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Vertical Zones Give Ontario Deep Mining

Evidence continues to accumulate that the vertical ore-zones at Kirkland Lake and Porcupine will continue to yield payable values at very great depth. While the deposits cannot be compared with the gold-bearing conglomerate strata of the Rand where the values are known to persist to at least 7,000 feet in depth, they are much like those of the Kolar goldfield in the state of Mysore, India, where mine workings have now reached a depth of 6,900 feet. At this depth the lodes are essentially the same as they were at the upper levels, and it is expected that only the difficulties due to heat and the added expense of working at great depths will bring about a cessation of mining, says The Canadian Mining Journal.

For fifty years the mines of the Kolar field have yielded bullion in a steady stream, the amount to the end of 1930 being approximately 16,550,000 ounces, worth £71,500,000 from which £22,500,000 has been paid in dividends, in addition to close on £4,000,000 paid as royalty to the State of Mysore. At

no time have the ore reserves of any of the mines been sufficient for more than a very few years of operation, yet today, they stand at a higher level than they did a score or more years ago.

It is thus obvious that the slow exploitation of the Kolar gold deposits is due primarily to their limited lateral extension and to the impracticability, commercially speaking, of blocking out more ore than will feed a comparatively small mill for, say three or four years. There is no doubt that, if a larger area could be opened out at one time, mill capacities would be increased and a larger and more immediate profit made; but the perennial uncertainty as to what lies beneath the lowest levels compels a cautious course, and the little mills (as we would regard them), continuously brought up to date in the interests of economy, continue to yield their steady stream of bullion.

The ore deposits of the Kolar field, like those of the two large Ontario gold camps, have alternating zones of rich and lean ore as the mines are deepened; but the Indian mines seem to suffer more from this than do ours, probably because the number of lodes on a level in any one mine is less there than here. So the Indian mines have had much the same vicissitudes of fortune that have beset some of the Canadian mines, with the difference that both the management and the investors of the Indian mines have some generations of experience behind them which helps them through the bad times without panic, whereas our own people, both investors and technical men, are more inclined to take the short view—a view not suited to successful lode gold mining.

Recently the deep gold mines of the Rand have been studied as a means of helping to formulate the soundest possible plans for the deep development of the Ontario gold mines, and much has been learned. We venture to suggest, however, that, while the Rand practices will yield many useful suggestions as to metallurgical treatment and mining methods, a study of the gold mines of Mysore will yield much information about the more vital questions of ore deposition and mining policy that the Rand, with its differing geological conditions, cannot give.

Matachewan Likely Busy This Summer

At the Moment, However, the Gold Rush in Alberta is Attracting Special Attention Because of Hardships Alleged.

All the signs point to a busy spring and summer this year in the Matachewan area. There will not be a rush this year so far as staking is concerned because the greater part of the country is all staked up. But there have been many notable finds in the new gold area and as a consequence there is sure to be a lot of work done on claims in the Matachewan area this summer. As a consequence there will be a minor rush of prospectors—prospectors going in to do work on their claims. For the minute attention is centred rather largely on a new rush to a reported new gold field in the province of Alberta. This, however, will drop away and attention will return again to Matachewan. There is an old saying that gold is where you find it. It is equally true that prospectors are inclined to go where the greatest hardships are likely to be encountered. It is always difficult to make anything like a rush within fifty miles of a railroad. The prospector likes the out-of-the-way place and the field that is difficult of access. The greater the difficulties the more the prospector appears to like it. A couple of years ago the prospectors were rushing to the Fort Hope area. That was the sort of distant field that appeared good to the old-timer. Then Red Lake also had its great attraction, largely, perhaps, because of the difficulties encountered in reaching the field. It seemed as if the rush to Kamiskotia depended largely on the report that difficulty barred the way to that field.

Under the heading, "The Quest for Gold," The Toronto Globe touches on this point—that the difficulties that bar the way seem to give added attraction to any new gold field, and spur on the prospector to test his luck against the obstacles that nature and circumstances may place in the way. In the editorial article in The Globe the "quest for gold" is dealt with as follows:—

"There is nothing to equal a reported gold strike as an effective stimulus to the nomadic and adventurous instincts of man. Widely separated sections of the world—America, Africa, Australia—know the meaning of a "rush" to prospective camps; hence it is not surprising that mounted police have been detailed to keep an eye on the invasion of a section of Alberta said to contain the precious metal.

"Gold has throughout the ages provided the lure which mankind could not resist. Perhaps the most picturesque search for this source of wealth was that undertaken by "the forty-niners," who blazed a historic trail to California, a heartbreaking journey in cart, in saddle and on foot, made endurable only by the hope and belief that ahead was Eldorado. The suffering, the courage and the perseverance of these men have provided the theme for many a stirring story that enriched the literature of the last century.

"Perhaps the greatest "trek" in "the mad race for wealth" followed the discovery of gold in the Transvaal, South Africa. Adventurers from all over the world responded to the ancient call. The only means of transportation from the sea to the Rand was the old-fashioned ox wagon, and the journey of these reckless nomads across the sparsely settled veldt, and their demands and conduct at lonely farm-houses, are to this day bitter memories for the Boers. From this period dates the sharp hostility in that country between Boer and "uitlander" which culminated in the South African War. It was a heterogeneous crowd that laid the foundations of the present city of Johannesburg, and its general character may be imagined from the fact that in its earlier stages the Golden City became known as the South African University of Crime. However, there was no delusion about the existence of gold on the Witwatersrand, which continues to be one of the greatest producing camps in the world.

"Later the Klondike beckoned, and immediately the "rush" began. Nature in the rugged North presented to the first invaders a stern resistance, and death and incredible suffering marked their progress; but the prospect of riches enabled the majority to prevail. Placer gold proved abundant, but mining at depth was disappointing.

"Northern Ontario had its great day of pioneer prospecting, and now is established as marvellously rich in gold and baser metals. Coming at a later period, the development of this area was accompanied with a minimum of hardship, and now the prospector who is well "staked" may take the air line to his field of operations.

"The intriguing feature of the "rush" to the Alberta foothills lies not so much in the discovery of a new camp as in the revelation that, while methods of transportation have been revolutionized, there has been no lessening in man's eagerness to respond to the opportunity to "get rich quick"—and that there continues need for police supervision."

Owen Sound Sun-Times:—Over in the States the railways seem to have wakened up to the necessity of meeting bus and motor car competition by something more than the withdrawal of trains. They have speeded up their passenger trains, reduced fares at certain times, and some roads have averaged more frequent service by taking advantage of the new style oil-electric cars. Excursion rates in and out of commercial centres and tourist points are creating a new volume of business for these U.S. roads.

The Present is an Age of Lumber Substitution

The Russian Bear in the British market, the Panama Canal short-cut from the Pacific Coast lumber mills to the markets of the east, the Age of Steel, and the production of substitutes for lumber, are some of the reasons why Canadian lumbermen are facing difficult conditions today. The industry which used to be the greatest one in the Dominion is battling against the tides of world-wide dislocation of trade.

"Yes, the lumber business is not what it used to be," said A. C. Manbert, president of the General Lumber Co. of Toronto, and first vice-president of the Canadian Lumbermen's Association. He looked out of his office window on the top of one of Toronto's large buildings as he expressed that opinion, and although he did not say so, he was probably thinking things about the colony of skyscrapers that came within his range of vision. For the modern skyscraper, with its steel and stone, is one of the reasons why the lumberman is facing his troubles today. Modern science has many wonderful things to its credit, but it has made heaps of trouble for some of the elementary industries of this and other countries.

There are other reasons, of course, for the difficult times which our lumbermen are facing today. During the war there was tremendous activity in the lumbering industry. Any kind of lumber brought good prices, and the market could not be supplied. Fine forests were cut down in Great Britain, and their owners became rich in many cases, as a result of the high prices. The world scarcity of lumber brought about abnormal activity in the forests of Canada, and huge areas were cleared of their standing timber.

The war ended, and while the battlefields were being cleared up, lumber shipments commenced to come east via the Panama Canal. The canal is undoubtedly a great enterprise, but consider what it did to the lumber business in Eastern Canada. It was just like moving the virgin forests of the Pacific coast two thousand miles farther east. It stimulated the lumber production of British Columbia's forests to an abnormal degree, disorganized freight rates, and caused a glut in the market down east.

In the meantime, the age of lumber substitutes had arrived. Taxpayers demanded cement sidewalks. The rise in the standard of living made stone houses popular. The steel manufacturers were introducing steel to the building trade. The day of skyscrapers had arrived, and skyscrapers are not built of lumber. Less lumber was being used in the decoration and flooring of buildings. Asphalt and linoleum had become popular. Steel desks had been successfully introduced to business offices. Steel beds that looked like wooden ones were finding a sale. All sorts of substitutes for wood were being used. Why, even paper was being used for packing instead of wood, and the long-distance trucking business had done away, to a certain extent, with wooden packages. There was no end of these substitutes.

On top of these conditions came a slump in export business. The British market, for instance, has been invaded by Russia in recent years, and to a lesser extent by Sweden, Norway and Finland.

Russia set the pace, apparently. Her five-year-plan speeded up her lumber production. She was producing lumber under slavery conditions and had to unload it in the British market. She has done so. In fact, she has tried to unload some of her cheap lumber in America, but the game has not worked quite so well over here. At that, some Russian pup has found its way into the United States.

SHOULD ENCOURAGE THE PRIVATE TREE PLANTER

Writing from Silver Hill, Ont., R. A. McInnes says: "Now that reforestation is a real live issue in Ontario, let us give the private tree planter a chance by changing the present law as it affects him, to the principle of a low fixed annual land tax supplemented by a yield tax on forest products ultimately harvested. This appears to me to be the best method or basis to be developed in a province-wide study of forest taxation as, at least, the starting point in encouraging private ownership. The purpose of this new law would be primarily:

1. To promote reforestation on lands not suitable for more profitable use.
2. To encourage owners of retain ownership of forest growing land for future forest crops.
3. To encourage natural reforestation on forest growing lands, and thus through the creation of forest values, to foster the protection of these lands from forest fires as provided by Province of Ontario fire laws.
4. To provide a fair, stable, annual forest fee on the land itself during the long period the forest crop is being grown, and then a yield tax from the forest crop at the time it is harvested when the property is best able to pay. This is the only method I can think of that will encourage private tree planting in Ontario," concluded the writer.

Edmonton Bulletin:—There is a time for "rigid economy," but this is not the season. The time to cut government expenditures is when there is least need of them being made; when private enterprise is pouring money into new investments, when prices are normal, when trade is brisk, when employment is plentiful, when government help is not needed to create work and keep business alive.

Urges Deporting of All Reds and Stop Meetings

In a bitter attack on Communism and the Fellowship of Reconciliation, Rev. L. B. Gibson, pastor of Cooke's Presbyterian Church, Toronto, on Sunday urged the deportation of all Communists and the rallying of all citizens to police support in banning all Communist meetings, whatever the auspices.

Turning to the Fellowship of Reconciliation, Dr. Gibson stated it could not be appraised by its face value. Its personnel was not above suspicion, he said, and while many in the fellowship were godly men, he thought he could show they were in bad company. He also declared the fellowship was linked with other associations that advanced the doctrine of Marxian Socialism.

"Let our statesmen bar their doors to the agents of the Soviet," he said, "and, if necessary, refuse to trade with them. Let our authorities denationalize and deport all Communists and those who sympathize with them or support them. Let all good citizens support the police in combating all Communist gatherings, whatever their auspices.

"The Communist propaganda is a menace to all our institutions. In saying all this I believe in freedom of speech, freedom of assembly, freedom of the press, but when it comes to the case of an organized movement that has for its object one purpose alone, however, it may disguise itself, that purpose being to blow up the State, then I say they should not be given an opportunity to foment revolution and strife and hatred and unrest among people who are otherwise comparatively happy and contented. The Communist programme is a challenge to the Church of Christ and all Christian people.

Dr. Gibson analyzed the report of the Select Committee of the American Congress to show how through international intrigue it was the Communist object to cause strikes, sabotage and civil war, the destruction of representative and democratic governments, including liberties such as the freedom of speech, of the press and of assembly, and ultimately to precipitate a world revolution, out of which would be established a dictatorship of the proletariat. The five-year plan, he said, had for its object the demoralization of industry in all other countries, and the making of agriculture unprofitable, so that the workers would become incensed and incited to revolution.

BOBJO MINES HAS ACQUIRED CLAIMS IN MATACHEWAN

The Bobjo Mines, whose claims in the Red Lake area attracted considerable notice a couple of years ago, have added some claims in the Matachewan area to their gold holdings. These recently acquired claims are a few miles south of the Ashley-Garvey Mines property in Bannockburn township, Matachewan gold field. It is understood that work on the Bobjo claims in Matachewan will be commenced at once. Ten or twelve men will be employed in the Matachewan work. Camps are to be finished at once and surface exploration work to be brought under way as soon as possible. The equipment to be used in the work in Matachewan will be brought from the company's original property in the Red Lake area, according to what is generally understood in regard to the matter. The Bobjo Mines, Limited will be among the number testing out the new Matachewan area.

Regina Leader-Post:—The country isn't yet so hard up that there is no danger from being knocked down on the street by a shiny new car.

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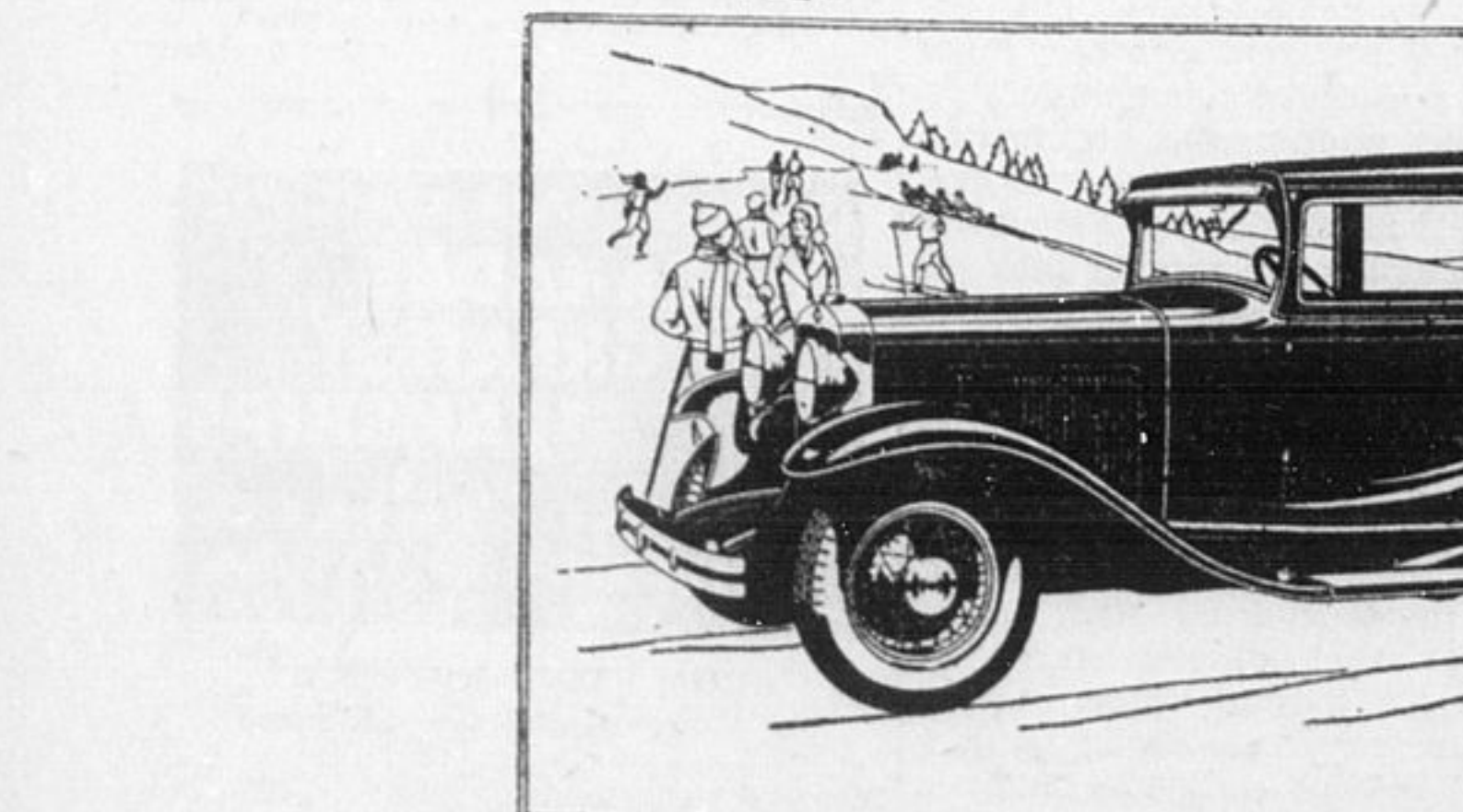
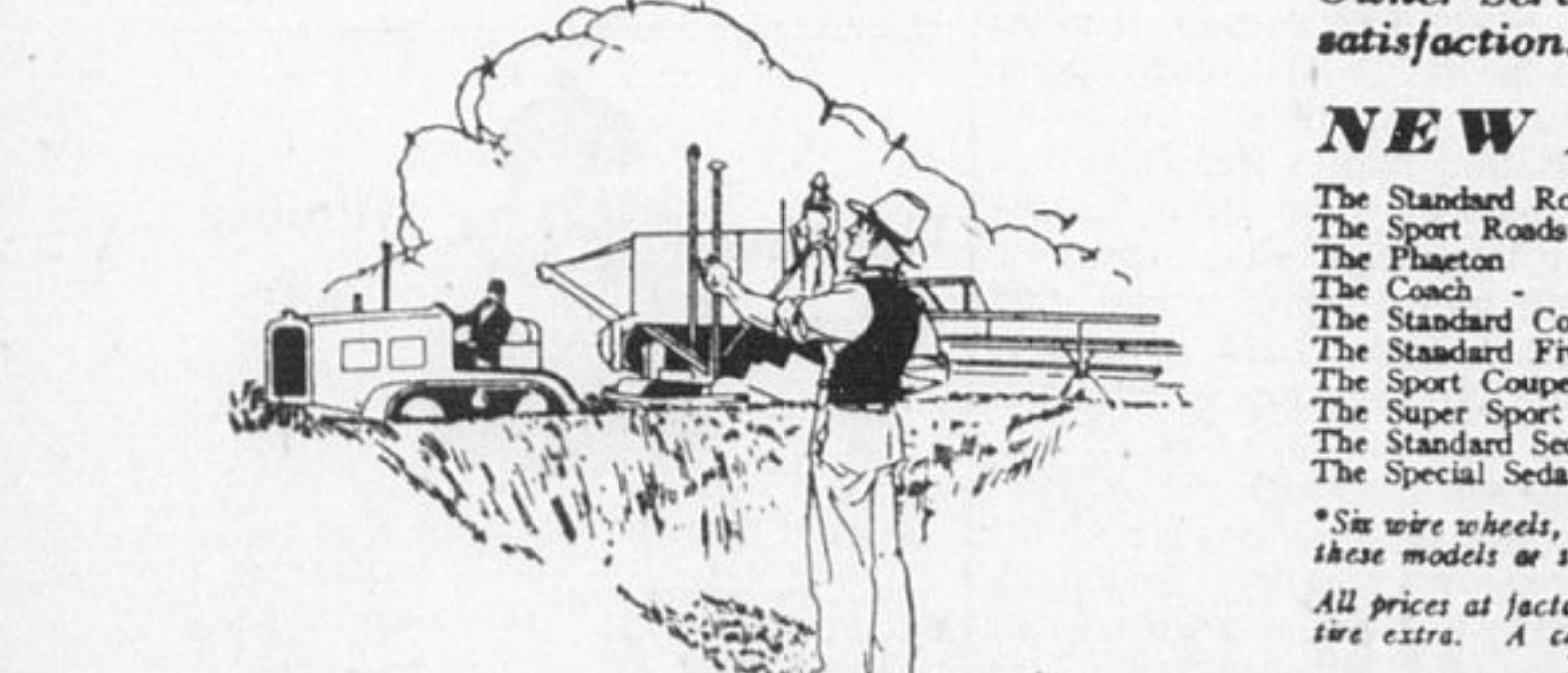
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