

Ignorance Retards Progress of the North

WELL KNOWN MINING MAN PRESENTS "HORSESHOES" IN SALE OF PROSPECTS—UNENVIABLE REPUTATION—HAS SOLD FOR SMALL FIGURE SEVERAL PROPERTIES SUBSEQUENTLY BIG MINES.

Sam J. Dobie is one of our best known mining men, says the Toronto World. He is always active in the new districts and as a rule comes away with substantial interests in promising properties. But it is rather as a vendor that he is best known to fame. Most of the properties that he has parted with at nominal prices have afterwards turned out veritable bonanzas. At one time he owned a large share of the famous "Croesus" in the Township of Munro, about 30 miles east of Porcupine. Even then there was little or no doubt of the great value of this property. Fabulously rich ore showed in several places, and to protect it from high graders the owners bolted down over the entire surface sheets of solid steel half an inch thick. So much gold in its original matrix had never before been seen in Canada.

The Ontario Government paid \$10,000 for a chunk of ore, the dimensions of which were not greater than an ordinary pumpkin. And this was no fancy price. It was barely commensurate with the intrinsic value of the sample. It was easy for the officials to determine this by ascertaining the weight of the entire specimen and the fineness of the gold therein. If free from any alloy, the metal would be 19.3 times heavier than water, while the gangue or quartz is only 2.65. The bulk of the valuable piece could be ascertained by measuring its displacement of water, and on these data a calculation of actual value could be made.

GOOD SAMPLES.

The ore required by the government was shown in a safe at the Secours National Exhibition in Toronto. Lumps of pure gold studded the quartz like raisins in a Christmas pudding; not merely here and there but evenly distributed through the mass and, as nearly as one could judge, taking up more than one-third of the whole.

Before this old world had all been mused over, and about the middle of the last century, a gold nugget worth \$46,000 was found as "float" in Australia. It probably lay in an ancient river bed through which gold in solution had been passing for many centuries, and as gold is an active precipitant of its own element, this nugget took up all the gold in solution and constantly increased in size. But the sample from the Croesus was still "in place" when removed and could not have grown by accretion from the time that rock solidified. In that type it probably holds the world's record for richness.

In his report on the Hollinger Consolidated, Mr. P. A. Robbins says that spectacular samples are probably the result of local enrichment from the concentration of surrounding values, but in any case, if the formation is right, and it is in Porcupine, they go very far to prove the existence of a real mine.

SOLD HIS INTERESTS.

But in returning to our friend, Sam Dobie, we regret to say that he sold his interest in the Croesus at the rate of \$75,000 for the whole.

But a single generous act of that kind would scarcely be sufficient to establish his reputation as the best man to buy from in the whole of northern Ontario. He also had a large interest in the Davidson, which has very recently come into great prominence in consequence of simultaneous finds on two different veins, which are fully as rich as any ever seen in Porcupine. The bold in these new finds is not quite as heavy as that from the Croesus, but the veins are longer and wider and at present it is not easy to say which property will prove the more valuable.

These discoveries are quite apart from the vein on which development has for some time been proceeding on the Davidson. On them there was also a fine surface, show for a length of

400 feet, and in depth the vein is more than living up to its outcrop.

Some of the samples from the Davidson show gold taking up a large part of the cubes of decomposed pyrite. In that respect they are the most remarkable the writer has ever seen, while the pure metal is plentifully distributed through the quartz.

Apparently it is lucky to buy from Sam J. Dobie. Will the Coniagas mines of Cobalt, be the next fortunate buyers from him? He and his associate owner have optioned the Anchorite in the northern part of Deloro to the Coniagas, so in the ordinary course, we may expect a big strike on this valuable property.

IGNORANCE AND OVER-CAUTION

Mr. Dobie is a very good fellow, genial, alert, straightforward, and it can hardly be said that he is in the mining game merely for the benefit of his health. He may have been too cautious, but it all goes to show that there is a great deal of want of knowledge in mining deals. Many so-called experts had buzzed over and toyed with the Croesus and Davidson before they were sold, and there is no doubt that ignorance and over-caution and want of experience in mining experts have had an important effect in retarding operations in Porcupine and elsewhere in northern Ontario, while in the early days we had a sprinkling of the veriest dubs whose only function was to spend money and discredit properties.

But the great gold regions of the north are living and growing, notwithstanding all adverse conditions. Within the past year, the following companies have resumed operations in Porcupine:—1, Jupiter; 2, McIntyre Extension; 3, Success; 4, Newray; 5, Davidson; 6, Dome Extension; 7, West Dome; 8, Premier; 9, Maidens-McDonald; 10, Anchorite; 11, Augarita; 12, Chisholm Vet. and 13, Platt Vet. while arrangements are under way to reopen the Apex, Foley-O'Brien, Little Pet, Perseverance and several others. This is a splendid record in the middle of a great war, when much needed capital is scarce and when mining costs are usually high in grasping for a certainty, millions are sometimes thrown away, as proved in the case of the Croesus, Davidson and other properties.

Follies of youth are drafts on old age, the payment of which are imperative.

WHEN BILL BRADLEY WAS HOMELIEST KENTUCKIAN

"Did you boys ever hear that back in the eighties I was regarded as one of the homeliest men in Kentucky?" inquired Senator Bradley. "It's a fact, and I'll tell you a story to illustrate it."

"Under the laws of Kentucky the Governor has the power to pardon even before Grand Jury proceedings or trial. During my first term as Governor my Attorney-General was John K. Hendrick. Some folks said Hendrick was the homeliest man in Kentucky; others said I was. In those days I wore a beard, as did Hendrick. John always maintained that he was a better-looking man than I, and I always disputed his argument."

"One day Hendrick walked into my office."

"'I want a pardon, Governor,' he announced."

"'All right, Hendrick,' I said; 'but what have you done?'"

"'I just shot a man down street,' said Hendrick, calmly."

"'What for?' I demanded."

"'He said I looked like you,' answered Hendrick, and I could not stand for that."

"'You shall have the pardon at once,' I announced. 'If you hadn't shot the cuss, I would have done so on sight.'"

Apex May Link With West Dome

Talk that when Apex reopens development work will be linked up with that of West Dome persists in that camp, and there seems to be plenty of probability in the reports. West Dome management is the contrary of prolix in discussing the matter. It is not plainly to be seen how the work underground could be co-ordinated with any degree of ease, but undoubtedly the drilling and other proving and indicating of ore bodies on West Dome could be advantageously taken into account on Apex if managements were similarly policed.

Was Invented in 1543

Spaniard Really First to Build Successful Steamboat.

Fulton is famed as the inventor of the steamboat. Authentic history attests that he was not the inventor, declares the Philadelphia Inquirer. In 1543 Blasco de Garay, a sea captain of Spain, exhibited in the harbor of Barcelona, in the presence of Charles V. and his court a steamboat capable of a speed of three miles an hour.

For nearly two hundred years Blasco de Garay's invention was lost sight of, and not till the end of the eighteenth century was the subject taken up again. European scientists became interested, and the result was the construction of a steamboat on the River Saone by Marquis de Jouffrey in 1759.

In 1788 Patriek Miller of Scotland built a steamboat. It succeeded so well that a larger one was built in 1789, when seven miles an hour was made. Eventually Robert Fulton built the Clermont, which made its trial trip in 1808. Robert Fulton has the fame of an invention that belongs to Blasco de Garay, who antedated Fulton by 265 years.

Hints To Housewives

Ice water is bad for the stomach and the complexion.

If you wish fish to be crisp, do not cover while cooking.

A good flavor can be added to the scalloped potatoes by adding a sweet green pepper, boiled and chopped fine.

Baked stuffed tomatoes or peppers will be much improved if brushed over with olive oil.

Vegetables containing sugar will not keep their sweetness long and should be cooked as soon as possible.

Croquettes should stand in a warm place for half an hour before frying; this makes them brown more quickly.

In covering jelly with paraffin it is best to melt the paraffin and turn it over the jelly while the latter is hot.

A Chinese philosopher says there is an ounce of wisdom at the root of every gray hair.

Tunnel Has Queer Use

Utilized for Testing Headlights Under St. Louis City Hall.

Running beneath the St. Louis city hall at ground level is a tunnel which has been used as a shadow box for testing the headlights of more than 5,000 automobiles and adjusting them in conformity with that city's new anti-glare ordinance.

By dropping a black canvas curtain-over one end of the tunnel the place is thoroughly darkened. The law requires that the main shaft of light from headlights shall not be higher than three feet from the ground, seventy-five feet in front of the car.

In this darkened passageway the lights are directed against a board surface, measuring six feet high and four feet wide, painted white, and framed in black curtains. By means of a graduated scale an officer judges the direction and intensity of the lights and adjusts and tilts them until the main rays fall on the three-foot line.

When all is satisfactory a seal is affixed to the car, showing that the owner has complied with the law.

P. Crown Production Will Cause Stir

Porcupine Crown figures for September, when they come out, are likely to make a stir. They are known to be large. Because of the fact that a lot of ore from the section of the vein lately opened out at depth was treated, were very high.

All development work at Porcupine Crown is confined to the sinking of the winze now at the 880-foot level. It was intended, for a time, to cease sinking and run drifts at the 800-foot level, but this intention was changed. Diamond drilling was resumed at the end of last month, and because not enough air could be provided to carry on both operations, development in the various levels was stopped.

The statement made by us in our last issue re Mr. Pierce's non-closing of his store during the Jewish festivities, is without foundation, and Mr. Pierce states that he has always closed on these occasions.

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