

NEW ONTARIO

Nothing can be more important than the attitude of the Government towards that portion of the Province generally known as New Ontario, and which by reason of its vast extent and enormous undeveloped and partially developed resources, ought to receive the utmost consideration at the hands of the party in power.

The opening up of the country from North Bay to James Bay, and the discovery of the immensely rich mineral resources, was a direct result of the courageous policy of the Ross Administration in projecting a Colonization Railroad into that country. The present Premier decried that measure and referred to the land, now proven to be the richest in the Province, as "the land of stunted poplar."

The policy of the Liberal party in regard to treatment of the settlers is indicated by the plank adopted at the great convention in 1904 which is as follows:

"That all land suitable for agriculture in the unorganized districts be thrown open for settlement as soon as possible and that every bona fide purchaser or locatee of such lands shall on taking possession thereof have the right to cut for his own use or for sale, every description of timber thereon, pine only excepted.

"That pending the issue of his patent, the settler shall have the right to cut and take, free of charge, so much of the pine as he may require for building and fencing or other uses, and that on completion of his settlement duties, the purchaser or locatee shall receive a patent from the Crown without reservation of pine, mines or minerals.

"That the most liberal terms should be offered to prospectors for minerals, providing that the minerals discovered are developed within a reasonable time and not held purely for speculative purposes."

It is true that the Conservatives while in opposition professed a somewhat similar policy, but when on the floor of the House in 1907, Mr. C. N. Smith, Sault Ste. Marie, moved a resolution to that effect, the Premier, from his place, greeted the resolution with the comment "balderdash" and Mr. Smith's resolution was voted down by the subservient Government majority. In an attempt to rectify this mistake and to head off a similar resolution, on the 4th day of the Session, 1908, Mr. Cochrane introduced a Bill which was supposed to give effect to the policy of the Liberals in this connection. That Bill, however, does not go to the length to which the Liberals feel the settler is