

"On to the Bay"

Large Delegation to urge T. & N. O. Extension to James Bay

A week from to-day, on Friday, February 28th, a delegation of our prominent citizens, augmented by representatives of the Boards of Trade and of the Towns from all along the Temiskaming and Northern Ontario Railway as far down and including North Bay, will descend upon Parliament House and urge upon the Provincial authorities the completion of the Provincial Railway to its logical terminus on James Bay. This powerful delegation from the North will be actively supported by representatives from the Board of Trade in Toronto and elsewhere as well as from the large manufacturing and wholesale interests throughout the Province who all have evinced a tremendous enthusiasm for the immediate carrying out of this project. If strong reasons carry any weight, the project certainly should receive favorable consideration by the Government.

It seems only a few years since the Government first realized that the construction of a railway traversing the Province in a northerly direction would open a great heritage and yet only in a general way were the potentialities for development surmised at that time and as a colonization road the Temiskaming and Northern Ontario Railway was started as the initial step in the construction of a road that would ultimately have an ocean terminus on James Bay. No thought was had at that time of the revelations which the future was to bring, there was no definite conception at that time of the vast resources which were lying dormant in these wonderful stretches of country enormously rich in minerals, timber, water powers and arable land and which a progressive development policy has since begun to uncover. It was after all coincidence when the workable silver deposits were discovered during the construction of the road through Coleman Township and the wonderful Cobalt Camp sprang into existence drawing the eyes of the whole world to the latent wealth of Northern Ontario. Since then step by step, the visions of the men who first conceived the road have come wonderfully true and the road was pushed through as far as Cochrane to make the junction point with the National Transcontinental Railway and in the wake of construction followed one important mineral camp after another. To-day we have the world renowned gold camps of Porcupine, Swastika, Boston Creek, etc., the nickel mines of Alexo, notable finds of silver in South Lorraine and Casey Townships and up the Montreal river, and we have not half started yet. Then there are the rich arable lands from New Liskeard to Englehart, from Matheson to Cochrane with an aggregate of nearly 30,000 acres already under cultivation. We have the wealth of lumbering with innumerable sawmills, the Pulp and Paper mills at Iroquois Falls, Fredrickhouse, Mattagami and others in course of erection.

With all this experience to go on does it not stand to reason that we must expect to uncover further riches when continuing the road to its logical terminus on the sea, even if we did not know some definite facts about the great forest wealth, the immense volume of water power, the alluring mineral wealth and the awaiting fisheries of the Bay? But we do know these facts sufficiently to warrant in itself the building of the little more than 160 miles from Cochrane to James Bay. We know of the enormously rich iron ore deposits of Belcher Islands. We know of the great water powers to the North of us aggregating nearly a million horse power. We know the promising showings of copper and iron ore in other directions, mica, gypsum, graphite pottery and fire clay, all fundamentals of industry which will furnish traffic to the railway. We have good indications of large oil fields, even coal and all the territory opened up by the extension of the Temiskaming and Northern Ontario Railway to James Bay will give promise of prosperous settlements, having the finest arable land. Verily a vast heritage opens itself with the realization of the "On to the Bay" project and in these days, when to find employment for returned soldiers and others is the pressing need of the hour, the building of this final link of the Provincial road will go long ways to tide us over a critical period while the work itself will be a permanent asset to the Province.

The delegates carry with them the best wishes for success from the entire North and again we say, if strong reasons carry any weight, the project will receive the favorable consideration by the Government and will move them to action.