

tending to invest in Canadian phosphate lands had just received a cable recalling him to Europe in consequence of this enactment. He stated that the miners approved of the principle of leasing or selling lands subject to a royalty and with compulsion of working, but would have the terms of acquisition even more favorable, so that the prospector or discoverer might be encouraged to work his finds. He further called attention to the arbitrary powers given to inspectors, and the vexatious nature of the law compelling the erection of fences around pits. The offer of half of the fine to informers, he considered especially demoralizing, and likely to lead to injurious action on the part of discharged or discontented employés. Finally, he objected that the law had been framed without consultation with those engaged in the industries, who understood their requirements, and some parts had evidently been copied from foreign enactments, and were not applicable to prevailing conditions in this country.

MR. B. T. A. BELL, followed, with statements of the injurious effect of the law in checking enterprise. The competition arising from the newly discovered phosphate fields of Florida was already a serious menace, and the imposition of burdens beyond the natural difficulties that had to be encountered would have the effect of discouraging further development of the Canadian phosphate industry.

THE HON. MR. MERCIER stated that he of course desired to avoid inflicting any injury upon the mining industries of the Province. He fully realized the importance of their growth and prosperity; but he must have more revenue, and he only wanted to see how to raise it in the least burdensome manner. He requested that a factum should be prepared stating briefly and succinctly all the points taken against the Bill, and this would be carefully considered by the Ministers in Council, and by the Attorney-General before the law would be enforced. He denied the report that had appeared in the papers that he had refused to receive a deputation of mining men who desired to protest against the passage of the Bill.

MR. FRANCHOT then asked him if it was not true that he had sent a message refusing to receive a delegation, saying that discussion was useless and he was bound to stand by the Bill.