

The following draft of a bill for the establishment of a Department of Mines, and with various provisions respecting the management of public mines, as presented as suggestive merely, and not by any means as comprehensive of all the legislation required by the policy proposed :—

BILL.

An Act to establish a Department of Mines for the administration and management of the mineral property of the province.

Her Majesty by and with the consent of the Legislature of the Province of Ontario enacts as follows :

CLAUSES RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF MINES.

1. No lease or sale shall hereafter be made of any mining location or of the right to mine in the public lands.

2. There shall be a Department of Mines under the control of the Commissioner of Mines, who shall be a member of the executive council of Ontario.

3. The Department of Mines shall be composed of the said commissioner and an advisory board of four mining engineers with a financial director, whose duty shall be to employ competent surveyors, explorers, mining captains and workmen for the public mines ; to direct where such mines shall be opened and worked ; to purchase machinery, mining equipment, supplies for miners, erect buildings, and engage in every undertaking requisite for the successful working of any mine ; to operate diamond drills for exploratory purposes ; to conduct any works for the dressing and concentration of ores, and for the reduction of gold and silver, and to sell such ores other than those of gold and silver at such prices as may be fixed by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council.

4. The sale of gold and silver bullion shall be made during the session of parliament upon the report of the commissioner of mines as to the value thereof.

5. The Department shall erect and manage such works for milling, roasting, concentrating, and otherwise treating and smelting gold and silver ores as may be found expedient, having regard in such erection to facilities for private mining undertakings on such terms as may be just.

6. The mining engineers who shall with a financial director compose the said advisory board, shall be appointed by the Lieutenant-