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SOME STREETS IN NORTHERN TOWNS "PAVED WITH GOLD"

Kirkland Lake Having the Same Experience That Timmins Had While Using Rock for Road-Making

On several occasions while various works have been in progress in Timmins gold has been noted in rock used. While some sewerage work was in construction here some years ago some gold ore was found by workmen, but as the piece of rock had evidently been part of the roadway, no one became very excited about it, as it only showed that the mine from which the road had come had some gold in its structure, which was no more than might be expected. Sewer construction at South Porcupine and Schumacher had similar incidents. On many occasions in this camp when rock is being used for road construction, some workmen is almost sure to notice a piece carrying free gold. As the rock usually comes from the dumps of one of the mines in the district, it would be surprising if such finds could not be made. People of the Porcupine camp have always been naturally interested in any finds of this kind but they have also been amused at the excitement shown by some outside people and papers. Finds of gold ore in the rock used for roads in the North always seems to make a big hit with the daily newspapers and as it does not do anyone any harm and is apparently a matter of general interest no one here has found fault with any publicity given the streets of the North Land towns that are "paved with gold."

At the present time Kirkland Lake is in the daily limelight on account of gold finds made while the work of paving the Kirkland Lake-Swastika highway has been in progress. Rock for grading the highway is being taken from the Tugh-Oakes-Burnside waste rock dump, this being the most convenient source of broken rock. The contractors it is understood bought the rock at the price of 25 cents per ton. While the rock was being run through the road crusher it was noted that some pieces of the ore showed visible gold. There was, of course, more or less of a "rush" among the workmen to get "samples" and the matter created much interest. Kirkland Lake people now tell outsiders that their roads are literally "paved with gold."

TO MANAGE NEW BRANCH OF THE MOYSEY CO. IN TORONTO

Last week Toronto newspapers carried a half-tone picture of J. E. Grasset, manager for some years of the Timmins branch of the Bank of Commerce and leaving here a couple of weeks ago for Toronto to join the staff of the A. E. Moyssey & Co. The Toronto Mail and Empire published Mr. Grasset's picture with the following paragraph:—"J. E. Grasset, of the brokerage house of Arthur E. Moyssey & Company, Limited, mining brokers, who will manage a new branch office of the company to be located on the ground floor of the new Standard Stock and Mining Exchange building, 33 Temperance street. For the past 27 years Mr. Grasset has been connected with the Canadian Bank of Commerce, and for the last six years was manager at the Timmins branch."

Ottawa Journal:—Falling to make a bid of four spades, a Missouri man was told by his wife he was a bum bridge player and when he slapped her face she produced a revolver and shot him dead. This is what is known as action bridge.

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Story of the Origin of Use of Word, "Wildcat"

In connection with the use of the word, "wildcat" in reference to doubtful mining ventures, it may be interesting to learn the origin of the term. As a matter of fact there have been remarkably few "wildcats" in this mining section. Once at a board of trade banquet here a diamond drill expert said that he did not know of a single property in the Porcupine area that had been properly financed and efficiently managed that had not sooner or later made good. The claim has never been successfully refuted. There may, of course, be mining ventures that have failed in the Porcupine because they were not properly financed or had poor management. There may even have been some that did not have gold in commercial quantities. But none of these indicate the "wildcat" type of mining company. The "wildcats" are those without known merit, and where no one is trying to prove any real merit but the whole purpose is to gather funds from the public by means of what is called "ballyhoo" in the United States. In the earlier days of the Porcupine there were a few genuine wildcats, but compared to other camps the number was very small. A man who loses money in a mining venture is apt to cry "wildcat," though the term may not be at all appropriate. In many cases the promoters may have lost more money than anybody else. In a pure-bred wildcat the promoters are the only people who do not lose.

To return to the origin of the term "wildcat," however, a recent paragraph in The Northern Miner gives an interesting explanation of how the word, "wildcat," came to be used. Until a better explanation is received this one will have to do. In this connection The Northern Miner last week says:—"The term 'wildcat' has some currency in the mining business. Not many people know how it secured association with mining prospects of dubious merits. Here is the explanation. About 75 years ago in the United States anybody could open up an office to do a banking business. Such institutions called themselves "private banks." Actually they had authority to issue their own bank notes. Naturally many of them failed. In the state of Michigan a chain of 40 odd banks operated under one company management. The bank notes were engraved with a picture of a "wild cat" or "Wolverine" in the centre of each note. About 1856 this chain went broke. The newspapers, reporting the occurrence, announced that the "wildcat currency of Michigan is worthless." Thus the term became attached to any off-colour promotion. So if any one calls your operation a "wolverine" you will know what he is talking about."

HOW WOOD PULP CAME TO BE DISCOVERED AND USED

Wood pulp forms a material factor in the industrial life of this North Land settlers and others, as well as those concerned in the paper industry and allied lines, benefiting from its use. Accordingly, there may be interest in the manner in which the use of pulp came to be discovered. According to Canadian Forest and Outdoors, the journal of the Canadian Forestry Association, the discovery, like many other important ones, was accidental. A German papermaker, while wandering through the Hartz Mountains, accidentally stepped into a wasp's nest. Valour evidently overcoming discretion, he stayed to examine it, and being struck with its softness and flexibility, was certain that pulverized wood was used in its manufacture. Experiments were made by means of an ordinary grindstone; with water as a softener, spruce was ground on the stone, and with the addition of rag pulp a very good sheet of paper was turned out. It was many years, however, before the importance of the German papermaker's discovery was fully appreciated.

Since the German papermaker made his discovery, the uses of pulp have extended beyond anything the German papermaker ever dreamed of. Not only is the use of it in paper-making extended to a degree that would have been thought impossible years ago, but other uses have been found for pulp from making "silk ties" to railway engine wheels.

Toronto Mail and Empire:—Herr Stressemann, the ablest man in Germany, is dead. As these men who were looking forward to a new Germany drop by the way, the European muddle does not become more re-assuring.

HECLA COAL SYNDICATE TO ARRANGE FINANCING

North Bay Men Interested in Coal and Gas Prospecting North of Cochrane Plan Further Development.

During the past three or four years The Advance has had several references to the work done by a North Bay syndicate in attempting to explore the coal and oil possibilities of the area along the Mattagami and Abitibi rivers north of Cochrane. From the work of this syndicate composed largely of men connected with T. & N.O., good results were obtained, although they were not able to carry the work along as far as they desired. They did, however, carry it far enough to convince many of the possibilities of the area in the matter of coal and oil, and they may well be considered as pioneers in calling attention to the coal fields north of Cochrane. Considerable work was done by the syndicate and the property was well sampled so far as this could be done without extensive drilling. Recently, the syndicate has not been carrying on any active work, but the Government has again turned interest to the syndicate's claims. Writing from North Bay last week a correspondent makes the following reference to this North Bay syndicate and its plans for the future:—

"Announcement will be made shortly, it is understood, of new financial arrangements for the development of holdings of the Hecla Coal, Oil and Mining Company, Limited. This company was one of the first to be organized three years ago on the strength of reports of coal and oil having been found in commercial quantities on the Abitibi and Mattagami Rivers. Considerable work has already been done on their holdings, including a small amount of drilling, which however was insufficient to enable a proper test to be taken. Recent announcement of results of the Ontario Government's diamond drilling at Blacksmith Rapids has revived interest in their holdings. The Hecla properties comprise about four square miles of territory, most of it in Hecla township, on the Mattagami River and in close proximity to the lignite showings at Blacksmith Rapids and the Big Bend Rapids on the Mattagami Rivers. Preliminary financing was supplied largely by a North Bay syndicate, composed of employees of the T. & N.O. Railway. The company has a capitalization of \$1,000,000 in shares of \$1 each, of which 500,000 shares are as yet unissued."

Huntington Gleaner:—A college boy by the name of Meacham was playing bridge with a number of friends at Chapel Hill, N.C. His luck was bad and finally, drawing a revolver from his pocket, declared: "I'm going to shoot the next person who deals me a sorry hand." The game continued and his turn to deal arrived. He laid down the hand which did not include a single ace or face card and, picking up the revolver, shot himself in the right temple. He died within a few hours.

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