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GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE FOR NOVA SCOTIAN GOLD MINES.

In the last hours of the recent session of the Legislature of Nova Scotia an important measure became law. The 25th day of April, 1909, should henceforth be memorable, for on that date an Act was passed authorizing the Governor-in-Council to assist in further development of gold mines, and to give aid towards the development of water power in order to reduce the cost of gold mining in the Province.

The Act, officially entitled "An Act for the further assisting of the Gold Mining Industry," consists of five short sections. The first of these sections empowers the Governor-in-Council to give reasonable assistance in the operations of cross-cutting at such depths and for such distances as may be approved by the Inspector of Mines or an engineer selected by the Department of Mines.

The second section authorizes the Governor-in-Council to utilize such water-powers as may reduce the cost of gold mining in Nova Scotia. This is subject to the approval of the Inspector of Mines, or of an engineer selected by the Department of Mines.

The third section empowers the Governor-in-Council to refer the location of shafts, winzes, cross-cuts and levels to the approval of the Inspector of Mines, or to the approval of an engineer selected by the Department of Mines.

The fourth section intimates that payments are to be made on the monthly progress reports made by the Inspector of Mines, or by an engineer selected by the Department of Mines.

The fifth, and last, section provides that any individual, company, or association, receiving assistance under this Act shall pay the Government a royalty on all gold ore from the property or mines upon it in respect to which Government money has been expended, the sum of three per cent. on the gross amount of such gold so won, and such royalty shall continue to be paid by such individual, company or association, until the full amount advanced by the Government has been repaid. All such loans made, or assistance given, shall not be a charge against the property, company, individual, or association, but against the gold won from such property receiving assistance under this Act.

This, then, is the tenor of the Act that is designed to revivify gold mining in Nova Scotia. Its provisions, undoubtedly, are broad and wise. The Act itself is succinct and definite. But the miner who takes advantage of its provisions will find himself at the mercy of those who must interpret the Act. Even at the worst, there is ample encouragement left for the prospector and the casual miner. In its constructive phases the