

The Porcupine Advance

Published every Thursday by
CEO. LAKE, PROP.
W. C. FERGUSON, EDITOR.

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NO. HE'S HERE!

For the benefit of the Toronto "knocker" who circulated the rumor that Manager Robbins would soon sever his connection with the Hollinger mine, we beg to state that the popular and skillful manager is still on the job.

We hold no brief for Mr. Robbins, but we have sufficient confidence in and respect for him as to warrant the assertion that when he decides to retire from the Hollinger it will be when he decides to cease from his labors in a profession of which he has long been a consistent, capable and honorable member.

NORTHERN ONTARIO

"Northern Ontario is no name for so fine a country. Let's call it Upper Ontario."—Toronto Star.

The Star seems to be quite emphatic. Don't give anyone else a chance. Time was when all Canadians rejoiced that the word "upper" was removed entirely in referring to Canada. Why should it be again applied to a particular portion of one of Canada's provinces? Perhaps the Star would like to change the name of the Privy Council, if we read its editorial columns correctly.

However, "Northern Ontario" is good enough for "us," and we are "the people" who live here, endeavoring to improve conditions, to solve many problems of an intricate nature, to reduce the hardships of the city reporters who come for a day and then write a history (?) of the camp, to build for the future, so that those who follow will not have to tear down useless structures of varied character, and for all "our" labor and privation—for all "our" effort in blazing the way for the city folk—what do we receive? Harsh criticism, lingering doubts, instructions from the veriest tenderfeet, and constant reminders of the "blind pig system" in vogue here.

There does not seem to be any real good in or around Porcupine unless it receives the stamp of approval from the city press or some city novice, clerical or professional, who happens along, bringing with him a vision so narrow that it permits him to behold only the evils that exist here—and evils do exist here, just the same as elsewhere.

But "Northern Ontario" is good enough for "us." The Star may call it Upper, Lower, Middle, Back, Front, Side, Top or Bottom.

The big dailies do be conscious of their might.

QUITE RIGHT

"Mimosa," writing to The Flaneur in the Mail and Empire, says:

"There has been a large amount of discussion among politicians and in the newspapers since the last two elections regarding party patronage, or what some are pleased to call the 'spoils system.' It seems to me that many of our party leaders on both sides of political affairs have very crude and narrow ideas on the question.

They say, 'Unless a man has shown himself boldly against the ruling party or incompetent, no matter how many votes he may cast or how much influence he may exert in a quiet way against the party in power, he should retain an office which belongs to the electorate, and is at the disposal of the leaders of the party in power.'

What is a partisan? Well, I would say he is a man who upholds a party or a system by his influence, whether he does it in a sly way or not.

A man is a contemptible 'cad' who will say, 'Oh, I don't take any interest in political affairs. I just go and

vote,' just because he is afraid of losing his position.

He does not care for principle, country or party so long as he can hold office.

Like the 'Vicar of Bray,' who turned his coat under every new authority in order to remain 'Vicar of Bray.'

There has been a good deal of 'casting up' by the Tories now at Ottawa as to what the Grits did when they came into power in 1896. Now, I think the Grits did quite right. They acted honorably, honestly and considerately to their side of the electorate. At that time the Tories had held office for a long time, and it was time the Grits had a share in their country's emoluments.

Now the Grits have had a good long chance under their party leaders; so they should not cry out when some one else gets the position.

I think the Americans have a very honorable and systematic way of dealing with the patronage system. When one party goes out of power all officialdom goes out with it, and the new 'regime' appoints men from among its supporters."

HERE'S ANOTHER

The following item is taken from Jack Canuck, a Toronto publication, and seems to furnish further evidence that city papers only look for evils in Porcupine:

"Mr. John Morrison, chief officer of the Provincial License Department, has returned from a trip to the North Country, and in a statement to the Toronto newspapers says that the liquor law enforcement in that part of the province is excellent.

"The best testimony to the efficiency of supervision in the North Country," announced Mr. Morrison, "is that whisky smuggled through by devious methods sells for six and seven dollars a bottle."

Naturally Mr. Morrison's information came secondhand, probably from a clerical source, and so it is not quite accurate.

We did not visit the North Country, but we found out right here in Toronto of a man who is becoming quite wealthy on account of conditions in that lonely land. With a dozen bottles of "Walker's" well concealed, he makes a weekly visit to Northern Ontario and disposes of them at ten dollars. He clears over a hundred dollars a week, and the best part of the story is that his fare does not cost him anything. His profits are over a hundred dollars a week."

The author of the above and the paper which published it would appear to us as equally guilty with the dispenser of whiskey in the forbidden territory.

The plain duty of any person holding such evidence would be, in our opinion, to at once communicate the same to the authorities.

It looks like the very climax of hypocrisy to hold such convincing proof of wrong-doing, and, failing to make use of it, upbraid and criticize those who are evidently discharging the duties of their office in the best manner possible.

The statement that this man's "fare does not cost him anything" is one which the T. & N. O. Railway Commission should investigate, as that appears to be the only method of transportation available to make "weekly visits to Northern Ontario."

Jack Canuck, display the courage of your convictions and give the authorities this man's name.

Huge Elevator For G. T. Pacific

The official statement was handed out in Montreal from the Grand Trunk Pacific offices that a thirty-million bushel grain elevator will be erected at Fort William.

This is twice as large as the biggest elevator at present in existence. Jes' longin' for

If people live right for the other six days of the week they are not likely to be a shame to religion on Sunday.

HARDSHIPS OF MINING IN PREHISTORIC TIMES

Various Relics Found in Ancient Spanish Mines Tell Story of Rare Courage.

A glimpse into prehistoric mining in the Stone Age has been revealed by the opening of the Oural and Aram copper-cobalt mines in Spain. A writer in The American Antiquarian, referring to this discovery, says: "In these ancient Spanish mines the galleries and drifts do not open directly onto the mountain side. Instead they communicate with daylight by means of several vertical shafts or chimneys, a few metres in height. The purpose of this arrangement was, it has been suggested, to effect a better control over the slave-miners. Perhaps, too, the purpose was to prevent wild animals from making their home in the mine along with the slaves.

"Relics found both inside and outside the mine comprise bones, and various implements made of stone, bone, horn, fireclay or of wood. Among the principal relics found on the interior were sixteen skeletons, two of them complete; stone hammers, picks made of horns of animals no longer known in Spain; stone needle, torch sticks, a bone knife, two wooden bowls, and, strangely enough, some coins.

"The skeletons which were found belong for the most part to miners suddenly killed in the midst of their labor; the hand still holds the hammer, and occasionally a skeleton is found under a fall of rock. Others met death in a cowering or crouching position. All of the men must have been of extraordinary muscular development. The heavier stone hammers which they used weighed as much as twenty or twenty-two pounds.

"For illumination the miners used sticks of wood four to eight inches long. A ball of wet clay was rolled and slapped against the gallery wall. Into this clay the miner stuck his little light. Numbers of these wooden sticks or matches, the free end charred, are still preserved in place in their clay holders along the galleries. There are also found some resinous branches or twigs, wrapped in hide, and the latter soaked with grease or with resin. These, it is believed, also served for illumination, perhaps, too, for heating purposes. Fire was used to splinter the rock to render it more friable and easier to attack. The clay along the vein walls was picked away by hand.

"No props were used in the workings, which fact alone proves that they antedated the Romans. In certain cases ore was extracted from the end of diggings, into which today only a child would be able to penetrate. Several galleries are so steep and so slippery that any movement in them must have been with the help of thongs fastened into the roof of the gallery. In the vertical stopes or raises there is usually still preserved a stone ring, into which such a thong was fastened.

"Originally, the ores were melted in shallow, scooped-out hollows in refractory clay. These primitive crucibles were about eight inches in diameter, and with walls 1 1/2 inches thick. Fragments of them are preserved with ore, incompletely reduced, clinging to their sides. Later they must have employed a more highly perfected smelting device, for pieces of quite homogeneous slag are found. This denotes the use of some continuous smelting apparatus."

Treasures Worth Hundred Million

The recent announcement that J. Pierpont Morgan would bring a portion of his art collections from London to New York has led to the discovery that the financier has invested a sum estimated at more than \$100,000,000 in art treasures.

These are said to consist not only of paintings, statuary and jewels, but of collections of wide range and value of ceramics, porcelain, bronzes, reliquaries and antiquities of almost every form and conception of every age of barbarism and civilization.

Mr. Morgan's London collections are estimated at more than \$2,000,000 in value, his New York art treasures fully twice as high. Paintings and art objects loaned to museums swell the estimated fund by \$10,000,000, while an equal sum, it is believed, is not an excessive estimate of the value of art objects he has given away. Many hundreds of minor objects, each costing from hundreds to tens of thousands of dollars, are said to compose the bulk of the collection's value.



The Ideal Route To Porcupine and Cobalt is via

Grand Trunk Railway System

The Only line with through Car Service from Toronto.

Leave New York	6.00 p.m.	9.00 p.m.		
arrive Toronto	10.08 a.m.	11.58 a.m.		
Leave Buffalo	8.20 p.m.	12.50 p.m.	3.25 p.m.	6.25 p.m.
arrive Toronto	11.58 a.m.	4.48 p.m.	8.17 p.m.	9.58 p.m.
Leave Chicago	3.02 p.m.	11.28 p.m.		
arrive Toronto	7.40 a.m.	3.43 p.m.		
Leave Detroit	11.10 a.m.	2.45 p.m.	10.30 p.m.	
arrive Toronto	8.17 p.m.	10.08 p.m.	7.40 a.m.	
Leave Montreal	9.00 a.m.	7.30 p.m.	10.30 p.m.	
arrive Toronto	4.30 p.m.	6.00 a.m.	7.30 a.m.	

"Cobalt Special" leaves Toronto 8.30 p.m. daily, arriving Cobalt 9.41 a.m. and Porcupine 9.34 p.m.,

Day Trains carry modern vestibule coaches and Parlor, Library, Buffet, Cafe or Dining Cars.

Night Trains carry up-to-date Electric Lighted Pullman Sleeping Cars.

Full particulars from any Grand Trunk agent or address A. E. Duff, District Passenger Agent, Toronto.



Comstock Mines Erratic Record

Comstock mines have made and have marred many reputations.

It is an open secret that for years operations along the great lode have been conducted with a view mainly to stock market manipulation.

Mr. Whitman Symmes, in a series of articles printed in the Mining and Scientific Press in October, 1908, told the whole sordid tale.

His recital attracted the attention of the better element among those in control, and, as a result, he was placed in charge of the more important work under way. Against many difficulties he has struggled to a measure of success, finding real ore and introducing real mining.

At the last annual meeting of the companies involved, certain of the old directors who had been receiving commissions on supplies sold to the company, were thrown out of office, though a clean sweep of old directors was not made.

Revenge is sweet, and now those who lost office have succeeded in securing the dismissal of Mr. Symmes as a sequel to a disagreement between him and the president of the company.

A determined effort, it is said, will be made by Mr. Symmes' friends to re-secure control of the Union Consolidated and Sierra Nevada, and a storm on Bush street impends.

We doubt if the game is worth the fight. Something might be made of the Comstock if ownership could be consolidated in the hands of those who cared for mines rather than shares, but the prospect for that does not seem particularly bright.

In the meantime C. E. Julihn, who has been appointed superintendent, is said to be an experienced and capable engineer. Doubtless both Mr. Julihn and Mr. Symmes are well prepared to manage mines, but managing Bush street brokers is decidedly different.

There was handled during the twelve months at Prince Rupert 61,000 tons of freight, which is an increase of over 62 per cent. over the preceding period, while no less than 14,094 passengers were carried—by the Grand Trunk Pacific over 100 miles of rail between Prince Rupert and Van Arsdol, between the middle of June and December 31st, or an average of 2,562 passengers per month.

INCORPORATED, 1885.

THE

TRADERS BANK

OF CANADA.

Has the following offices in the Porcupine Gold District;

Aura Lake South End

Branch also at Haileybury

Transfers of money by mail or telegraph can be made through any Branch of this Bank. Travellers going into Porcupine are invited to avail themselves of the advice or services of the managers of the above-mentioned branches.

Capital and Surplus, - \$ 6,800,000
 Total Assets, - - \$ 52,000,000

C. H. Day, Manager Haileybury
 J. D. Tipton, Manager Porcupine Branches

Head Office - - Toronto

Dome Mines FOR SALE

Celebration
 March 30th, 1912

T. & N. O. Reduced Fares

SINGLE FARE from all T. & N. O. Rly. stations to Timmins and return. Minimum fare twenty-five cents (25c).

Good going March 29th and 30th, valid for return up to and including April 1st.

For further particulars apply to any T. & N. O. Ry. Agent or the undersigned.

A. J. PARR, G.F. & P.A.

Saw Mills, Engines, Boilers, Threshing Machinery, New, Second Hand and Rebuilt.

In stock at present a supply of Rebuilt Portable Engines and Boilers, on wheels and skids, from 10 to 30 horsepower.

Traction Engines, all sizes. Stationary Engines and Boilers, various sizes, some good second hand stock.

Some good Rebuilt Saw Mills, as well as new ones. Threshing Machines, new and rebuilt.

Write for particulars and prices. The Robt. Bell Engine & Thresher Co., Ltd. Seaforth, Ont.