

HON. MR. HORNER: I visited Kirkland Lake in the early days when there was difficulty about the schools. If I remember rightly, I was told the government refused to give larger grants because of the possible lack of permanency of mining towns. Have you had that difficulty?

MR. DYE: I could not comment on it, but I suppose initially everybody's afraid that a new community won't last.

HON. MR. McDONALD: What is the amount of the provincial grants?

MR. DYE: I could not tell you offhand what they are, but the scale was made more liberal last year.

HON. MR. McDONALD: If they qualify as a poor school they get an extra grant.

MR. DYE: We do not qualify as a poor school; we run a good one.

HON. MR. McDONALD: But that is so?

MR. DYE: Yes, there are poor communities which get extra grants. We have never qualified or asked for them.

HON. MR. HORNER: With modern air-conditioning and the care taken of the men's health, do you think mining is about as safe and healthful an occupation as any other?

MR. DYE: It is well paid and we make it as safe as we can. It has been said that the biggest risk to the miners is getting to and from their work in automobiles.

HON. MR. WHITE: Mr. Dye, are you experiencing the same difficulty as others are in regard to getting lumber and other materials for your housing?

MR. DYE: There is a housing problem in our camp, not as acute as in some of the newer camps, but building materials are in short supply definitely.

HON. MR. DUFFUS: That condition will improve, I should say, within the next two years.

MR. DYE: Within a couple of years very much so, I would say.

HON. MR. McDONALD: Do you come under the Workmen's Compensation Act of the province?

MR. DYE: Yes.

HON. MR. McDONALD: You get an extra grant?

MR. DYE: Yes, we only pay our sick pay to those men who would not qualify for compensation. That is not paid when the man is hurt in the mine, because he has compensation under the Act.

HON. MR. McDONALD: Does the Workmen's Compensation Act allow for silicosis?

MR. DYE: Oh, yes. But suppose a fellow gets a sore back, lumbago, cold, tonsil operation—those things the Compensation Act does not cover.

HON. A. L. BEAUBIEN: Some years ago miners were badly affected with silicosis. Is that very prevalent to-day?

MR. DYE: That is a continuing hazard, but a great deal has been done to lessen it, notably by increasing the use of wet drill water spray underground, better ventilation, and at every mine in Ontario now use is being made of aluminum dust, which the men breathe before going underground. That is a development which has taken place over the last sixteen years. It was started by Drs. Denny and Robinson at the McIntyre Research. Sir Frederick Banting was also interested in the research.