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PRE-CAMBRIAN SHIELD COVERS MOST OF NORTH

Deputy Minister of Mines Suggests Probability of Other Sudburies, Porcupines, Kirklands and Cobalts.

In a lengthy article in a recent issue of The Mail and Empire, Mr. Thos. W. Gibson, Deputy Minister of Mines for Ontario, deals at length with the mining possibilities of the North Land. He concludes his interesting and informative article with the following paragraphs:—

"Fourth in order, but not last in importance, was the discovery of gold in the Porcupine area in 1909. The Cobalt silver camp proved a school from which trained prospectors pushed their way north and west into the forest wilderness. Some of them reached Porcupine Lake, and not far from its banks they discovered mounds of white quartz freely scattered over with native gold, and also large veins in which the metal was plainly visible. The Dome, Hollinger, McIntyre and other well-known mines were opened. Forest fires devastated the region, and on one occasion destroyed 71 human lives. The gold output, which in 1911 was \$42,000, has risen until 1925 it has reached about \$29,500,000. The Hollinger mine is one of the outstanding mines of the world, rivaling the best on the South African Rand. It has about 75 miles underground workings, employs 2,500 men, crushes approximately 5,000 tons of ore per day and turns out about \$15,000,000 worth of gold per annum.

"Following the Porcupine area, gold was found in paying quantities at Kirkland Lake. Here a group of five or six mines has been established, the ore on the whole being richer than that of Porcupine. Production began in 1913, when the output was \$67,759. In 1925 it was over \$5,000,000. Figures show that the gold output of this Province has now surpassed in value that of the famous Yukon district, which so largely filled the public mind some quarter of a century ago. There is this difference, however. The Yukon field was an alluvial one, quickly exhausted; in Ontario the mines recover the gold from lodes in the solid rock, which are proving to extend to great depths and to carry their gold content with them. At the McIntyre mine, for instance, a shaft is in process of construction with an objective of 4,000 feet, and at Kirkland Lake, a shaft sunk from 1,000 feet to 2,000 feet struck fine ore in large quantity. In other words Porcupine and Kirkland Lake are likely to be lasting camps. The total production of gold in the Province to the end of 1925 was \$184,000,000.

"There are other branches of mining than those for metals, and the list of non-metallic substances produced in Ontario is both long and varied. It includes feldspar, tale, salt, gypsum, mica, iron pyrites, natural gas and other substances, all of which provide the basis for industries of local importance. The quarries, too, supply building stone, granite, trap and limestone, the last named not only for building, but also for making lime and cement. The total production of non-metallic substances is about \$24,000,000 per annum, in value.

"A hopeful and significant feature of the situation is the very large extent of territory awaiting the coming of the prospector. The pre-Cambrian shield covers the larger part of Northern and Northwestern Ontario. It is the most prolific metal-bearing formation in North America. Why should we not expect it to yield other Sudburies, other Cobalts and other Porcupines and Kirkland Lakes?"

NEWSPAPERMEN ARE NOT FORCED TO TELL TRUTH

Here is a despatch sent out from Winnipeg last week. It shows that the newspapermen who writes the last story has the best chance. The despatch says:—"Deaf and dumb since birth, J. A. Bennett, aged 42, of Winnipeg, "listened in" to a radio concert broadcast by the local station last night.

Reading newspaper accounts of the local girl who heard for the first time in 22 years over the radio last week, at the home of H. J. Metcalfe, Mr. Bennett went to the Metcalfe home and made it known that he desired to try the same test. Immediately he adjusted the head phones he heard the music broadcast from Station CKY—the first time in his life that sound had penetrated to his brain. The announcer's voice came through very distinct. He preferred the orchestra music to vocal selections, complaining that the soprano singing was "too loud."

When the concert was over and the phones taken off, Mr. Metcalfe shouted in Mr. Bennett's ears and again he heard.

EUCHE, FIVE HUNDRED AND BRIDGE AT SCHUMACHER

Euche, Five Hundred and Bridge, in the McIntyre Hall, Schumacher, on Wednesday Jan. 27th, under the auspices of the R. C. Ladies of Schumacher. Good orchestra in attendance. Refreshments served.

SOMEONE LEFT HALF CASE OF DYNAMITE IN STOVE

Two Men Lit Fire in Stove and Explosion Occurs. Stove Smashed to Bits. Two Men Badly Injured

An unusual accident occurred last week near Sudbury the particulars of which are given by The Sudbury Star last week as follows:—

"Because they did not know that a stove which they were firing up, was 'loaded' with half a case of dynamite Frank Cordoman, 45, and Donat Lachapelle, 30, are in St. Joseph's Hospital, suffering from more or less serious injuries. Fortunately, their injuries are not likely to result fatally, though both men had pieces of iron stove driven into their bodies.

"The accident occurred yesterday afternoon at Stinson's Pit on the Wahnapiac-Markstay road. Cordoman and Lachapelle were employed on a gang repairing the road. A pig had been killed by one of the road foremen, named McDonald, and hot water was needed with which to scald the "squealer." Cordoman and Lachapelle found an old stove lying about seventy-five feet from McDonald's house and, without troubling to look inside it, stocked up a good fire. In a few minutes, Lachapelle heard a sizzling sound in the oven of the stove and, thinking that meat might have been left there, opened the door. Just as he did so there was a terrific explosion and the stove flew to pieces. Both Lachapelle and Cordoman, who was standing some distance away, were hurled to the ground by the force of the explosion, and struck by fragments of iron. It was later discovered that what had caused the explosion was half a case of dynamite which some person had left in the oven.

"Dr. W. C. Morrison, of Sudbury, was called to the scene and on arrival found that Cordoman was in a critical state. A large piece of the stove had entered his chest and from the shock and loss of blood, the injured man was apparently at the point of death. His condition at the hospital today, however, is reported as much improved and he is now thought to be out of danger. Lachapelle, who was standing closer to the explosion, got off more lightly. He received a bad wound in his right arm from flying fragment of iron but except for severe shock, suffered no other injury.

"Mrs. McDonald, wife of the road foreman, who was standing at the door of her house, twenty-five yards from the stove, was not touched by the iron barrage."

GRIPPE EPIDEMIC AT BURWASH PRISON FARM

The Industrial Farm at Burwash is reported as in the throes of a mild epidemic of grippe. Twenty-six cases occurred during a few days, but none of the patients are very seriously ill, the disease so far not having assumed an aggravated form. Usually, Burwash is a very healthy place—a regular healthy resort from which down-and-outers return looking like new and O. T. A. artists with renewed vigour and all sorts of pep to again carry on their strenuous business. Apart from the grippe at Burwash, the health of the guests is up to the usual high standard.

ANOTHER PRISON FARM SUGGESTED FOR NORTH

There is a report in circulation in the North Land, though without any official recognition, that the Government is planning to establish another prison farm, similar to Burwash, in the North Land. At present Burwash is badly overcrowded, according to reports, and so the report referred to has considerable plausibility. The visit of Hon. Mr. Henry, Minister of Public Works, to the North recently has also been suggested as proof of the Government's plans in the matter. "It might be a good idea for the Ontario Government to embrace this idea. "Build roads in the North Land, and you may build jails in the South if you like."

FEWER JAILS AND MORE POST OFFICES NEEDED

The following paragraph appeared in The North Bay Nugget this week:—"Hon. Geo. S. Henry, Minister of Public Works and Highways will be in North Bay on Wednesday on a visit that may mean the establishment of a provincial institution in, or near, the city. An unofficial report, in which considerable credence is placed, is that he is on the lookout for a new jail site. With Burwash now badly overcrowded a second Northern Ontario jail farm may be opened. However this report of the reason for the minister's visit has not been confirmed. While in the city Hon. Mr. Henry will be the guest of the Board of Trade at a noon luncheon in the Pacific Hotel."

Probably North Bay needs a new jail. Maybe there are more people in need of jail in the new city than there is accommodation for. In any event The Advance would not like to stifle any North Bay ambitions for bigger jails and more of them. But so far as the North Country is concerned what is needed up here particularly is more roads from the Provincial Government and some post offices from the Dominion Government.

The man who thinks he's a big gun, finds out how little he is when he gets fired.

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