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## Impressed With The Rapid Development of Timmins

Representative of The Belfast Telegraph Recently Here With Party on Tour of Canada, Writes in Interesting Way of Rapid Growth of Towns in This New Country.

Among the British Press men visiting Canada some weeks ago, and inspecting Timmins on Sept. 29th, was Mr. John Sayers of the Belfast Telegraph. Since his return to Ireland, Mr. Sayers has been contributing very interesting and illuminating articles to his newspaper relative to his impressions from the tour. Here is a part of one of these articles:—

One of the most remarkable features of Canadian life to the visitor from the old world is the rapidity with which towns and cities come into being. Belfast folk are proud of the growth of their city, and boast of the fact that one hundred years ago it had a population of only 30,000, which to-day has advanced almost to half a million, a record of progress that, for the British Isles is wonderful. But the Canadian would laugh at it. He would tell you of cases by the score where yesterday there was nobody and to-day there are thousands. We found this to be literally true. The story of the growth of the big cities—Winnipeg, for instance—is full of romance; but it is not of them that I am thinking just now.

"The town of Timmins, in Northern Ontario, is one of the most striking instances of rapid development that could be cited to-day. It is the centre of the greatest gold camp in the Dominion. Twelve years ago it was bush; to-day it is a thriving place of 15,000 inhabitants. Not a city of dingy wooden street but of substantially built structures that would put many an Irish town in the shade. Our party arrived there on a glorious fall afternoon in September, and amongst those who received us and treated us with right royal hospitality was Mr. Pearce, who is proud of the fact that he built the first wooden hut in the place.

"We had never heard of Timmins, and for that matter neither have many Canadians in the older parts of the province. Ontario covers only a trifle of 437,262 square miles, and a three and half times the size of the British Isles. It is over 1,000 miles long by 885 wide and is divided into two sections—Old Ontario, well settled and with numerous industries, lying to the southwest of the St. Lawrence; and Northern Ontario, comprising the huge upper section of the province, as yet in the pioneer stages; abounding in forests and mineral wealth and undeveloped agricultural lands, 20,000 square miles larger than Great Britain and Ireland, but with a population as sparse as its possibilities are great. In the heart of this vast land is Timmins, 500 miles from the nearest city.

"It is named after two brothers named Timmins who foresaw the possibilities of the district as a gold region. There are various stories as to how they came to find that there was gold, and they are so contradictory that the truth is so deep down in the well, or rather the mine that it was more difficult to discover than gold. One story is that a lumberman kicked a piece of rock and found traces of the metal. The story is doubtless moonshine, but at all events the courage and daring of the two brothers who staked their all on the venture was the real beginning of the gold camp. Timmins explodes all our youthful ideas of rough miners in rude shacks, hard-bitten, hard-drinking, revolver-shooting desperadoes, who would dig up nuggets of gold. It is a busy little town with an assessed value of over one million pounds, duplicate high pressure waterworks system, complete sewerage and disposal plant, incinerator, modern shops, wholesale establishments, good hotels, three theatres, four banks, paved and asphalted streets, miles of concrete walks, fire brigade, five churches, and eight schools. And what schools! None of our poky little buildings, but splendidly designed structures somewhat of the type which the Belfast education committee is now erecting in Euston street and Templemore avenue. On the outskirts is the gold mine of the Hollinger Consolidated Company, Limited, the foundations of which were laid by the Timmins Brothers. It is the largest of some twenty mines in a forty mile area, which is known as the Porcupine district, and which supplies over 75 per cent. of the Dominion's total output of gold. In the last sixteen years Porcupine has enriched the world's supply of gold to the extent of £23,000,000 which have yielded the shareholders over £7,000,000. The Porcupine mines are producing gold at the rate of five million pounds a year, and the map from Timmins declares that the surface has hardly been scratched as yet. Want of capital alone prevents the development of other promising properties. It is truly a wealthy land around Timmins for it has proven supplies of nickel, barite, asbestos, and other minerals.

"A few observations on the gold mining industry of Ontario generally will not be out of place, and will perhaps contain something new for those who have hitherto associated gold with the Rand and Western Australia. As a matter of fact Canada is the

third largest gold-producing country in the world, and the vast bulk of it comes from this Northern Ontario region. Until 1900 very little was known of the hinterland lying beyond Lake Temiskaming, owing chiefly to its inaccessibility. It was inhabited by a few Indians, and contained here and there trading posts of the Hudson's Bay Company. Travel was confined to canoe routes by lake, stream and portage, and the trackless spruce and jackpine forest areas back from the water routes were seldom visited by anyone who might appreciate the mineral possibilities of the country. Here again is the railway—the greatest pioneer Canada ever had that laid bare the potential resources of the region.

"It was the building of the C.P.R. main line across the continent in 1883 that exposed the vast nickel-copper deposits of the Sudbury area. History repeated itself, for it was the construction of the Temiskaming and Northern Ontario Line that led to the discovery of the world-famous silver deposits of Cobalt in 1903, and indirectly to the great gold field of Porcupine six years later. It was the intense prospecting following the Cobalt discoveries that found Porcupine. These hardy men spread out from the line of railway as it extended northward to Cochrane, now a town of 3,200 inhabitants, and made successive discoveries of gold-bearing ore, of which Porcupine was the greatest, followed by Kirkland Lake, seventy miles S.E., in 1912. The location of these areas changed the status of gold mining in Ontario from one of insignificant proportion to one that excited the attention of the mining world. Last year the Porcupine field produced £4,427,106 worth of gold, which was 86.2 per cent. of the total output of the province, Kirkland Lake supplying the balance.

"In the first six months of the present year gold production in Canada reached a new record of 824,043 ounces, as compared with 700,264 ounces in the same period last year. Ontario continued to hold a big lead with 701,714 fine ounces, as compared with 571,418 ounces in the first half of 1924. From the Porcupine field the production amounted to 574,806 ounces, or nearly 82 per cent. of the total for Ontario, while Kirkland Lake produced 126,477 ounces of 18 per cent.

"Naturally this success has led to renewed activity in older areas and to much prospecting, with the result that several other mines are nearing the stage of production. In these discoveries we find the cause of the rapid opening of this portion of N.E. Ontario with the result that various towns and villages have been set up, of which Timmins is the chief. They are, of course, dependent on the gold, but owing to the youthfulness of the operating mines, the increased tonnage being treated, the opening up of new properties and the extensive areas awaiting development the gold production of Ontario seems destined for a long lease of life.

"It is one of the astonishing things of Northern Ontario that within 150 miles of the gold fields is to be found the richest silver mines in the world, at Cobalt, while at the apex of the triangle as it were is situated the greatest nickel fields of the world at Sudbury. . . . An average of 2.1 tons of pure silver have been won from the mines at Cobalt for every twenty four hours since they began to yield. The output of 1924, according to official statistics was 9,961,315 ozs. valued at £1,343,595. The production is not confined to the immediate district of Cobalt but extends for some 20 miles to the S.E. and at intervals for about 60 miles to the N. W. As the yield at the point of greatest concentration shows signs of diminution the outlying districts are beginning to offer promise of a large amount of silver. The field is therefore far from being worked out although metals worth £43,877,959 have been produced until the end of last year, of which £18,257,616 went in dividends and bonuses. This means that 39 per cent. of the gross receipts have gone to the shareholders exclusive of payments in reduction of capital."

### CLARENCE BOUCHER WILL NOT TURN PROFESSIONAL

There will be general interest here in the following despatch last week from Galt, Ont., referring as it does to a hockey player well known in Timmins, and popular here, at least off the ice. The Galt despatch says:— "Clarence Boucher, the husky defence man, formerly star of the Iroquois Falls team, now in business at Galt, will not turn professional. For weeks past scouts of Pittsburgh, New York, Boston and Toronto professional teams have been bidding for his services, but despite tempting offers he has refused to talk terms. When he located at Galt he achieved his ambition to have a business of his own and he has had great success. Boucher will be a big help to the Galt boys this season."

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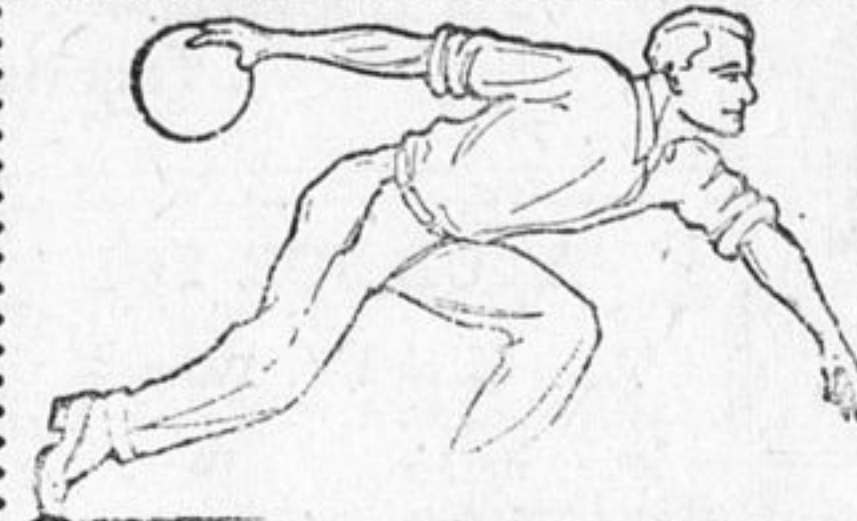
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