

was a gross breach of faith. Mr. Clark then demonstrated that the amount of the tax or license fee authorized exceeded largely the value of the ores or matte taxed, so that the legislation directly authorized confiscation, and if not disallowed there would be no security for investments in Canada, Mr. Clark urged that as the confiscation authorized was not for the purpose of dealing with property or civil rights or for the purpose of raising a provincial revenue, but for the purpose of attempting to regulate trade and commerce and the refining and smelting industries, it trenchoned upon Dominion jurisdiction and should be disallowed. Mr. Clark showed that no such provincial legislation had been allowed to go into operation and that if this act were not disallowed, it would form a dangerous precedent. So far the precedents were all in favor of disallowance and instances were cited where provincial acts not nearly so objectionable as the present one had been disallowed by previous Dominion governments. A strong point was made of the fact that if the time for disallowance is permitted to expire, there is no power to disallow any order-in-council, no matter how objectionable that may be, passed under the authority of the act. This in itself had been held by the Mackenzie government as sufficient grounds for disallowance. The report of the Hon. Edward Blake in favor of disallowance, in that case had been confirmed by order-in-council and the same course should be followed in the present instance. The exclusive jurisdiction over trade and commerce, had been entrusted to the Dominion authorities and such powers as those now in question should not be delegated to a provincial government. To permit this would deprive British subjects of a constitutional safe-guard to which they were entitled under the British North America Act, besides international complications for which the Dominion government would be responsible would be caused if such legislation is not disallowed. Dominion interests will greatly suffer if this act is allowed to go into operation as it is a great blow to the credit of Canada. Mr. Clark said that no interests would suffer from the disallowance of the Act complained of.

Mr. HIRAM W. HIXON:—I wish to call your attention to the widespread and mistaken ideas about the extent and grade of the Sudbury nickel copper ores. It has been reported by unreliable and incompetent parties that there were hundreds of millions of tons of nickel copper ore in sight and that the grade was much higher than is the case. Statements which have given rise to the desire that the public should share in the fictitious wealth and is one cause of the mysterious legislation which we wish disallowed. In my capacity as Dr. Mond's agent it has been my duty to traverse the nickel copper country and sample the ore deposits. From my personal knowledge I can state that if there was one-tenth part as much ore as has been reported there would be much larger deposits than actually exist. The average yield for the whole district will not exceed three per cent. of the combined metals, about one-half nickel and one-half copper which would be thirty pounds of copper per ton, thirty pounds of nickel per ton, the net value of the copper and nickel in the ore after mining is at the present market price of the metals ten cents for copper and twenty cents for nickel:

30 pounds of copper at 10 cents.....	\$3 00
30 pounds of nickel at 20 cents.....	6 00
Total net value one ton mined.....	\$9 00
Less cost of mining.....	2 50
Remainder.....	\$6 50
Proposed tax.....	7 00

I do not wish to say that we do not have ores that contain more nickel and copper than these figures, but taking the average of all the ores of the district the yield or marketable metals would not exceed three per cent. There are a few deposits being worked which yield ores containing 6 to 7 per cent. combined metals and it is only natural that these should be mined first, but I submit that the average yield of the district will not be above three per cent. mark. From these average results it will be seen that the imposition of the tax would amount to confiscating the properties.

Mr. JAMES STOBIE, one of the oldest and most successful prospectors and property owners of Sudbury, who has been associated with the copper-nickel mining industry since its inception, cited instances where large foreign investments in nickel lands had been stopped by the intimation of this taxation.

Mr. BLAIR, president of the Sudbury board of trade, presented a resolution which had been unanimously adopted by that body asking the government to disallow the act.

Mr. B. T. A. BELL, Secretary of the Canadian Mining Institute, pointed

out that the belief so general in the country that Canada controlled the world's supply of nickel was entirely erroneous. We had undoubtedly a very large and valuable territory of nickel and copper resources which during the past sixteen years, entirely unaided by government bounties or assistance of any kind, had developed large and prosperous mining and smelting industries.

These industries should be allowed to expand along natural lines. New Caledonia, Norway and other countries were now formidable competitors with Canada in the American market for nickel and were shipping very large quantities of ore monthly into New York and any such taxation as that proposed by the Ontario Act would tend to an increase of these importations and would most surely be hostile to the continued prosperity of the copper-nickel mining industries of Ontario. Nickel refining, however desirable as a Canadian industry was not economically available by any known metallurgical process at the present time and, even if it were, the policy of protecting a refining industry at the expense of the ore producer was ridiculous and entirely wrong. The mining industry, and by the mining industry he meant the miner, not the smelter or refiner, received no consideration from the government, no bounties were paid him on his output nor did he want any—all that he wanted was to be left alone. The Ontario Mines Act was not only unconstitutional but it was inexpedient. It was a menace to the investment of capital, for no investor would put a penny into Ontario copper-nickel lands as long as such prohibitive taxation was likely to be imposed. Perhaps Sir Wilfrid would remember the Quebec Mining Act passed by the Mercier administration nine or ten years ago. That Act was very similar to the legislation of the Ontario Government in as much as it sought to impose taxation upon mining property which had already been sold or alienated from the Crown unconditionally. On the representations of the mine owners of Quebec the Dominion Government had exercised its influence to have that legislation withdrawn. Such action by the government now would greatly accelerate the present great expansion of mining industry in Ontario.

Mr. George R. Smith, M.L.A., manager of the Bell's Asbestos company, stated that while he was more directly concerned in mining in Quebec the provisions of the Ontario Mines Act viewed from a practical standpoint were inexpedient and unwise. Foreign capital, so much desired in Canada, was not likely to be invested while such prohibitive taxation was at all likely to be enforced.

#### BETTER SALARIES FOR GEOLOGICAL SURVEY.

Dr. Frank D. Adams, Montreal, followed with a strong appeal on behalf of the Geological Survey. The entirely inadequate remuneration paid to the officers of this most important branch of the public service was rapidly depicting the survey of the men whose knowledge and skill were so much desired. He cited the names of Tyrell, Coste, Carlyle, Dr. Lawson, Low and many others who had left in recent years for more remunerative positions. While the government could not hope to compete with mining corporations in the matter of salaries the remuneration paid was altogether too small. He also directed attention to the entirely unsafe and inadequate housing of the Survey and the urgent desirability of having accommodation provided in keeping with the invaluable character of the survey's collections.

Mr. B. T. A. BELL:—It was intended to have presented some facts concerning the present greatly depressed condition of the silver-lead industry in British Columbia and the desirability of the government extending some assistance to the lead refining, but as a large deputation from the west had just arrived in the city for the same purpose, it would be better to postpone this discussion until a later interview. The deputation then withdrew.

MINERAL DISCOVERIES IN THE KINGSTON DISTRICT.—The discovery of various "shows" of zinc blende and galena, and also, it is said, of Franklinite, in the Township of Bedford, north of Kingston, and a few miles east of the Kingston & Pembroke Railway, gives occasion to remark that it is really surprising that the galena deposits of that region, well known over 50 years ago, have never been developed. A considerable tract of land, through which galena was superficially traced, was acquired by a Mr. Hunt, who did nothing with his property. The Frontenac Lead Mine was opened on the same formation in Loughborough Township by an English Company whose resources were spent, it is reported, mainly in riotous living. Now that the more valuable mineral, zinc blende, has been discovered, it is hoped that the enterprise of Kingston capitalists, guided by the savants of the Kingston School of Mines, will be equal to the task of developing these new discoveries.