

The Temiskaming and Northern Ontario Railway.

Exploration of the Province has shown that in the district of Ontario, lying between Lake Nipissing and Lake Abitibi, and north westerly from Lake Temiskaming, there are large areas of arable land, well fitted for settlement, extensive tracts of merchantable pine and other valuable timber, and deposits of ore and minerals, which will, upon development, add greatly to the wealth of the Province. Although the district is now difficult of access from lack of railway communication, an increasing number of settlers are taking up lands. To bring this district into communication with existing lines of railway is therefore most desirable in the public interest, and to this end the Act, passed at the 1902 Session of the Legislature, provides for the construction, by the Province, of a railway from North Bay on Lake Nipissing to the head of Lake Temiskaming.

The construction and management of the railway will be vested in a Board of Commissioners appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council. The Commissioners will have power, subject to the approval of the Lieutenant-Governor in Council, to appoint an engineer and other necessary employees; to decide the location of the line and plans of all necessary works; to fix tariffs and rates to be charged; and to enter into agreements with other railway companies to secure reciprocal running powers and traffic arrangements.

To meet the cost of construction and equipment, the Lieutenant-Governor may from time to time, set apart a tier of unoccupied townships adjoining the railway to an extent not exceeding 20,000 acres for each mile of the line, the proceeds of the sale of such land to be applied to the payment of debentures issued by the Commission.

The Act further provides that the railway must be built of material purchased in Canada; that current rates of wages are to be paid to all employees and labourers; that no person shall be employed in contravention of the Alien Labor Act; and that the Commission shall have powers conferred by the General Railway Act.

Suitable regulations are made for the guidance of the Commission as to rates of interest to be paid on debentures; the application of proceeds of debentures, the application of revenue, and other details.

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