

government in 1901. Beginning at this point it stretches in a northeasterly direction with a slight break to the Height of Land across the district of Nipissing and Algoma and into Thunder Bay district, comprising a total area of some 24,500 square miles or 15,680,000 acres. This almost unbroken stretch of good farming land is nearly three-quarters as great in extent as the whole settled portion of the province south of Lake Nipissing and the French and Mattawa rivers.

Now, let me give the railway mileage in that country :

Railway Mileage.	Miles.
Muskoka and Parry Sound.. . . .	184
Algoma. . . . .	537
Thunder bay and Rainy river.. . . .	873
Nipissing . . . . .	210
Total.. . . .	1,804

In 1891 there were only 12 miles of railway in that northern section of the province. I do not venture to say that the Canadian Pacific Railway system was constructed by the provincial government, but the province of Ontario had something to do with the construction of that railway, and the people of that province contributed largely towards the expense. And one of the purposes they had in view was the opening up of the northern section of the province. The production of iron ore for 1902 was 359,288 tons, most of which was smelted in Ontario. Mining operations were commenced at Sudbury in 1886, and the district now furnishes about half the world's supply of nickel. So it will be seen that the provincial government have been giving some attention to the mining interests of northern Ontario. The copper-nickel matte is at present shipped to the United States, where the final stages of the processes of extraction and refining are carried on. That policy I do not agree with. I am in favour of a policy that will cause these final operations to be carried on in Canada. I hope the time will come when this mineral will be completely refined in Canada and the wages earned by Canadians. This is a policy that should receive the support, not only of the government of Ontario, but of this government as well. In 1902 11,890,000 pounds of nickel were produced, valued in the matte and before being exported for refining at \$2,210,961. And in the same year, 1902, 4,932 tons of copper were produced, valued in the form of matte at \$680,283.

Now, I would like to say something of what has been done by the provincial government for the settlement of that part of the province. I may say that it has been a disappointment to the people of the province of Ontario that a larger number of the sons and daughters of the province do not go to northern Ontario rather than to the west. One of the reasons of that is that the policy of the Ontario government—and I do not wish to refer to this in a party political sense—has not altogether been in

the interest of the people of the province. Let me give you an example. In 1901 the legislature of the province passed an Act to provide for the appropriation of certain lands to be given to the volunteers who had served in South Africa and to those who had served on the frontier in the Fenian Raids of 1866. One reason urged in favour of this policy was that, of the men returning from South Africa, many would want to take up farming pursuits, and would be more likely to settle in the northern part of Ontario if the provincial government were liberal with them. But there is a clause here over which a great deal of comment has arisen by the people of Ontario, and which, I venture to say, is one of the chief reasons why a large number of the voters in the northern part of Ontario voted against the government in power in the province at that time. Clause 9 reads thus :

Every location of Crown land under this Act shall be subject to the reservation of the pine timber.

That is, they were willing to give the land to the volunteer, but they reserve to the provincial government the pine timber : in other words, the volunteer could go and settle upon the farm, and he could clear the pine timber that he needed to construct his house or outbuildings ; but if he ventured to put an axe to any portion of the pine timber upon his own farm, to sell then he had to pay to the provincial government timber dues. Thus a large number of volunteers complained bitterly, and a contention arose in the province of Ontario upon this question. There was a division in the House, but the government of the day insisted that in their opinion the better way to settle that northern country was to reserve the pine timber. However, when this question was tested before the electors in the northern part of the province they declared that that kind of policy was not in the best interests of the people, and was not calculated to invite settlers to locate in the northern part of the province. It is a policy which will now, I suppose, be made right, a policy that will of necessity be made right in the near future, because the people of all shades of politics in the province will be in favour of a liberal policy to the settler, so that he shall have the right to cut pine timber to sell if he wishes, and put his money in the bank and thereby help to make his home prosperous and happy. We must keep in view the fact that to-day the province of Ontario has an agent in the old country, and has had for some time, Mr. Byrne, who is stationed at Liverpool. The Ontario government has also had for the last year a special agent for the purpose of bringing out hundreds of men to engage in agricultural pursuits, it has been expending a large amount of money in this way for the purpose of settling up the northern part of the province. Let me also point out that

Mr. BLAIN.