

HON. W. J. HIGGINS presented two petitions from Torbay on the subject of a road, and of certain marine works respectively.

MR. SPEAKER advised the House that the Council had sent down certain amendments to the Egress from Churches Bill. These amendments were read a first time and ordered to be read a second time to-day.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL pointed out that these amendments were to operate as an entirely new Bill to repeal the present legislation. He suggested that the amendments be printed and distributed.

Mr. Speaker advised the House that a message had been received from the Council advising the House of the concurrence of that body with the House's amendments to the Council's amendments on the Highway Traffic Bill.

The House went into Committee of the Whole on Supply and the vote for Agriculture was taken up. The Minister, MR. W. J. WALSH, delivered a speech on the subject in which he said:

MR. CHAIRMAN—In introducing the Estimates of what is required for the management and operation of the Department of Agriculture and Mines for the coming fiscal year, I wish to make a few remarks.

As Honourable members can see by reference to the printed Estimates now before you, there is a substantial increase in the amount asked for this year as against last, and I will explain the reasons for these increases as follows:

In the readjustment of the officials, on the resignation of Mr. McNelly, a new position was created which called for a very trustworthy and competent official. This post has been filled by Mr. Ryan, who was formerly employed in the Agricultural end of the Department at a salary of \$1,500.00; it has been increased to \$1,800.

Second Clerk, which is the next increase, is Mr. Neil McEllan who has been in the Department's long time—the only break being while he was overseas. He is a most trustworthy and reliable official and his increase is \$250.00.

Next increase is for Historiographer, which position is now held by Mr. Shortis. His work is a very important one and he has been engaged during the past two or three years on a compilation of an up-to-date History of the Colony which, when completed, will contain some millions of words. His Excellency the Governor, and other important personages, have inspected the work and report most favorably thereon. His increase is from \$300 to \$350.

The next increase is under the Head of Surveys, Mr. Noel, who was formerly First Surveyor, has now added to his duties that of Assistant Deputy Minister, which additional position was necessitated by the illness of the present Deputy, Mr. Turner. His salary has been increased from \$2,000 to \$2,500.

The next two apparent increases are 3rd and 4th Surveyors. These are really not increases; their salaries were formerly paid out of the Contingencies and I have now had them added to the regular list.

There is an increase of \$1,000 for additional Surveyors and Assistants. With this vote it is my intention to employ the services of three or four young men who have just passed through College, who will come into this Department to learn the surveying business, as at the present time those on the main staff are becoming old and there are no young men to take up the work when they pass out. I think it is essential in the interest of this important Department that young men should be employed to learn the business so as to be able to take the responsible positions as the older men pass out of the service.

The next apparent increase, it for the messenger at the Government Laboratory. This is not an increase as formerly he was paid from Contingencies but he is now placed on the regular list.

Next increase (Page 64) is for repairs to instruments. This vote was always put in the Estimates until last year when, on the suggestion of the Minister of Finance, we eliminated it, but I have been advised by the officials of the Department to have this amount voted for repairs to instruments as it is absolutely essential so I am asking to have the vote reinstated this year.

The decrease from \$1,500 to \$750 is explained by the fact that the Department of Public Works has taken over the responsibility of paying for office cleaning.

The next substantial increase is under the head of Supplies for Surveyors. The explanation of this is that a great deal of survey work in various parts of the country is necessary to be done, but owing to lack of funds we could only afford to send one Survey party in the field last year. I am taking an additional \$6,000 so as to be able to put three survey parties in the field the coming summer. Now that we are embarking on a policy of development of our Natural Resources, and with the introduction of two, if not more, Paper Mills, it is essential that we have the important work of survey carried out.

The next increase is under the head of Logging Inspectors. The explanation is that an additional Inspector had been engaged during the past year, which brings the vote from \$2,500 up to \$3,400.

The explanation of the \$1,500 asked for under refunds is, that formerly when we had to make refunds the amount had to be refunded and charged to Contingencies. It will not be necessary to do so in future now as all the refunds can be charged to the grant for that purpose and the amount left over can go as a drop balance.

Under the head of Encouragement of Agriculture we are asking for an increased vote of \$15,000 and I hope to be able to justify this vote later or in my address.

Under the head of Poultry Exhibitions in St. John's and Bell Island we are asking for \$850.00, which is apparently a new vote but which, in reality, dates back to 1910, but was paid from the general vote for Agriculture.



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As it will be seen, Mr. Chairman, in 12 years the production in tons of this mine increased from 14,000 tons to 360,140 tons, while the gross value increase was, during the same period, from \$101,555.16 to \$3,488,863.00; or, during the 12 years, the total value in this vicinity of \$20,000,000 for this one mine alone.

Take the case of the Hollinger Gold Mines, Ltd. This mine is also situated in Northern Ontario, and produced as follows:

Year Tons of Ore Milled Recovered Values

1911 ..... 1,000 \$ 46,082.52  
 1912 ..... 45,000 833,682.00  
 1913 ..... 140,131 2,488,022.58  
 1914 ..... 211,846 2,719,354.47  
 1915 ..... 441,236 4,205,901.69

During this period there was paid in dividends to the stock holders of this Company over \$4,000,000, besides leaving an estimated amount of Ore, valued at \$16,000,000.

In 1915 this mine was consolidated—Hollinger Consolidated Gold Mines, Ltd. The history of the new mine is one of rapid and sure expansion. In the fourteen years (1911 to 1925) the increase of tons of ore milled is from 1,000 tons in the year it commenced operations to 1,600,000 tons in 1924.

Value during this period has increased from \$45,082.52 in its initial year to \$3,488,863.00 in 1924. The dividends paid stockholders, were all in 1911 (its initial year) but in 1912, after twelve months in operation, they paid \$270,000 and the increase for every year has been substantial since 1911; and in 1924, the last year for which there is any official statistics, the amount paid as dividends was \$3,923,000.

Added to this, the Company estimated that an Ore Reserve—which is an important asset—valued at over \$50,000,000, was in sight.

These two illustrations, which are compiled from authentic statistics, should convince the Committee that minerals should receive more consideration than they have received in the past.

ture hitherto. On advice of the Auditor General this year I am asking for a separate vote for these exhibitions. Agriculture, Mines and Forests are three of the most important factors in the building of a country or nation. The three giant contributors to the commercial greatness of the United States are Coal, Iron and Oil. Canada's rapid expansion and prosperity are largely due to her forests, her mines, and her forests. Now, for the convenience of the Committee, I think perhaps I should group my remarks under three heads—Mines, Agriculture and Forests.

Let me first deal with our mining possibilities. It may be news to the Committee to know that the Mines of Canada last year contributed well over \$200,000,000 towards Canada's trade, and are at present providing over four million dollars per week. Mines are receiving from the Mines of Canada over seventy-five million dollars per year in wages, salaries, etc., taxes, hauling charges, supplies, etc., and eight to one hundred million goes yearly into the pockets of those whose money and enterprise started the industry, from some of the Mines of Northern Ontario over 100 per cent. profit being paid on the original investment. The various Mines in the Province of Ontario during 1924 paid out the enormous sum of \$68,000,000 in wages and supplies. I may be pardoned for dealing at length on the mineral possibilities of Newfoundland, but my apology must be because of the fact that I spent some years employed as a miner, both in Canada and Newfoundland, and I am particularly interested in and more conversant with this branch of our industries than I am with any other.

To give the Committee an idea of the immense growth of mineral production in the Dominion of Canada, I would quote the following statistics which are absolutely authentic and which were compiled for me as a result of my recent visit to Canada, and are taken from the official statistics in the Department of Mines, Ottawa.

Let me take the McIntyre-Porcupine Mines, Limited, which are situated in Northern Ontario.

The mine commenced operations in 1912 and produced as follows:

Date Period Tons Milled Val. per ton Gross Value  
 1912-12 Months ..... 14,000 \$ 7.00 \$ 101,555.16  
 1913-12 " ..... 81,979 7.85 251,314.45  
 1914-12 " ..... 85,684 8.87 759,222.16  
 1915-12 " ..... 305,769 7.71 2,357,465.39  
 1916-12 " ..... 195,207 10.00 1,954,792.28  
 1917-12 " ..... 178,327 10.05 1,793,197.55  
 1918-12 " ..... 179,874 9.78 1,759,627.40  
 1919-12 " ..... 188,835 11.52 2,175,891.31  
 1920-12 " ..... 171,916 11.67 2,006,672.00  
 1921-12 " ..... 193,971 10.69 2,074,988.40  
 1922-12 " ..... 240,615 9.96 2,397,303.00  
 1923-12 " ..... 360,140 9.69 3,488,863.00

past by this House.

I have taken the trouble to compile statistics covering all the important mines in Canada, but I do not think it necessary to worry the Committee by producing these statistics. I have them in my possession, however, and would be glad to submit them to any interested member of the Committee.

I have no doubt that many of our people have been reading some of the rich dividends which are being distributed to investors in the various Canadian mines, but I do think it is a crying shame and a matter that should make us Newfoundlanders blush, to think that the Natural Resources of our own country have received so little support from the various Governments of the past.

The Hon. Charles Stuart, Federal Minister of Mines at Ottawa, in an article written by him for a special (Mining Edition of "Saturday Night") published in Toronto, has the following to say: "With only the southern fringe of the areas of favorable Geology explored, the Mines of Canada are producing an average of over Four Million Dollars per week."

Favorable Geology.—In these two words we have the whole crux of the situation, as far as mineral possibilities of Newfoundland are concerned. A great deal of the territory of Newfoundland has never been examined geologically, and where geological survey work was done I think it will be admitted it was done in such a haphazard way that our records are very meagre regarding the result of this work.

In 1910 I was at the head of the Department of Agriculture and Mines

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for a short period, but during that time I made an attempt to try and obtain the services of a competent Geologist, and I am hoping that in the very near future we will be able to avail of the services of such a man.

I think it would be conceded by even the most skeptical that we have in Newfoundland even a greater variety of minerals than are to be found in Canada or the United States, and while both these countries have been and are still making large expenditures of money for the encouragement of mineral development, we in Newfoundland have been content to lay on our oars and allow things to drift and if we do take any active interest in mines or minerals, without geological advice, our activities must necessarily be more or less haphazard.

What Newfoundland requires immediately is the services of a first class Geologist and in the selection of such we should see to it that he is "first class" in every particular.

The only Geologist engaged in scientific research work in Newfoundland at the present time is a Mr. Hatch, who is employed by a private corporation and is doing only private investigations of mineral properties.

Of course I have no fault to find with any Company or Corporation that employs the services of a Scientist, on the contrary, I think they are doing a patriotic work in trying to prove the extent of our mineral wealth—but the general public should not, and the State must not, be dependent upon the service or advice of the servant of any private corporation.

Little Bay Mine, in Notre Dame Bay, was discovered in 1879, purely by accident. I knew indirectly the man who made the discovery; his name was Jas. Colbourne, one of the officials of the B.E.S. Corporation, now residing on Bell Island. Mr. Colbourne was shooting partridge and was climbing up a hill when he discovered the metal shining in the rocks. Little Bay was operated from 1878 until about 1885 by the Consolidated Mining, Ltd., during this period producing over 200,000 tons of ore, averaging between 5 and 10% Copper.

I have no hesitation in saying that Little Bay Mine would be working to-day and still providing a large amount of labor and revenue to the Colony, were it not for the incompetency and the dishonesty practiced by some of the officials of that Company.

Pilley's Island, also in Notre Dame Bay, played a prominent part in early mining activities, but, unfortunately, this closed down.

The same may be said of Tort Harbour, in St. George's District, at which mine I worked as a miner, and which I believe contained sufficient ore to warrant it being re-opened if we were successful in having the proper people to take hold of it.

Great Gull Lake, situated inland from Hall's Bay, has recently been examined by a competent Mining Engineer, whom I had the pleasure of meeting at my office, and I am very hopeful that operations on a large scale will be started.

Betty's Cove Mine, which was opened in 1874 and closed in 1885 is another. I would not say that the ore in this mine was exhausted as I do not believe it was. I believe had management and misrepresentation played a prominent part in its collapse. The ore mined at Betty's Cove totaled about 130,000 tons, which averaged about 10% Copper.



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