

dividual is never safe against the misrepresentation of promoters, whereas, the Government can employ permanently the most careful experts and competent engineers, and in their permanent employment secure a guarantee of fidelity. The Government will have in its domain the most ample choice of location and the uttermost exemption from the influence of self-interest in its operations, and may under these favorable conditions put copper, lead and other ores into the market at prices which will ensure the establishment of great metallurgical industries in this province. Last session, \$25,000 a year for five years was voted to enable the iron smelter to get his ore as cheap as in the United States. This money is as likely to go into the pockets of speculators as into those of the mine owner or smelter. It would keep 25 men employed the year round at the iron mines in Thunder Bay district, and a similar number in Frontenac or Hastings, whose output should be 25,000 tons of ore, or the entire amount of the bounty. Now if the Government could sell a good 50 per cent. ore at \$1 a ton, no better aid could be offered to those who would engage in smelting enterprise.

7. The acquisition of a large yearly revenue, by the development and operation of silver, and especially of gold mines, becomes a necessity in the presence of the ever recurring and justifiable demands upon the Government for money for works of permanent utility, and for our rapidly growing educational requirements. Their operation by individuals or corporations will bring in no such results. In fact it is quite possible and extremely probable that mining companies will, under the present state of things, be organized to work frontier properties whose royalties and other returns will scarce pay the expense of collection together with the necessary provincial expenses, whose machinery will be brought in duty free, whose agricultural supplies will necessarily be brought in from the United States, whose laborers will be chiefly foreigners, whose earnings and savings will benefit the United States alone, where the enriched mine owners will also spend their dividends. With more or less modification, this is likely to be the case with the greater part of the gold mining property in the Rainy River and Thunder Bay districts. I am well aware there are doctrinaires and professors, as well as brokers and commission agents, who will tell us that this state of things will enrich the country and that to hinder it will violate the principles of political economy.