

THE PEOPLE NOW SHARE

In another direction the Whitney Government displayed both wisdom and courage. It has now come to be accepted that the public domain should be administered with regard to the rights of the people as a whole, as well as of the individuals who are directly interested. The mineral wealth of the province, having been placed in the ground by the bounty of nature, it is only reasonable that a fair share should accrue to the Public Treasury and assist in defraying the expenses of the Public Service. In framing a law it was necessary to have regard to the character of the mining industry, in which the disappointments are many, and the prizes few, but may be very great. It would not do, on the one hand, to impose a burden so heavy as to strangle or hamper mining enterprise, or on the other hand, so light as to be useless for revenue purposes. Accordingly the fair and equitable principle was adopted to impose a tax only on net profits, and to exempt altogether a minimum of profit amounting to \$10,000 per annum. Thus, if a mine were operated at a loss, or at a profit not exceeding \$10,000 per year, it pays nothing; if it clears more than \$10,000 per year, it pays 3 per cent. on the excess. The Act dealing with this matter (R.S.O. 1914, chapter 26) sets out fully the expenses which may be deducted before profits are arrived at, and these expenses cover all the necessary outlays in operating a mine, but do not include dividends or allowance for exhaustion of mineral. A tax of two cents an acre was imposed on mining lands in unorganized territory, also a tax of two-tenths of a cent per 1,000 cubic feet on Natural Gas. The total receipts from the sources of revenue thus provided, up to the 31st of October, 1913, were \$972,871, a sum which, while in no way bearing hardly upon the mining industry, was very useful in providing the funds required for the management and development of the province.

MINING ROYALTIES RECEIVED

A further, and even larger, item of receipts had its origin in the business-like administration of mining affairs by the Whitney Government. Certain areas, in territory known to be valuable, were offered for sale at public competition, and knocked down to the highest bidder. For the bed of Cobalt Lake \$1,085,000 was received, and for part of the bed of Kerr Lake \$178,500, and a royalty of 10 per cent. On the latter location were developed the well-known Crown Reserve Silver Mine, which, in addition to the cash purchase price, had up to the 21st of October, 1913, paid in royalties \$705,641. A few other properties, notably the O'Brien Mine, and the Hudson Bay Mine, under special arrangement, also pay royalty on their output. The receipts from these bring the total revenue for mining royalties received by the present Government to the 31st October, 1913, up to \$1,762,364. The Ross Government did not receive one cent.

- THE OLD AND THE NEW WAY

A comparison of receipts from mining sources during the last four years of the old Government, and the period since the new Government assumed office, make a remarkable showing:—

OLD GOVERNMENT

1901.....	\$85,067
1902.....	86,256
1903.....	65,182
1904.....	45,304

Average per year, \$70,677.