

eral party. A man who at his own expense prospects and stakes a claim in the unoccupied country, ought to be at liberty to work upon that claim so long as he likes at his own expense.

Development of the claim ought to be insisted upon, but so long as a man is willing to expend his own time, money and labor upon a claim the Province ought not to oust him therefrom merely because he has not, within a limited period, satisfied some Government official that he will ultimately reap a reward.

The present Mining Act also leaves the ultimate control of money matters, which might well involve vast sums, to the political head of the Department by reason of the numerous appeals which may be taken by him from the Mining Recorders and the Mining Commissioner. Matters of this kind ought to be taken entirely out of politics and where appeals are necessary they should be sent to the impartial tribunals of the Province.

The Liberal party are also in favor of abolishing royalties and imposing in their place a graded tax on net income. This position was very forcibly put forward by the present Leader of the Opposition when the Mines Act was going through Committee, when he pointed out that the persons investing ought to be allowed a fair and even generous return upon their money for any tax that was imposed, but that those mines which produced great profits ought to be subject to a graded tax on net profits above a fixed amount for the advantage of the Province. On the other hand, mines which although producing at some time, may never repay the money invested in them, ought not to be subject to present royalties.

The position of the Liberal party with regard to the Pulpwood and Timber policy generally, and the true facts with regard to the Montreal River pulp concession may best be obtained from the following extract in the speech of the Hon. Mr. MacKay on the Address in 1908:

"Now, sir, what are the facts with reference to this particular pulp concession? A right was granted to certain individuals who were to form a company to cut for a period of 21 years the pulp timber on a large tract of land along the Montreal River and certain tributaries. The contract is dated the 3rd day of March, 1902. The concessionaires under the contract were obliged to erect a pulp and paper mill north of Pembroke, costing at least \$500,000. This mill was to have a capacity of 150 tons of pulp per day and was to employ at least 250 men. The concessionaires were apparently unable to finance the undertaking, and as a result, acting by authority of a certain provision contained in the agreement, the present Government cancelled the contract. A new contract was made and great credit is claimed for this Government because of the fact that they were able to secure to the Province by means of the new contract the sum of \$300,000. But, sir, let us examine these contracts and ascertain all the facts. The new contract is made with certain Ottawa parties. These par-