

THE PORCUPINE ADVANCE

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Common Justice For Porcupine Vipond Mines

HOMER L. GIBSON & CO. IN THE FOLLOWING AUTHORIZED LETTER REPUTE MIS-STATEMENTS AND CLEAR UP MIS-UNDERSTANDINGS CONCERNING OPERATIONS—A VERY SUCCESSFUL FUTURE IN STORE FOR THE COMPANY—MANAGEMENT IS CAREFUL AND CONSERVATIVE.

The columns of the "Advance" are always open for the correction of error, and to the furtherance of conservative accuracy in dealing with mining matters pertaining to the Camp. There can be no doubt that the Vipond report has been, in some cases maliciously, distorted by the public press in many quarters, and in brokerage letters, obviously circulated for a purpose. The following letter by Homer L. Gibson, is not only authorized, but has been ascertained by the Advance to be a conservative statement of the true facts concerning the mine in question.

Porcupine Vipond

A great deal of publicity has lately been given to rumors of a disquieting nature in connection with the affairs of this company, and as we have persistently recommended this issue, we feel that we are in duty bound to present to our friends and clients the real facts in connection therewith.

It would seem that, intentionally or otherwise, only those portions of the report that could be considered unfavorable have been used in the comments that have been brought to our attention, to the exclusion of the many features that are of a decidedly favorable nature, and it shall therefore be our aim in this letter to present a summary of the report as a whole, and thus to show that the criticism has been entirely unjustified.

Particular emphasis has been laid in comments published, on two features of the report, namely the items of "Net Earnings" and "Administration Expense and Interest Charges."

In the statement covering operations for the year 1915, recently issued, Manager Poirier states that "Due to the fact that a large proportion of the ore milled and developed during the year came from the west end of the ore zone between the 100 and 300 foot levels, and that section had been badly faulted, the grade of the ore treated and developed was lower than usual. This condition was caused by the inclusion of masses of waste rock, due to the

faulting, which it was impossible to separate from the ore in mining. However, this condition appears to be local to the area above described, and future development will undoubtedly show ore of a higher grade.

To a person of experience in practical mining, no further comment than the above paragraph, or any further explanatory reasons for the net earnings being as reported, is necessary, as the "inclusion of masses of waste rock, due to the faulting" is alone responsible for the comparatively low value of the rock sent to the mill, and the resultant low profit per ton of ore milled.

In arriving at any satisfactory conclusion concerning the net earnings, however, which are shown in the report as \$34,135.83, it is necessary to take several facts into consideration, among these being the following: In the method of accounting used by this company, every charge of whatsoever nature, is treated as part of "Costs of Production," while with many other companies such items as "Plant Expenditure," "Exploration and Development" and "Depreciation" are classed either as "Capital Expenditure" or a "Deferred Development charge," and are not used in computing costs.

Were this company to use the same accounting methods as many of the operating mines, the report would have shown an apparent profit of more than two and one-half times that actually shown, and no criticism for using such a system would have been warranted. We submit, however, that the very frankness of this company's accounting is deserving of strong commendation, as by such methods the veriest novice in accounting can understand that the term "Net Profits" means just that and nothing else.

These features make the showing of "Costs per ton of ore treated" which was \$5.47 for the year, a particularly creditable one, especially when it is considered that this company treats a smaller tonnage per month than any other regular producer.

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FINAL ARRANGEMENTS MADE FOR DOG RACE ON SUNDAY NEXT

The Committee of the Canadian Patriotic Fund has worked out further details of the Dog Team Race to be held on March 19th, and announces the following rules:

- (1) No more than four dogs shall enter as one team.
- (2) No exchange of dogs with other teams may be made en route.
- (3) No change of conveyance, sleigh, sled or toboggan, may be made en route.
- (4) No change of harness may be made unless the driver carries extra harness with him from the start.
- (5) In passing, the team ahead must give the team behind, attempting to pass, the left half of the road.
- (6) No change of drivers may be made en route.
- (7) The course laid out must be followed.
- (8) Driver may ride or run with his team as he pleases.
- (9) Same driver, same dogs, same harness, same conveyance, must finish that start.

Lieut. W. Nicholson, of Timmins, and Lieut. H. A. MacDougall, of So. Porcupine, with their men, have kindly offered to police the two ends of the course, particularly the turns and crossings, directing the drivers to the proper road to take.

The following are the officials for the race: Starter and Referee—C. G. Williams.

Umpires—Dr. H. H. Moore, K. F. DeLong, A. R. Globe, N. J. Evererd, C. Auer.

Judges of Passing—Dome: George Gray, Clarence Everham, Wm. Ross, South Porcupine: Nap Servais, J. C. Watson, F. W. D. Wilkins, Schumacher; J. R. Todd, J. Grant, R. B. Coffey.

Scorers—Albert Reid, James Reid. The Race will start from the Imperial Bank, Timmins, the first team to start at 1:00 p.m. The other teams will start at five or ten minute intervals thereafter. Drivers will draw lots for place at start.

The official programme badges will be sold for the occasion at twenty-five cents each, for the benefit of the Patriotic Fund.

The Committee wishes to accept with thanks the offer of Mr. Charles Dalton to plow the Dome Road from Porcupine-Crown to Vipond, the only portion of the road which is bad, and also his offer to get in touch with the other liverymen and request them all to have their drivers of any teams on the course of the day of the race to turn out for the dog teams in plenty of time so as not to hold them up.

An engraved shield, which will be an annual prize to be held for one year by the winner and then returned to the trustees for annual competition, has been presented by Mr. A. R. Globe.

A silver cup has been offered by Dr. H. H. Moore as first prize to be retained permanently by the winner.

A wrist watch has been offered by Mr. Wm. Pearce, of South Porcupine, and a No. 2 Ensignette camera has been offered by Mr. Jas. Todd, of Schumacher, for second and third prizes, the team which comes in second to have a choice.

The Committee wishes to call attention again to the course to be run as follows: Starting at the Imperial Bank, Timmins, to Moneta, turning right angle corner just before reaching butcher shop, to Porcupine Crown Mines passing office and turning from there towards the Hollinger, but only going as far as the Dome Road, turning into the Dome Road, to the Dome, passing through the Dome to north of all the buildings, on down the road to South Porcupine, turning to left at Wm. Pearce's drug store for one block, turning to left at Reamsbottom & Edwards', on past the King George Hotel on the Timmins Road, through Schumacher and the McIntyre, under the railway bridge to Timmins, turning to left at the Goldfields Hotel and finishing at Imperial Bank.

The full course scales 13 miles on the map.

It is hoped that everyone in the camp will take a lively interest in this event and turn out to see it.

The following have certified their intention of entering teams, and it is expected that five or ten more will enter before entries close: Messrs. Wallingford, Brisson, Darling, Keane, Sancton.

Health of Town is Very Satisfactory

Dr. H. H. Moore, Medical Health Officer, reports that the general health of the town and district is in a very satisfactory state. The recent epidemic of "LaGrippe" is steadily waning to the vanishing point, and there is nothing of a contagious or infectious nature to disturb the public mind.

POISON DISPENSED BY BLIND PIGGER CAUSED ONE DEATH

On Thursday last five men drank a liquor concoction, supplied by a "blind pigger" and as a result one, Daniel Sokorino is dead, another is blind and not expected to recover, and the others have been more or less ill from the effects.

On Friday David Atkinson, a Russian Jew, and known "pigger" left Timmins on the morning train, just after Sokorino's death, a circumstance which justified the Magistrate Mr. T. M. Wilson in intercepting the alleged fugitive, under a warrant charging manslaughter. Atkinson was arrested on the train at Englehart, and on Saturday Chief Court-mahene went there to escort the prisoner back.

The dead man was attended by Dr. Minthorn, and the others by Dr. Otton and Dr. Minthorn. It was only after the death of one of the victims that fear brought out the truth about drinking bad whisky, thereby assisting the physicians in saving the remaining lives. The symptoms were all peculiar to poisoning by methylated spirits, or wood alcohol. Several bottles, kettles, etc., were taken from Atkinson's place of business in Moneta, among the ingredients being ammonia, white vinegar, ether and methylated spirits. The kettle contained the strong odor which identified it as having been used in the boiling process.

The inquest was opened on Monday at 2:30 p.m., by Dr. McNeil, of the Dome Mines, as Coroner. Composing the jury were T. M. Wilson, J.P. (foreman), Charles See, Thos. King, Wm. Smith, A. G. Brongh, A. Brazeau and Frank Stoekwelf. The first evidence taken, after viewing the body, was by Dr. Minthorn, who detailed his treatment of the dead man. Dr. Otton was next called, and gave evidence as to his connection with the other cases, and further, at the request of the Coroner, gave expert testimony based on his post-mortem examination, in a most efficient manner. The testimony of others who had partaken of the poisonous stuff was also taken, by the aid of an interpreter.

The coroner sat, with recess for supper, until 11:30 p.m., at which time adjournment for a week was taken, to allow time for the report on stomach contents to be sent from Toronto. The case is proving more than usually difficult, both Coroner and jury are fully impressed with the importance and gravity of the enquiry. It would be manifestly improper to comment on the evidence at this stage. Keen interest is being taken in the case, being the first of its kind in the history of the town.

PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD HOLD MEETING FRIDAY AWARD OF MEDALS

The Board of Public School Trustees met in regular session on Friday afternoon. Trustee Stockwell occupied the chair, with Trustees Marshall, Ostrosser, Dorway and Laub constituting the quorum. Mr. T. M. Wilson, secretary-treasurer of the Board, read the minutes of the previous meeting, which were confirmed without comment.

Current accounts were passed for payment, and several other matters of a routine nature were brought forward and discussed. Secretary Wilson reported that, in answer to his letter addressed to the Town Council, requesting specific information regarding the new school, he had been advised by the Town Clerk that a resolution passed at the last meeting of the Council provided that Councilor Globe be instructed to give the Board all information desired.

The question of medical and dental inspection was also discussed in a tentative way, the opinion prevailing that a system of inspection should be adopted, for the general well-being of the community.

As a means of encouraging the pupils in their work preparatory to entrance examination, it was decided to offer a series of prizes. The first, a gold medal, is to be awarded to the pupil making the best showing, a silver medal for the second, and a bronze for the third. Others coming within a certain standard of excellence, are to be awarded books as prizes. The decision to award these medals and books should meet with general approval, and stir up the spirit of emulation among the children.

The Board decided to make periodic informal visits to the school, in order to become better acquainted with the general methods and systems employed.

The meeting then adjourned at the call of the Chairman.

Notes, Comments and Opinions Of Interest To Mining World

Mr. Frank C. Loring, the well-known mining engineer, was in camp this week, and visited the Kamisessia Lake district on special business.

Mr. Peter McLaren, eminent mining engineer, arrived in camp about a week ago, going straight to the "Success" property, where he will remain for some time during the development work now under way by Mr. E. S. Henley, contractor.

Col. Alex M. Hay, president of the McIntyre, left Friday for the south, after spending five days at the mine. He expects to return in about two weeks.

Work has been commenced on the Navarre claims, in Robb Township, and recently optioned by Mr. D. Chisholm. These claims adjoin the Jamieson property, now being developed by the same ownership. The work at present is on an 18 inch vein, the quartz being of that dark appearance resembling the ore of the Tough-Oakes mine at Kirkland Lake.

With reference to the Jamieson claims, the shaft is now down nearly 30 feet, the sinking being in good values. From top to bottom the ore is a metamorphosed granite with a secondary enrichment of quartz stringers. Native gold can be seen adhering to the quartz, feldspar and black hornblende.

The February production of the Dome Mines was slightly below the January production, but the difference is so small as to be almost accounted for by the shorter month. The January figures constituted a record, showing \$176,590; February shows \$163,481, obtained from 32,040 tons of ore milled, of an average value of \$5.10 per ton. The new shaft of the Dome is being sunk at a point where it had been thought no ore could be encountered, and 600 feet there were no values. At 625 feet, however, milling ore was taken out of the new shaft is going to be exceeding all expectations, and is now treating about 500 tons of classified ore per day. It would appear that the management are satisfied that the ball-mill practice is the most economical and satisfactory for secondary crushing, and purpose removing some of the original forty stamps which will be replaced by new ball mills. The two tube mills have arrived on the property and, within three months the Dome mill capacity should be approximately 45,000 tons per month.

PRESIDENT M'HERON ENTERTAINS ROD GUN ON THURSDAY LAST

On Thursday evening last Mr. Mulheron, President of Timmins Rod and Gun Club entertained the members and friends at dinner in the Goldfields Hotel. About twenty guests were present to do justice to the excellent repast provided.

After the dinner Mr. Geo. Preston, Field Captain, formally introduced the president of the newly formed club, and Mr. Mulheron responded by thanking the members for the high honor conferred upon him, and followed with a short summary of the programme proposed for the coming shooting and fishing season, and then called upon Capt. Young for his views on the securing of fish fry and duck food from the Government, for the replenishing of nearby lakes and rivers.

Following Capt. Young's address the President threw the meeting open for a general and informal discussion and for suggestions on the part of members. Sergt. Ferris gave some valuable and interesting hints on the methods of securing and distributing fish fry and duck food, he having been engaged in that capacity on a couple of occasions on Lake Temiskaming. Other members made favorable suggestions in regard to the acquiring of suitable grounds, clay-bird traps, club badges, game protection, etc.

A resolution was passed recommending the incorporation of the Club rules in the membership cards, together with a list of all charter members, so that it might be preserved as souvenir of Timmins first Rod and Gun Club.

Between 75 and 100 have either joined or signified their intention of doing so before the first regular meeting, which is called for Thursday, March 23rd, when the Club will be officially launched on what is predicted will be a most favorable season of sport.

The February production of the Tough-Oakes mine is approximately \$45,000. Unless impeded by pending litigation, the March figures should be much higher than usual, as the mill is now running 120 tons of good grade ore per day.

The rumor that 92.75 had been offered for 100,000 shares of McIntyre on one of the Toronto stock exchanges a day or so ago, has not been confirmed. Had it been so, no surprise would have been created in Timmins. It is considered well worth the price, or more.

The Teek-Hughes Gold Mines, Ltd., is making a \$500,000 5-year 7 per cent first mortgage bond issue, of which \$100,000 par value is now offered to the shareholders. The proceeds will be used to erect a mill and develop the property, which is located in the Kirkland Lake district.

The necessary repairs in the No. 5 shaft at the McIntyre Mines are fast being completed, and it will not be long before ore is being hoisted from this shaft. With regard to the milling of McIntyre-Extension and McIntyre Jupiter ore, it was announced in the Advance some time ago that the management was considering the hauling of ore by motor trucks, pending the installation of some suitable carrier system. While the system to be adopted has not been finally decided upon, it is likely that something of the overhead type will be used. It is expected that the next few days will see both Jupiter and McIntyre Extension ores being treated in the McIntyre mill.

On and after March 31st no more transfers of West Dome Mines, Ltd., will be made. Shareholders of this company should have their shares converted into West Dome Consol.

The Lucky Cross mine property at Swastika is being re-opened under the direction of Col. A. M. Hay. The process of de-watering is being pushed with all possible despatch, and real development work is expected to be commenced at an early date. The property consists of four claims, fully patented, in the territory north of Otto Township, and directly north-east of the Swastika mine. The main shaft is down 112 feet on a promising quartz vein, which yielded good values on the surface, and which gave continued to depth. The vein was lost in the shaft, and cross cutting was done to intercept the vein. A number of other promising quartz leads were uncovered on the surface, nine of which showed free gold.

NEW ASSESSMENT WELL UNDER WAY A LITTLE CHANCE

The Assessor, Mr. E. H. Hill, reports that the work of re-assessing the Town is well under way, and that although a late start was made, it will be completed within the period required by law.

There will be a notable increase in the total, but due to increased buildings rather than any material advance in the basis of valuation.

BOARD OF TRADE IMPORTANT BUSINESS AND NEW MEMBERS

The best attended meeting of the Board of Trade this year was held in the Council Chamber on Friday night commencing at 9 o'clock, due to the previous occupancy of the room by the Fire Department in meeting assembled.

President Ostrosser occupied the chair, and Secretary Simms performed the duties of his office in his usual efficient manner. After confirmation of the minutes of the previous session sundry communications were read, and reports rendered. It is not deemed to be in the public interest to publish details of the discussions which took place, but it may be said that several very important matters were debated, and advanced a notch or two towards attainment. The Board is handling questions of real moment, and significance, and the success of their efforts will inure to the benefit of the town and the well-being of the citizens.

A number of new members were admitted, and the meeting augured well for a period of renewed activity and usefulness, under Mr. Ostrosser's able leadership.

LOCAL ODDFELLOWS HOPE TO START A NEW LODGE SHORTLY

A very enthusiastic meeting of those interested in forming an Odd-fellows lodge in Timmins was held on Friday evening last, in the Canadian Explosives Co. office and was attended by a fair number of Odd-fellows.

The general feeling throughout the meeting was unanimous that the lodge be started as soon as possible, and every Oddfellow present signified his intention of doing his share.

Mr. W. H. Pritchard was appointed chairman, and Mr. W. M. Widdfield's name was added to the Committee. W. G. Smith was appointed Secretary.

On a motion by Mr. Geo. Lake the Secretary was instructed to write the D.D.G.M., Rev. Mr. Sinclair of Cochrane, for full particulars re starting the new lodge.

By those present at this meeting it was decided to go ahead immediately, and every Oddfellow in the camp who is desirous of affiliating with this lodge when arrangements have been completed, and anyone wishing to join as new members, should at once communicate with the Secretary, Mr. W. G. Smith.

SCHOOL KIDDIES TO HAVE SLEIGH RIDE FRIDAY AFTERNOON

Plans are under way, through the kind initiative of Mr. Hugh Mulheron, for a big sleigh ride, the guests to be all of the children attending both Public and Separate Schools of Timmins. The start is to be made from the Goldfields Hotel, about 2:15 p.m., and the trip will take in the town and suburbs.

This will be a big event for the children, and all who have sleighs, and who find delight in giving pleasure to children, are asked to communicate with Mr. Mulheron as soon as possible after reading this notice.

SPECIAL MEETING PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD TUESDAY FORENOON

A special meeting of the Public School Board was held on Tuesday forenoon, in the Police Court, for the purpose of considering matters arising out of the proposed new school. All of the Trustees, excepting Mr. Dorway, and Sec.-Treas. T. M. Wilson, were present.

The following resolution was passed:—

Proposed by Ostrosser, seconded by Marshall, that the Timmins Public School Board make formal demand on the Corporation of the Town of Timmins for the sum of \$12,000 net, for the purpose of erecting and equipping a new Public School. The meeting then adjourned.

TIMMINS FIRE DEPT. MEET AND DISCUSS MATTERS OF INTEREST

Members of the Timmins Volunteer Fire Brigade held a meeting in the Council Chamber on Friday night, under the chairmanship of Chief Nolan. There was a full attendance, and matters of interest to the Brigade were discussed.

It is generally felt that the citizens do not take the deep interest they should in the Brigade's strengthening and general welfare, and means should be devised to develop that interest. On the efficiency of the fire protection much depends, not only to the individual, but to the Town as a whole. Help the Brigade, and help to reduce insurance rates.

Mr. Matt Boivin is giving a "Smoker" to the members of the 159th, on Friday, March 17th. This promises to be a popular affair.