

"Dome and Hollinger mines were staked about two hours apart, Hollinger is about five miles from Porcupine Lake and Dome is about a mile south," the prospector reminisced.

Next Mr. LaBine went to Boston Creek, near Kirkland Lake, where he staked and sold the "King Kirkland", which has yet to be developed.

Three years' work was then put in on "Upper Canada", a gold mine. Mr. LaBine, however could not get anyone interested in this venture and let it revert back to the government. It has since been restaked and is now selling at \$2 a share.

Asked if he had any idea of how much travelling he had done on foot, Mr. LaBine replied in the negative, but said he had paddled and walked into the Hollinger mine alone, some 60 miles. He was in charge of the first Christmas Day dinner, which was cooked on the site and Noah Timmins, who had option on the land at that time, walked in unexpectedly and sat down to a turkey dinner.

#### IN RED LAKE AREA

In 1926 Mr. LaBine went to Red Lake and staked opposite the Bathurst mine. In 1932 he again visited this area and staked property which was later bought by Golden Arm.

A good highway is badly needed in the Red Lake district, he said, between Birch Lake and Springpole mine. In the olden days men had to walk in, taking with them dynamine and provisions to last them for seven months, but now planes make it possible to reach a site in a short space of time. This prospector, who has trudged for years, carrying his pack, has also flown some 1,500 miles in the north country.

With his eyes gleaming Mr. LaBine told story after story of early life in the mining country. In 1926 the prospectors paid \$1 a pound for bacon. Then planes began coming in and their charge for delivery was \$1 a pound. A friend of Mr. LaBine's had a horse and he sent out for a 100 pound bag of oats. Delivered by plane, it cost him \$100. He was aghast. A few days later the same plane while attempting to land on the lake close to the property they were working on, ran aground into some alders. The pilot asked aid of the man who owned the horse, and the animal pulled the plane out. When asked his charge, the owner of the horse replied \$150 - and got it.

In 1935 Mr. LaBine came back to his homestead and is now occupying his comfortable home near Westmeath. He was married in 1913 to Winnifred Hurley in Haileybury and they have six children. Gladstone works at diamond drilling in the Red Lake district and Ronald and Eric are on the homestead. Margaret is an employee of the Bank of Canada, Ottawa! Katherine is with the N.R.C. in Ottawa and Olive is a nurse, having recently completed her training in Pembroke.

#### Cousin of Golbert and Charles.

The hard and lush times of his cousins, Gilbert and Charles LaBine, were related by the prospector, and he told of their discovery of uranium in Great Bear Lake. Their mines were closed down and were only worth 10 cents a share; then the government took them over during the war years, and they advanced to \$1.40. Each of the men held a million shares.

Mr. LaBine has a Polish man working with him on his farm and finds him exceptionally good. He came to Canada a short time ago with a shipload of the displaced persons.

Asked if he had listened to the broadcast of the Royal wedding, Mr. LaBine said yes, he, his wife and family all were up at that time each morning anyway for the work of the farm, but the work of the farm was forgotten and they each said they wished they had been able to be there to cheer, instead of listening to them from far off.

So, this gentleman, interested in all that affects Canada today, talked of the uselessness and havoc wrought by the strikes; the discontent of men not earning enough to live properly while the government allowed prices to rise; housing conditions; the need of industries in Pembroke; the difficulty of getting help on the farm; and laughed heartily at the idea of a 40-hour week there. But his heart is not on the farm; it is up in northern Ontario, where he spent so many years of his life, not in luxury, but hardship, yet in places that he believed in, and he hopes again to prospect and discover minerals. Not afraid of hardship though he has reached his three score years and ten, he wants once again( even though it be by plane rather than walking and canoeing to "hit the trail".