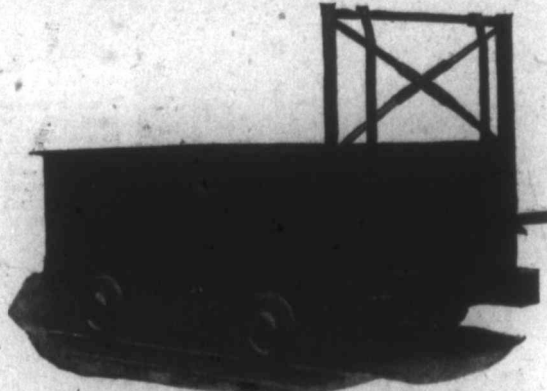


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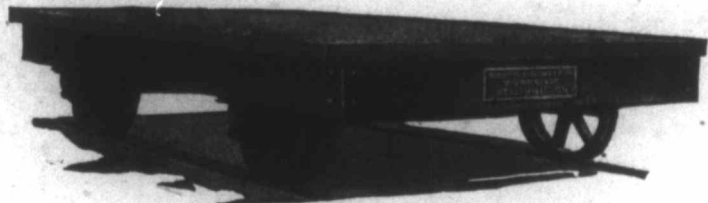
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PORT ARTHUR NOTES.

By J. J. O'CONNOR.

Members of the Port Arthur and Fort William Boards of Trade, had a conference with the Hon. Harry Mills, Minister of Mines, in the Mayor's office Fort William, on Nov. 27th. The subject under discussion was the advisability of the Province granting a bounty on the mining and marketing of iron ore, without restriction.

The Hon. Mr. Mills stated that as a Minister of the Crown he would not advise against the granting of a bounty, but as an individual giving his personal opinion, he did not think the granting of a bounty would result in a solution of the iron ore problem of this Province, that something more was required, more preparation for the securing of additional knowledge of the various ranges, as to quantity, grade and variety of the ores, and the various forms of treatment to which they would be amenable. He made certain suggestions that he thought could be worked out to advantage. These suggestions amounted to a complete survey of the whole situation regarding the iron ranges of Northern Ontario, and the best methods to be adopted for their development and use in the furnaces of the Province.

The Hon. Minister's suggestion to have such a survey made is a good one. Aside from the question of a bounty or no bounty, it is clearly in the interests of Ontario to have the fullest and most complete knowledge of its iron-ore resources, and there is no more direct or efficient manner of arriving at that knowledge, than by such survey by competent men.

This policy has been advocated by mining engineers who are familiar with the iron ranges, and their requirements.

Captain H. E. Knobel, who has had a wide and intimate association with the iron ranges of Northern Ontario, estimates that such a survey could be made by a party of five live men, under a competent directing head, in one summer season. He, and many others, are strongly of the opinion that when such survey is undertaken, it should be in the hands of, and under the direction of, experienced iron-ore operators, men who have had actual commercial experience in the beneficiation of iron ores, such as may be found on the iron ranges of Minnesota, where beneficiation has been carried to the highest efficiency yet attained. No survey of this kind would be of value, unless it were carried out by men with the capacity and experience to enable them to forge the necessary link between the technical and commercial end of the iron-ore problem. Either our iron ores are of value, or they are of no value. If they have value, that value is immediate and present. If of no value, the suggested survey would demonstrate that feature, and end the matter. If, on the other hand, it proves their value and availability for our own use, no time should be lost in their exploitation.

The Hon. Mr. Mills would be well advised to proceed at once with preparations for the survey under the right auspices, so that the work may be undertaken in the Spring of 1921.