Abstract: Let $X$ be a smooth surface and let $\varphi : X \to \mathbb{P}^N$, with $N \geq 4$, be a finitely ramified map which is birational onto its image $Y = \varphi(X)$, with $Y$ non-degenerate in $\mathbb{P}^N$. In this paper, we produce a lower bound for the length of the pinch scheme of a general linear projection of $Y$ to $\mathbb{P}^3$. We then prove that the lower bound is realized if and only if $Y$ is a rational normal scroll.