

The Story of the Golden Porcupine

Canada Now the Third Largest Gold Producer in the World and Porcupine Gives the Dominion That Place. History of the Porcupine Camp and Its Great Growth. Kamiskotia Promises to Make This the Greatest Camp in the World.

Many comments have been made recently in regard to Canada's spectacular rise to fame as a gold-mining country. At the present time Canada holds third place among the world's gold producers, being only exceeded by the Transvaal and the United States. The United States is slowly but steadily decreasing in its gold production, while Canada's production is as surely increasing. It will be only a few years until Canada stands second in the world in the matter of gold production, being excelled only by the far-famed Transvaal.

In noting Canada's place in the world as a gold producer, it should be remembered that this high place is only held through Ontario, and Ontario's high standing depends upon Porcupine. In other words Porcupine is the world's third largest gold producer. Of the \$35,700,000.00 in gold produced in Canada in 1926, the Porcupine produced over \$23,000,000.00, or more than five million dollars worth more of gold in the year than the fourth of the world's gold-producing countries (Russia). Gold at the rate of \$2,000,000.00 a month is being produced by the Porcupine mines at present.

The first reported gold discovery in what may be termed the Porcupine proper was in 1908 at what is now known as the Hunter property at Golden City (Porcupine). Previous to this there was a reported find of gold at Night Hawk Lake, where gold was found at Gold Island, after it was said that Rev. Father Paradis had dynamited the dam on the Frederickhouse river in order to lower the water so that he might have opportunity to examine the outcrop on his claims. He succeeded in lowering the water, even affecting the level of Night Hawk Lake some twenty miles away, but he did not find gold. At what is now the Night Hawk Peninsular Mine, the old-time prospector, John McLeod, discovered gold showings, finding a boulder that sparkled with free gold.

It was in 1908 that the rush started in to Porcupine, discoveries on what is now known as the Dome Mines property being made by Messrs J. S. Wilson, H. A. Preston and their party. The story of the rush to Porcupine has been told and re-told, but it may not be amiss to mention a few of the old-time prospectors who made this country and its progress. In view of the fact that in the years of the "rush" fully 3000 prospectors visited the area, it is easy to see that only a few of the early prospectors can be mentioned, and even then some of the outstanding ones may be omitted in the army that invaded the Golden Porcupine. First and foremost may be mentioned George Bannerman, reeve of Whitney township for many years, and still resident at Porcupine. Mr. Bannerman was here before the rush, and busy prospecting before there was any real faith in the country. Others who may be named:—J. S. Wilson, H. A. Preston (discoverers of the Dome); Benny Hollinger (staker of the claims that later became the nucleus of the great mine bearing his name); Bill Davidson (discoverer of property later bearing his name); Jack Miller and Tom Middleton (whose claims now form part of the Hollinger Consolidated); Barney McEnaney; Alex McIntyre, (who discovered the noted property bearing his name today to success); J. Vipond, (prospector of many camps); Joe Brisson; Clarence

Diekson (another whose claims form part of the Hollinger); Jack Easton, and others.

On June 20th, 1907, Victor Mattson and Harry Banalla staked the Gold Island properties. They were followed by Hugh McEachren, Silas Gibson (partner of Alex Stirling), Chas. Reynolds, John McLeod, Geo. Quinn, Jim Nelson, Johnston, McRae, C. M. Auer and others who visited the Night Hawk area and also came farther along this way.

In the meantime the Dome had been staked in April or May of 1908, but it was not until October 9th—the same date as the discovery of the Hollinger—that the first big find was made at the Dome.

There are many interesting sidelights on the early story of Porcupine, but space forbids repeating all of them. One, however, may be told here. In 1909 Sandy McIntyre was making bannocks, though he had run out of baking powder. But the lack of baking powder did not worry McIntyre. He used seidlitz powders, and the bannocks had to be weighed down. Jack Easton happened along and Sandy shared the seidlitz powder bannocks with the genial Jack.

In the early days the trip to Porcupine had to be made by canoe and over trails in summer, and by dog team in the winter. The journey in was made from Kelso, or McDougall's Chutes (now Matheson). It was an arduous journey, but many made it after the rush of 1908 started. Some had made it before. According to Mr. Alex Gillies and others, some man, now unknown, had worked on the No. 2 vein of the Hollinger as early as 1906. He had built a forge right beside what became the original discovery. He used the forge for sharpening his steel. Whoever he was, he evidently became discouraged and did not go to the extent of recording. When Ben Hollinger and Alex Gillies came along in 1908, they were more successful. They encountered Davidson who was staking the Vipond. He suggested that they stake "near that little lake," and they followed the tip. "The little lake" has been filled up, and the staking has become the mighty Hollinger, the largest individual producing gold mine in the world.

In regard to the early days of the camp, before the railroad came here, a graphic description of the journey from Kelso to Porcupine was written a few years ago by Mrs. Lila Jamieson, of South Porcupine. Mrs. Jamieson wrote:—

"In January, 1910, Mr. Shillington, then our M.P.P., asked my broker, J. W. MacDougall, late of Haileybury, to recommend a stenographer for the Mining Recorder's office at Golden City. It was then the opportunity presented itself for me to see Porcupine in its pioneer days.

"A daily exodus flowed north, and one bitter January day my brother put me on board the train at Haileybury in care of Marty Walsh—now in Mexico, I believe,—and Jim Hughes, now dead—to make the trip to Porcupine. The crowded train unloaded its human freight at Kelso—the end of steel—and the line-up in the early winter twilight at the hotel office at Kelso reminded one of a theatre rush in a large city. Accommodations were strained to the utmost but, like the street cars, there was always room for one more, particularly if that one were a woman. At that time not more than half a dozen women had

gone so far north, and the men very gallantly made it as comfortable as possible for any woman courageous enough to attempt the journey.

"Early next day, wrapped to the eyes in fur robes with huge woollen mitts over our gloves, we took the stage for Golden City. About noon, we stopped at Hills Landing, now Hoyle, for dinner. Half frozen, we tumbled out of the rig into the shanty and, hanging over the great wood fire, soon thawed sufficiently to appreciate the smell of corned beef and cabbage that greeted our nostrils. Looking slyly around I saw I was still the only woman in sight but, hunger being good sauce, I sat down among the great crowd of men and ate the best "Jiggs" dinner of my life.

"When the horses were rested and fed we resumed our drive along the Frederickhouse River. The day was exceedingly cold, and often I glanced down to see if the robes had fallen from our knees. It seemed at times as if we had nothing on, and I believe a heater in the bottom of the sleigh saved us all from frozen feet. I do not remember how many BELOW the men said it was, but it seemed to me the very bottom of the thermometer had been reached. About dusk the driver landed us in front of the Murphy House, Golden City. This stopping place was crowded also, and it looked as if I should have to search among the cabins for a bed. However, that was once it proved an advantage to be a woman, and I was allowed to stay. With an appetite, the equal of which I have never known, I sat down to supper, and am quite sure none of the men there enjoyed it more than I, rough and all as the food was."

After describing her work at the recording office. Mrs. Jamieson tells about people she met, including Mr. Mac Lang, and others then at South Porcupine.

The growth of South Porcupine, Schumacher and Timmins from bush to cities-in-the-making is the romance that followed the development of the great mines like the Hollinger, the Dome and the McIntyre. The figures of production tell the story. In 1910 the production of the Hollinger was \$31,194.00, and of the Dome \$4,355.00, a total of \$35,549.00 for the camp. In 1926, the Hollinger produced \$14,829,655.00 and the Dome, \$3,940,053.00. The Vipond produced, \$631,562.00; the West Dome, \$230,758.00; the Night Hawk Peninsular, \$111,154.00; and the Ankerite, \$140,588.00. The total for the camp was \$23,810,626.00.

The Golden Porcupine has made great strides indeed in the last few years, and still greater things appear for the future. With Kamiskotia likely to soon develop into a new camp, the Porcupine appears to be only starting on its way. It is true now as in the past that "the surface has scarcely been scratched."

OFFICIAL AVERAGES IN THE FRATERNAL BOWLING

Standing of the Players to Date in the First Half of the Schedule

In the first half of the Fraternal Bowling League schedule, the following is the list of the averages of all players participating in over half the games to date:—

Player	Games	Average
Platus, Y.P.L.	12	219
Davis, I.O.O.F.	9	215
Eyre, L.O.O.M.	13	209
Cohen, Y.P.L.	15	205
Langdon, Kiwanis	12	203
Daher, L.O.O.M.	15	198
McCurdy, Kiwanis	9	195.6
Pierce, L.O.O.M.	10	195.5
Kendahl, K. of C.	14	195
Sully, K. of C.	11	194
Diekson, L.O.O.M.	11	191.7
Farnam, I.O.O.F.	9	191.4
Fournier, K. of C.	13	191
Lake, Kiwanis	8	190
Haspet, K. of C.	11	189
T. Feldman, Y.P.L.	12	184
Dafoe, K. of C.	8	181
Walsh, A.S.D.	15	180
Pare, K. of C.	15	179
F. Feldman, Y.P.L.	14	178
Jones, L.O.O.M.	11	177.4
Brough, I.O.O.F.	12	177
Cooper, A.S.D.	11	174
Belanger, A.S.D.	15	171
C. Abrams, Y.P.L.	8	169
Jaekson, Kiwanis	9	164.7
Campbell, I.O.O.F.	9	164
Jacobs, A.S.D.	12	163
Joyal, L.O.O.M.	8	156.7
Donaldson, A.S.D.	9	154
Barr, A.S.D.	9	152
E. Abrams, Y.P.L.	11	136

While skating from New Liskeard to Haileybury recently, Percy White and Jack Molyneux came near to encountering tragedy. Percy White was in the lead and went through the ice near Dixon's Creek, and Jack Molyneux had to endanger himself to rescue his partner from the water. Eventually the two young men were successful in reaching safe ice first and then dry land. White was given attention at the nearest house and has suffered no ill effects from his cold dip.

MUNICIPAL NOMINATIONS MONDAY, DECEMBER 26

Nominating of Candidates for Mayor and Councillors and Public School Trustees

The municipal nominations will be held on Monday of next week, Dec. 26th, in the town hall from 10 to 11 a.m. for mayor, and from 12 to 1 p.m. for councillors.

Nominations for public school trustees will be held at the same place and at the same time as the nominations for councillors, that is, from 12 noon to 1 p.m. Three of the public school trustees have completed their term this year, these three being Mr. Chas. Kemsley, Mrs. M. Sheppard and Mr. E. H. Hill. These three have given good service on the board but it is understood that they do not desire to run again for the places. The position of school trustee is an important one from the public's standpoint, and it is hoped that some of the retiring trustees at least will reconsider their decision about not accepting farther terms.

In regard to the municipal board, there is practically no discussion at present. The position seems to be that the majority would be very pleased to have the same mayor and council for 1928 that has given such good service for 1927. From expressions made by ratepayers generally the present mayor and council have been very satisfactory and there is a general opinion that they should accept another term. Municipal affairs have been running smoothly and effectively and another similar year would appear to meet with approval.

To One and All We Extend at this Season Heartiest Wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

No. 1 Turkey, running from 6 to 24 lbs, each, price per lb. 47c. 48c. and 49c.

No. 1 Geese per lb. 31c.

No. 1 Ducks per lb. 34c.

Milk-Fed Chickens 4 to 7 lbs., per lb. 40c.

No. 1 Fowl per lb. 35c.

Mixed Christmas Nuts in shell, 3 lbs. for 74c.

Mixed Christmas Candies, 2 lbs. for 39c.

Cucumbers, Lettuce, Tomatoes, Onions, Cauliflower, Spinach, Sweet Potatoes, Parsley, New Beets, New Carrots, Green Peppers, Mushrooms, Pineapples, fresh in for Christmas.

We Deliver in All Parts of the Town KINDLY PHONE YOUR ORDER EARLY

A. P. DOOLEY

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HANSON 100 PER CENT. PURE WOOL SOCKS

THE IDEAL GIFT FOR MEN

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Obtainable in various weights and all moderately priced.

On sale at leading stores everywhere.

TO BE GENUINE THE NAME HANSON MUST BE STAMPED ON THE TOE



AT THE THEATRES

Goldfields

NOW PLAYING Adolphe Menjou

"EVENING CLOTHES"

If you're all dressed up, here's some place to go.

JIMMIE ADAMS COMEDY NEWS SCENIC

23—FRIDAY & SATURDAY—24

John Gilbert and Wallace

Beery

"CAMEO KIRBY"

Any one can smile where they're in luck. Only a man like Cameo Kirby can do it when he loses.

A Thrilling Tale of the Old Mississippi FOX NEWS and COMEDY

26 Next Week—MON. & TUES. 27

Lon Chaney

is back again in a new role in

"The Road to Mandalay"

Love—Hate—Intrigue—Revenge. In the melting pot of the world.

"Bringing Home the Turkey"—Comedy and "Felix."

28—WEDNES. & THURS.—29

Dorothy Phillips

in

"REMEMBER"

An answer to an age-old problem—"Is a woman ever justified in telling and living a lie?"

COMEDY and KRAZY KAT

The management wishes its many friends and patrons a most Joyous Christmas.

New Empire

Friday & Saturday, Dec. 23 & 24

Buck Jones

in

"30 BELOW ZERO"

A Thrilling Drama of the North Woods chock full of Action and Adventure !!!

Comedy—"For Sale a Bungalow" Pathe News and Review

Monday & Tuesday, Dec. 26 & 27

"THE FATAL MISTAKE"

The story of a reporter's triumph, featuring

Eva Novak and William

Fairbanks

and an excellent supporting cast

"He went for a photo and got—a couple of crooks and the biggest newspaper story of the year !!!"

Wednesday & Thursday, Dec. 28-29

Fred Thompson

in

"Lone Hand Saunders"

Wisecrackers Chapter 5—"Cry and Get it." "Snowed In"—Chapter 4

Watch For 'em

Reginald Denny in "The Cheerful Fraud"

William Boyd in "Jim the Conqueror"

Gary Cooper in "Arizona Bound."

Betty Bronson in "Ritzey."

= Greetings =

A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to One and All

P. M. GORDON

Reed Block

Timmins