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STRANGE TALES SEARCH OF FOR DIAMONDS IN NORTH

Are There Diamonds in the North Land? Or is the Idea "Everything in Minerals" to be Restricted by This One Exception.

Time and again enthusiastic newspapers and men of the North Land assert that this North Country of Canada has everything in the line of minerals. Occasionally even prospectors make such statements and are ready to back up their suggestion with a list of names of minerals and a corresponding list of places where the minerals are generally admitted to be known to be. The average prospector can give an imposing list along this line and can support it from his own experiences and explorations. Only a few weeks ago a prospector was talking on this topic of the number of minerals known to exist in the North and he made the boast for this country that the North had everything in the mineral line

from coal to gold and from platinum to pyrites. "How about diamonds, garnets and rubies and so on?" he was asked. The reply was that in Renfrew County some years ago rubies had been found, and though Renfrew was not considered as part of the North by anyone but by the Northern Development Department in the appropriation of road money for colonization roads, still if Renfrew County actually had the rubies the chances were that the same type of country farther north also would have the same. As for garnets, he did not pretend to know, but the diamond question was one he set altogether apart from general talk of minerals. "That diamond business is a business all its own," he argued. Pressed further, he said it was not fair to make diamonds any sort of an issue in a discussion of mining and prospecting. "There are many who will agree with him and who feel that diamonds and such like should be kept altogether apart from minerals in general in ordinary discussion, so that the statement that the North Land has "everything in minerals" many accordingly be considered as accurate enough for all practical purposes.

There are prospectors and others, however, who claim that the North Land has diamonds as well as everything else in minerals. While these prospectors do not catch the public ear or the public fancy as much as those who content themselves with the broader statement that the North has everything, and let the reservation be admitted if necessary, the men who believe in diamonds in the North may be right after all. In any event there is an interesting discussion of the diamond question in the column, "Grab Samples," in the last issue of The Northern Miner. There are many who will be interested in this article, and so it is given herewith in full, as follows:—

"Some years ago a Quebec geologist made the remark that the North had everything except diamonds. Perhaps he was unaware that his pronouncement ran directly contrary to the hope and belief of a considerable number of our early-day prospectors. There have been diamond "rushes" strange as it may seem to the modern searchers for gold, copper, and zinc.

"The incredible wealth of Cobalt gave men strange dreams. It inspired heroic undertakings, real exploration work, which led men into the remote places of the North, in the belief that the country could provide anything that their hearts desired.

"The story of the diamond quest has strange beginnings. A stranger, a Dutchman, reputed authority on diamonds, got in touch with some of our Canadian prospectors in North Bay. He was reported to have been for some time in the employ of Tiffanys of New York, and to have learned there of certain potential diamond fields in Northern Quebec. In any event, his party eventually took to the woods with the greatest of secrecy. They were found later on Grand Lake Victoria, headed for the Bell River, and were joined there by a Cobalt crowd. The united parties worked their way north by the aid of a crude map in possession of the leader. One item of specific information which they had was that on a certain portage on the Bell they would find the initials of the original discoverer of the diamonds carved in a spruce tree. They actually found this tree, with the initials in it. They cut it down and removed the marked section, so as to destroy evidence which might be useful to anyone trying to follow them.

"Using this portage as a base they worked all summer and late into the fall, testing the numerous creeks in the area. The idea was for the prospectors to sample the creek beds and banks, bringing in sacks of mud for the "expert" to test. At times their hopes ran high, as small crystals of one kind or another were found. All samples were, however, rejected, and at length the party was obliged to retreat before a rapidly-advancing winter.

"At this time there was no Trans-continental Railway, and the party had to force its way with great privation and difficulty to Cochrane. One of the men said he had never engaged in so difficult a trip, and when he was ap-

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proached the following year to lead another party into the area he declined.

"This was not the only diamond "rush." The following year Pete McDonough was on a hard trip which led a party through Lake Mistassini and away north to the head-waters of the Eastman River and farther to the east. Pete shakes his head when he talks of his experiences on that jaunt. They had a hard time getting out, having to abandon canoes and take to snowshoes. The leader of this outfit might be mildly termed a fanatic, but what the boys said of his eccentricities would make him appear something slightly more disconcerting. He closely guarded a small sack on the whole trip, and the boys got the idea that he was actually securing diamonds from their samples and hiding them out. Eventually they secured the sack by strategy and found it contained only rice.

"The strange sequel to these abortive rushes was reported several years after. The prospectors who had been on the diamond hunts were told that a large supply of "bootleg" diamonds had appeared in New York, and that experts could not account for their origin. Many of the Cobalt old-timers still believe that there is a diamond field somewhere in the North. They cling to the belief that their "experts" double crossed them, by going back later in secret and securing the prizes."

KAPUSKASING PAPER IN FAVOUR OF DAVE CHENIER

The Northern Tribune, of Kapuskasing whose editor was an independent candidate in the provincial election last year, concludes an editorial last week on the Trans-Canada highway with the following paragraph:

"Therefore The Northern Tribune favours the candidature of Mr. David Chenier, Conservative candidate for North Timiskaming, specifically on the Trans-Canada highway issue, for its immediate construction via the Northern route. All the rest of the issues put together are not so important for this riding as that one. The political predilections of this paper are fairly well known, and we are not making any commitments to endorse either national or local party platforms as a whole. We trust Mr. Chenier will win the seat in order to serve the interests of this riding in respect to the Trans-Canada highway; Mr. Bradette has put himself out of court on it. As a responsible member at Ottawa, Mr. Chenier will be subject to criticism for all his public actions; and with full liberty to discuss these actions as we see fit, we would not wish to be other than scrupulously fair at all times toward him whenever we had a word to say about them. But if he ever took three columns of space to answer four lines of mild criticism, and later floundered still deeper, we would begin to suspect that there was something wrong! Premier King is now beginning to realize—too late—that there was something wrong!"

Belfast (Ireland) Telegraph:—No one is likely to suggest a statue to the memory of Dr. Henry Beeke. Fellow of Oriel College, Oxford, yet many men have won fame for lesser achievements than his. It was he who suggested to Pitt in the last years of the eighteenth century that the best way of getting national revenue was by the imposition of income-tax. Pitt in 1799 took the advice of the Oxford don and put the tax into operation; he also continued to consult Beeke, who presently produced in his "Observations on the Produce of the Income Tax" a defence of the impost which has been praised as "the very best application of statistical reasoning to finance." For his labour he was rewarded by appointment to the deanery of Bristol.

PORCUPINE MINING GROUP HAVE EYES ON THE HOWEY

(Toronto Mail and Empire)

The controlling interests of one of the gold producing companies of the Porcupine district are mentioned as aiming to become interested in Howey Gold Mines. With Howey officials having declared there is no plan under consideration to reorganize the Howey Company, the way is not clear in which the new interests would become involved.

Developments at the lower levels of Howey have added greatly to the indicated ore reserve. The tonnage far exceeds the original indications, and the grade appears to be a little lower, or some time the question has exercised the minds of Howey officials as to whether efforts should be made to select the better grade of ore and be satisfied with tonnage sufficient for the present mill, or to lay out a programme looking toward a mill of possibly 1,500 to 2,000 tons of ore per day.

In view of the absence of any plan to reorganize the Howey Company itself, it is considered possible the negotiations now in progress have to do with possibly an important private block of shares in the present company, and would not necessarily involve any change in control.

RECORD OF EFFORT MADE FOR BENEFIT OF LABOUR

(From Ottawa Journal)

"What," asked Premier King, the other day, "what has the Conservative party ever done for labour?" The Toronto Mail and Empire answers him as follows:

"The answer is not far to seek. It legalized the trade union movement; it established nation-wide employment bureaus; it was the first party to appoint a labour man to the Cabinet; by agreement with other countries, it bound Canada to the eight-hour working day and the six-day working week. It established a fund of \$25,000,000 to aid in the erection of moderately-priced houses for wage-earners. In the post-war crisis of 1920 and 1921 it made available \$1,800,000 for unemployment relief; it gave \$20,000,000 for highway construction throughout the provinces, and granted \$2,000,000 per annum for technical and agricultural education. All these grants for the assistance of the workers have been discontinued by the present Liberal administration."

The Mail might have concluded by asking what Mr. King has ever done for labour. And if it wanted a reply, it could get it from "Senate Documents, Vol. 27" containing the report and testimony of the Commission on Industrial Relations, a volume which reveals the connection of Mr. King with the Rockefeller during the notorious Colorado strike, and afterwards. Labour leaders in Canada, fortunately, are aware of what it contains.

London (England) Times:—Few greater boons have ever been granted to women than the abolition of the long, trailing skirt, worn by everyone in the 'nineties' of the last century. For this, though they may not know it, women are indebted to the stage, where the first short skirts were worn.

SOMETHING TO REMEMBER

(From The Northern Tribune)

Workingmen in this riding would do well to remember that it was on a Labour member's resolution calling for action on the acute unemployment situation that Premier King went up in the air and made his "five-cent" contribution to the gale of nations. It was not a Tory motion at all, as Mr. Bradette would have us believe in his letters referring to "playing to the gallery."

North Bay Nugget:—The Blind River newspaper recently announced in a flaring headline, "Political Parties to Hold Monstrous Demonstration." It is not stated whether the Liberals or Conservatives were to be responsible for the monstrosity.

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