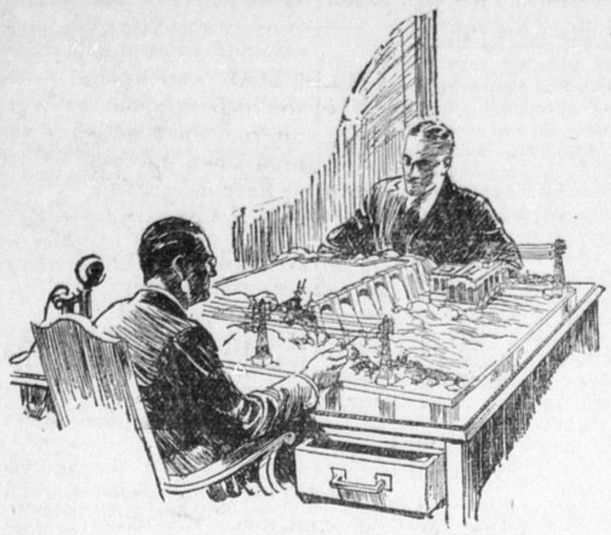

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TO STOP SPREADING OF FALSE RUMORS ON MINES

During the past few weeks scores of people here have experienced in their pockets the evil influences exerted by false rumors about mines. Half the time it is impossible to trace these rumors to their source, but it is known that the lying stories are peddled by unprincipled individuals and by so-called newspapers that lack responsibility. Unfortunately, however, there are people who are foolish enough to listen to these false stories and the result is a sort of run on the price of the mining shares concerned. There have been several recent cases where some particular stock has been "hammered" simply on account of some false yarn published by some designing person or newspaper. In commenting editorially last week on this sort of evil stories, and the remedy therefor, The Northern Miner says:—

"Toronto newspapers have started a campaign to wipe the rumor monger from the map, as far as mining is concerned. Their efforts will be backed up by every decent broker and mine manager in the country.

"Hardly a day goes by that does not see the birth of some new extremely foolish rumor, which sooner or later finds its way into the office of The Northern Miner to be tracked down. Practically one quarter of the time of the staff of The Northern Miner is taken up worrying over some rumor or other on the chance that there might be an atom of truth in it. Experience tells us that about one out of every twenty rumors is anything like correct.

"It is hard to imagine how some of the rumors get circulated at all. Some of the yarns are so ridiculously impossible that even the dumbest market trader would laugh them down. Stories of the arrest of a prominent mine manager, of the closing down of a promising producer are usually the favourites. There are others but you, no doubt, have heard them all.

"The Toronto Star tells the story of one rumor monger who dropped into the office of a broker and started telling a story of the "tough luck" of a Boston Creek producer, which never looked better than it does at present. The broker listened to the story and after administering a tongue lashing ejected the man from his office.

"If every rumor monger received this sort of treatment the spreading of false stories would cease with startling suddenness. The Northern Miner will back any attempt make to stamp out this sort of stuff, and the attorney-general's department can help, too."

VALENTINE BOX SOCIAL AT SCHUMACHER, FEB. 13

A Valentine Box Social, under the auspices of the Excelsior Club, will be held on Monday evening, Feb. 13th, commencing at 8 p.m., in the basement of the Trinity United Church, Schumacher. There will be a good musical programme, the High School orchestra furnishing instrumental numbers during the evening. Valentine prizes will be given for the best-decorated boxes, for the highest bidder, etc.

SURVEYORS USE ALL SORTS OF MEANS FOR TRAVELLING

The Department of Natural Resources at Ottawa gives interesting information as to the varied methods of travel used by present-day surveyors in the carrying on of their profession, especially in the northern sections of the country. Among the means used by the surveyors the following may be listed:— airplanes, steam trains, electric trains, dog teams,, "shank's mare," horse-drawn vehicles, canoes, steamboats, electric engine boats, gasoline boats, automobiles, mule power and so on.

Many kinds of transport are used by the officers of the Geodetic Survey of Canada in the prosecution of their work of triangulation and levelling. Wherever possible advantage is taken of the means provided by the trains and steamboats of the regular transportation companies; but where these fail and roads or trails are available, they use motor cars or horse-drawn vehicles. Farther back from settlement, in the wild undeveloped parts, the surveyors are thrown entirely on their own resources and forced to travle by motor boat or canoe, by pack train or by dog train, depending on the season and the type of country in which they are working. In some cases man-packing is resorted to in order to reach summits otherwise inaccessible. In contrast to these primitive methods it may be stated that the most modern of all forms of transport, the aeroplane, has been used of late years and found ideal for certain phases of the work.

Boston Herald:—The worst memory is that which forgets to look at its memorandum book.

The Canadian Golfer:—Sir Granville Ryrie, high commissioner of Australia, was speaker at the captains' dinner. "I play a great deal at South Herts," he said, "where I believe I am credited with being an expert on Australian language. One day I had a large following of caddies and I enquired the reason why. "Ah!" replied a member, "they all like to hear you play!"

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OWNERS OF MINING LANDS GOOD TO PAY THEIR TAXES

Usually Pay Promptly, According to Official Government Publication, the Ontario Gazette

The Ontario Gazette, the official publication of the Ontario Government, has interesting comment to make on the recent advertisement of lands to be sold by taxes, as published in The Advance and other North Land papers. The official paper shows that the failure to pay taxes on mining lands is not common. The Gazette says:—

"The list of lands delinquent for taxes advertised in The Ontario Gazette, during the past few weeks, appears to be formidable and might lead anyone to believe that the owners of mining lands are generally very negligent about paying taxes. This however, is not the case. The list contains a little over 800 locations or claims, which is somewhat less than 10 per cent. of the total number that are taxable. The greater number of owners of the taxable lands pay the taxes promptly every year, a considerable number paying even before the 1st of October, when the tax is due. Some few of the cautious ones, chiefly the owners of small areas, even pay a year or so in advance.

"Of the delinquent lands advertised, nearly one half are lands that were advertised in 1920, the last time there was a forfeiture. The taxes were paid up at that time, but nothing has been paid since. It would appear that nothing but compulsion is of any avail in these cases. Most of the rest of the lands on the delinquent list are in arrears through sheer carelessness on the part of the owners. Very often it is someone else's duty to pay the taxes and that person neglects. In some cases land belongs to companies, and the company become dormant; any shareholder in the company, however, may pay the taxes for four years and make an application to the Mining Court to compel the company to refund him the taxes paid or lose title to the land. This provision has been very useful to protect co-owners and shareholders and also to bring in the taxes.

"No doubt a small percentage of the lands on the list are those that the owners deliberately intend to abandon the claims. As the lands advertised are only about 10 per cent. of the whole, this would mean that possibly 1 to 3 per cent. of the total lands are considered worthless by the owners. Many of these lands have been taken up in the past at times of excitement in various localities and the activity has been spread out beyond the productive area, and as the excitement has died down these outlying lands have become apparently valueless.

"As far as the owners of mining lands are concerned, they have three means by which they can protect their property. First, is to keep a record of their holdings along with the area and pay the tax at 5 cents per acre every year not later than October. Secondly, when a list is advertised, to scan this carefully and see that none of their holdings are contained in it. As a last resort even if these other two are neglected, if they would take the trouble to see that their holdings are correctly recorded in the Land Titles Office, then they would get the individual notice sent them which the Act specifies must be sent to the owners of lands advertised. If the tax is not paid two months after the first advertisement, there is however, an extra charge for this of $5.00 specified in the Act, but it would seem only a reasonable precaution that everyone should see that their holdings are properly recorded in the Land Titles Office."

CONCEDES LAURELS TO THE TIMMINS JUNIORS

In the column of sporting comment headed "Sportology," The North Bay Nugget last week says:—

"Iroquois Falls have again copped the Northern junior group of the N.O.H.A. A team of imported and experienced players were used to beat down a crew of inexperienced, yet courageous youths representing Timmins. The other centres under the jurisdiction of the N.O.H.A. cannot do otherwise than concede Timmins the laurels in this year's uneven competition. These lads from the mining centre convinced their fellow citizens that a capable team can be formed without the services of non-residents. They had no hope of winning even one game from their opponents, and with the league championship far beyond their reach, they played in every game as though a championship were at stake. The Eskies added nothing to their popularity by winning every game by as wide a margin as was possible. Despite the unevenness of the race, the fans of Timmins were loyal to their boys and turned out in large numbers to every home game. The spirit displayed by the team and the wholehearted support contributed by the fans combined, forms a combination that cannot be held down. Watch Timmins next year."

Brantford Expositor:—The art of conversation is slowly but surely being lost. People talk volubly and glibly enough, but they have nothing to say. If anybody in a social group would commence to say anything worth while nowadays he is promptly set down as a bore.

PAYMASTER'S NEW MILL TO BE READY AT EARLY DATE

Will Have Capacity of 1,500 Tons and Can be Easily Increased to Handle 2,000 Tons.

The new concentrating mill at the Paymaster Mines in Deloro is now fast reaching completion. It will give a capacity of 1500 tons per day,—in place of the present 350 tons. In view of the fact that the Paymaster is recognized as an immense low-grade proposition the increased capacity of the mill will give an increased popular confidence in the growing success of the property. Further, it may be noted that the enlarged mill can be very easily increased to a 2000-ton capacity daily.

The crushing plant is already erected and in running shape, while a great part of the other machinery is also in place on on the ground. It is expected that the whole new plant will be operating in the next two or three weeks. The plan is to have the existing 350-ton mill continue in operation as a cyanide plant. It will treat the concentrates from the new 1500-ton mill.

The new mill will start with an output of 500 or 600 tons per day and keep stepping up until capacity is reached.

The Paymaster is also installing a big Buchanan all-steel sectionalized jaw crusher which is expected to be installed around March 1st. It will be installed below the 300-foot level, it is understood.

The new electric haulage system is being installed on the 300-foot level. Costs are being kept at a low figure, advantage being taken of every modern plan and the most up-to-date machinery to keep operation on the most economical basis. By this plan it is expected, and with every good reason, to make the operation of this immense property of low-grade ore a big success.

CLEVER DOG SAVES LIFE OF UNCONSCIOUS MASTER

From Cedar Rapids, Iowa, last week comes word of the clever action of a dog in saving his master's voice. The story is worth repeating. According to the accounts as published in the daily newspapers, G. C. Clark, a farmer living near Wadena, Iowa, owes his life to the thinking power of one of his dogs. Mr. Clark has been kind to dogs all his life, and he is now likely to be more convinced than ever that this is the proper attitude. Mr. Clark the other day was returning to his home accompanied by Treve, a white collie, and Freckles, a coach dog. He was overcome by a heart attack and fell unconscious between the rails of the Milwaukee Railway. Treve immediately squatted down by his prostrate master and began howling. Not so Freckles. He started up the track on a run, and yelping as loud as his lungs would permit. A quarter of a mile away a passanger train was approaching. George Craft, the fireman, first saw the dog, and sensing something was wrong, advised the engineer, William Luther, to slow down. Luther put on the brakes and brought his train to a stop within a few feet of the unconscious man between the rails. Then the engineer looked around to see what had become of the coach dog. He saw him perched on the pilot of the locomotive, still barking. This time he was wagging his tail, and Luther says that if ever a dog smiled Freckles did when he saw his master was out of danger.

Toronto Mail & Empire:—Wilbur Glenn Voliva, successor of Elijah Dowie, says the world will be destroyed in seven years; and as we survey the crime news and note the general tendency of the time this strikes us as a conservative estimate.

ARGONAUT TO RAISE AND ENLARGE INTERIOR SHAFT

Word last week from Dane is to the effect that following an extensive campaign of diamond drilling and underground development which has been in progress for some time the Argonaut Consolidated, the next step to be taken before shareholders are in a position to realize on favourable ore developments will be to raise the interior shaft from the 500-foot level to surface and enlarge the existing excavation to three compartment proportions. This move, which will eliminate the long haul from the interior shaft on the 500-foot level, and which will convert the interior shaft into the central working shaft is under consideration at the present time, it is learned from reliable sources. Development work is in progress on the four levels between the 825 and 1,250 foot horizons. A pair of diamond drills are busy on exploration work below the latter level. The mill is running steadily on about 50 tons a day principally development rock from the lower workings. A small tonnage of copper ore is also being treated in the Argonaut's oil flotation process, a 20 per cent. copper concentrate being obtained.

The Ottawa Journal:—An optimist is a man who looks forward to the session of Parliament as an opportunity to improve his mind.

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