

## EXPERTS ARE NUMEROUS IN PORCUPINE CAMP

### Correspondent to Toronto Star Sizes Up Situation is Due to Pessi- mism On the Inside

Porcupine somewhat resembles Cobalt in 1906, being in a state bordering on suspended animation. The attempt to inspire a boom in Cobalt in the spring of 1906 proved a dismal failure, and left the town overbuilt and dejected. In July or thereabouts a spectacular figure appeared upon the scene in the person of one whom we shall hereafter call John.

John had been a denizen of Rossland years before, and left that town from the cause that he must eat. He had as a companion one whom we shall call Doe, and together they journeyed to Frisco, and put up at the Palace Hotel. The first thing they did was to give a dinner party to friends and acquaintances, but when the hour of reckoning came John and Doe descended by the fire escape. From Frisco they ascended to Tonopah, then in its boom. John and Doe seemed now to have got separated, and John obtained a lease on a mining claim, after which he heard that Charlie Schwab, of Steel Trust fame, was in Portland. John said: "He's my meat!" and immediately descended upon Charlie. Charlie was upon a bit of a jamboree, and was in quite a convivial spirit when John blew in, and the upshot was that Charlie agreed to send an expert to John's claim.

In due course the expert arrived, and wired Charlie that John's lease was not worth a d—. John wired that he did not give a d— for the expert, and that he wanted \$30,000 to open up the claim. In the language of today, Charlie "came across."

The first shot or two John put in showed up a very rich mine, which Charlie and John duly unloaded for real money; so John became possessed of real money and lots of it.

When John blew into Cobalt he was much in the same condition as when he first met Charlie, and he maintained his jag during his stay. His diversion took the form of recitals of portions of Shakespeare and controversy with a bulldog. He also passed a few \$20 gold pieces among the dining room girls to inspire interest. He got it.

The one object of interest in town was John and his jag. Hourly bulletins were passed around, while eager eyes gazed upon his passes, and attentive ears picked up the gutteral objections voiced by the bulldog.

First John was to buy the La Rose, or rather, he was to look into it. Then it was the Coniagas and the Lawson. Quickly the idea spread that the fate of the camp rested on the decision of John.

Finally John and his legal adviser departed, the latter giving out that his client decided he would not buy anything. Hope forsook the hearts

of the Cobaltites; all were dismayed save the bulldog.

As I have said, Porcupine today resembles Cobalt of six years ago. Cobalt lived through it; so will Porcupine.

Porcupine is today suffering from an excess of mining experts. These gentlemen foregather in the chief hotel, and fall upon all newcomers when conversation naturally turns to the leading mines. By the time the pilgrim has heard the different speakers he has many different explanations as to why the Dome and Hollinger mills will not successfully treat Porcupine ores, leaving the inference that if they were only in charge things would be different. In the meantime they are looking for easy money.

The result of criticism and other talk is that the newcomer is apt to be bewildered, and so affrighted. When the property is only a prospect, and has not advanced to the point when metallurgy should be applied, the prospects of the claim will be poor, and the geological explanation advanced why such is so.

This wantonness grows from the idea that pessimism is the surface indication of wisdom, also from the fact that all those who lost their money in the Cobalt boom are now disposed to the short side, i.e., speculate for the decline. Like a boy with a new toy they are playing it to death. This latter tendency is, of course, not confined to Porcupine, but has its main growth in the centres of speculation.

Here and elsewhere all sorts of stories are being circulated to the detriment of the camp and its several properties. The Dome mill was to have been completed by 1st February, or thereabouts, and the Hollinger by May 1st. The Dome, for several reasons, is only putting through about one-third of its prescribed capacity, and the Hollinger mill may be running by June 1st.

While these troubles are only mechanical, growing out of two of the tube mills of the Dome breaking on being put in motion, and the general difficulty in getting freight delivered over long distances, they are used by the bears to serve their ends.

Of course, while this is not calculated to do any general harm, and seems to have effectually put a stop to the flotation of shares, it should not be construed to mean that Porcupine is not making excellent progress. One should never buy mining stock on margin, or any other stock for that matter, and the antics of the shorts will not trouble many of those who hold the good issues.

As a matter of fact, developments in Porcupine are excellent.—Toronto Star.

## HERE'S A CHANCE FOR ENERGETIC PROSPECTORS

### Diligent Search for Will of Deceased Welshman Involving Disposal of Vast Fortune

Prospectors in the Porcupine district who find it difficult to secure any open ground in the mineralized area will be interested in the following tale of a search for vast wealth said to be hidden in an ancient ruin.

A sensation has been caused in North Wales by the operations of mysterious visitors to the ruins of Vall? Crucis Abbey, Llangollen, who are supposed to be searching for the will of Anthony Pritchard, whose vast estate, valued at £4,000,000, went into Chancery 100 years ago in the absence of a will or next-of-kin.

The will was supposed to have been left in the custody of a caretaker named Jones, but after Pritchard's death it mysteriously disappeared, and claimants to the estate have been hunting for it ever since.

Some years ago the grave of the caretaker, Jones, who appears to have exercised a weird fascination over Pritchard during his life, was twice dug up at midnight, and coffin was alleged to have been buried with the body. No will, however, was found.

Visitors, accompanied by London solicitors, have from time to time appeared at Llangollen and asserted their claims to the Pritchard millions and to the estate, which includes Llantysilio Hall, the land on which St. George's Hall, Liverpool, is built, and large tea gardens in Calcutta. They have declared that a missing will for which search was being made alone stood in the way of

their taking immediate possession. The custodian said that since Easter a number of secret visits have been paid to the enclosure by unknown people, sometimes in the early morning and sometimes late at night, but always during the absence of the guardians of the place and the historic treasures it contains.

The visits are not likely to be repeated without official sanction, for an effective cordon of watchers has been established.

Farmers in the neighborhood of the abbey, one of whom was a very old resident, stated that before the abbey was enclosed as a show place the chapter house was the living-room of a large farmstead, where, it is understood, relatives of Jones, the caretaker at Llantysilio Hall, lived, and some stated that Jones frequently visited the abbey at night. It is thought that he may have concealed documents under the floor of the chapter house, and it is asserted that certain documents on which the claim to the millions is based bear indications of having been kept for a considerable time in a damp place and under conditions similar to those obtaining under the chapter-house floor.

Whether anything has been discovered or not is not known, but the principal claimant, who some years ago asserted that her case was all but complete, has, after a long stay, suddenly left the locality.

## Toronto Man Swam To Death

The first drowning accident of the season took place on Saturday morning, when George Lawrence, of Toronto, was drowned in the Mattawapika River.

Three partners were saved. Lawrence started to swim down the river after the canoe had upset, and was carried over the forty-foot Mattawapika Falls to his death. The body has not yet been recovered.

## Are Now Looking For Diamonds

Several parties of prospectors have outfitted from Haileybury during the past few days and are headed for Northern Quebec, north of the Transcontinental Railway, in search of diamonds.

Ottawa and Montreal men, as well as Haileybury capitalists, are interested in the syndicates that have gone north.

INCORPORATED, 1825.

## THE TRADERS BANK OF CANADA.

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**C. H. Day, J. D. Tipton,**  
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## The Achilles Mine Finds New Owners

The Achilles Mines in Northern Whitney have been sold to the Cobalt Star Mining Company. Capt. Dickie is in charge and the new company will rush work.

An underground crew is cutting a crosscut from the 90-foot depth in the shaft to the vein, a distance in all probability of thirty feet before the lead is picked up.

Work has been carried on carefully under the direction of Capt. John Bartlett of Quebec, for one year and considerable headway was made till two months ago, when springs of water were encountered mid-way down in the shaft. With only light working machinery, it was hard to take care of the voluminous flow at times and to also carry on the underground work. Slow progress was made then as compared with the headway made at the beginning.

The shaft is sunk on a strong-appearing vein, which veered to the north as depth was made. At the 35-foot depth the vein was tapped and values found. At the 55-foot depth another crosscut was run into the vein which still showed good values.

Consistent values in a fairly wide stretch of quartz is what the company is looking for, and inasmuch as the Achilles property is well within the mineralized zone in the north belt, present showings warrant a continuance of the underground development work.

## Labor Gathering Will Give Decision

The Labor Educational Association Convention, which is to be held in Peterboro on May 24th, bids fair to be the biggest convention in the history of the association.

It is likely that over 150 delegates will be in attendance. The big question up for discussion is whether Ontario labor unions will form a Provincial Federation of Labor. The different States in the Union have their State Federations of Labor, under the jurisdiction of the American Federation of Labor for legislative purposes.

British Columbia has its Federation of Labor, chartered by the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada for legislative purposes.

## South Porcupine Joins Association

The voting of the Northern Associated Boards of Trade to admit South Porcupine to membership in the association makes a total of eight boards represented in the body at the present time.

As soon as South Porcupine received its charter it made application for membership and was unanimously accepted at the North Bay meeting.

Its delegates will have a voice in the proceedings of the associated boards at Haileybury.