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EMPHASIZED IMPORTANCE OF ONTARIO GOLD MINES

Dr. Parks, Refutes Idea of 'No Important New Gold Discovery in 25 Years.

Previous reference has been made in The Advance to the strange statement of John Maynard Keynes that the world has had no important new discovery of gold in the past twenty-five years. It appears strange indeed that a man supposed to be a high authority on such matters should make such a statement in view of the great development and greater promise of the Porcupine gold area and the promise also of such areas as Kirkland Lake and Rouyn. Porcupine and Kirkland Lake have both proven that they are important gold finds and their potential richness is a matter for the optimistic imagination. Facts to date prove conclusively that pessimistic people would be sure to vastly underestimate the importance of such fields. "The surface has scarcely been scratched as yet," to use an old saying. In reference to this matter The Toronto Mail & Empire last week had an editorial article of much interest and significance. The Mail & Empire says:—

"It is strange that the address of Dr. Parks, Professor of Geology at the University of Toronto, upon 'The Mineral Resources of Northern Ontario,' before the Royal Society of Arts on July 27 received no publicity from The Times and other London newspapers. He took advantage of the opportunity to refute the statement of John Maynard Keynes in 'A Tract on Monetary Reform,' published in 1924, that 'a quarter of a century has passed since the discovery of an important deposit' (of gold), and expressed surprise that the extraordinary richness of the Northern Ontario goldfield was not better known. It is important that the correction should receive as wide circulation as the disparaging remark quoted, because Mr. Keynes was selected to confer with the Committee of the British House of Commons dealing with the Gold Standard, which of course involves the question of gold production.

Dr. Parks pointed out that since 1905, when North-eastern Ontario began to attract attention, there has developed a gold mining industry that puts Ontario among the leading gold producing countries of the world. In 1924 the mines of the Porcupine group (chiefly five) produced gold to the value of \$22,266,894, and the total production from 1910 to that date was \$136,459,187. In the Kirkland Lake area in 1924 six mines produced \$3,593,433 in gold and the total production since 1913 was \$14,985,272. The first three months of 1925 showed a substantial increase, and established a new record for gold production in Ontario.

"Most of the money lost in Ontario in the pursuit of gold, Dr. Parks said, was owing to bad judgment frequently accompanied by incompetence and extravagance, but the same was true of every mining district in the world. In offering some advice to British investors he pointed out that the discovery that the great deposits are related to Algonian granites should go far to prevent the loss of money in unprofitable gold mines and the prevailing custom of exploitation by diamond drill before sinking shafts should minimize the expense of preliminary investigations. Sir William Logan is justly regarded as the 'Father of Canadian Geology,' for he established the general stratigraphical succession and laid the foundation for the nomenclature of the pre-Cambrian rocks of the Canadian Shield, an area equal to half the extent of the whole Dominion, in which are found nearly all the gold, most of the iron and some of the copper. Dr. Parks announced that the Canadian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy proposes to raise a fund for a copy of Logan's portrait now in the Royal Canadian Institute in Toronto and to place this copy in some suitable place in London and possibly also in New York as a mark of appreciation of his services to Canadian geology and to the Canadian mining industry."

BURLESQUE SOFTBALL AND THE REAL ARTICLE

On Thursday evening in a burlesque softball game the A.S.D. team defeated a team representing the Kiwanis Club of Timmins by a score of 14-7. No umpire officiated at this game, each team playing a man short when "out," to fill this much needed capacity.

On Friday evening the A.S.D. won a victory in a real softball game, when a team from the West Dome Lake were defeated by a score of 29-13. The defeat of the West Dome team was partially accounted for by the fact that the regular pitcher of the team was not present. Harry Rinn acted as umpire, and vows that never again will he take the task of arbitrator at a game of this nature.

On Thursday evening is an interesting softball match the Single members of the Knights of Columbus defeated their Benedict brethren by a score of 10 to 4, at Dalton's Park, Timmins. Mr. Jack McLean was umpire, and after the game the married Knights paid the forfeit for their loss—a keg of real 4.4 beer, which was enjoyed as much as the game.

ONCE THOUGHT ONTARIO'S HOPE WAS PLACER GOLD

Prospector Recalls Vermillion Valley Rush About 1900.

In view of the present interest in the placer gold claims in Keefe, Hillary, Whitesides and other townships some thirty miles from Timmins, it is interesting to recall that about fifteen years ago, the hope of prospectors in Ontario, so far as gold was concerned was centered in placer.

From as far back as records were kept until 1909, Ontario produced a total of little more gold than will be produced in the Province in this year of grace in a single month. The total production of gold from 1866 to 1909 in Ontario was \$2,699,750.00. In 1910 it was only \$68,498.00, of which Porcupine furnished \$35,539.00. Before there was a Porcupine gold camp in Ontario the gold production of the Province was unimportant indeed. Up to date Porcupine has provided 87.8 of the total gold produced in Ontario. To-day it is producing about the same proportion of the gold production of the Province.

In the days before Porcupine changed the gold production of the Province to important figures, prospectors very so often centered on some placer proposition. An old-time prospector last week recalled one of these placer rushes. It was about 1900 and the "Vermillion River Placers" loomed large to many. The prospectors went in from Sudbury to the Vermillion River Valley, some 30 or more miles west and north. Representatives of the Ontario Department of Mines were also sent in to report on this placer proposition. One of the early reports tells about colours being found in every pan but they were small colours. One placer miner was known to have obtained 3 cents' worth of gold per cubic foot of gravel, though this does not sound at all encouraging to-day. However, in those days by means of hydraulic mining plans, placer mining could be carried on at a profit if there were lots of material carrying even 3 cents per cubic yard. In reference to the Vermillion River Placers, Mr. A. P. Coleman is quoted as saying in 1900 in one of his reports that the source of the gold had not been determined, but that it was likely that the auriferous gravel had been brought considerable distance by glacial action, and that probably the source of the placer gold would be found to be north and north-east. This was a pretty good prophecy of the Porcupine gold area.

In connection with this prophecy it is interesting to note a paragraph from "Canada," the London, England, journal. The journal in the course of an interesting article on the early days of gold mining in Ontario says:—


"It is very curious, in the light of this reference to the discouragements encountered thirty-five years ago by placer miners on the Vermillion River, to recall the fact that when some years later, Alex. Gillies told the story of how he and Ben Hollinger discovered the Acme—afterwards incorporated in the Hollinger—one of the first things he said was that they had seen gold panned on the headwaters of the Vermillion River. "That set us to thinking about where the gold had originated, and we concluded that it might have come from Porcupine."

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