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Reminiscences of a Typical Prospector

Of course, There are Some Remarkable Stories in the Memories Given. The Alleged Mercury Mine Mentioned.

The old-time prospector is famous as a story-teller and a happy companion for a friendly evening, or series of evenings. At various times The Advance has published references to reminiscences by old-time prospectors and these have proved popular with readers in general. In the column, "Grab Samples," written by W. J. Gorman for The Northern Miner there are some reminiscences by Russ Cryderman, a prospector known to many in this part of the North. The following is the article in full:—

"How does a prospector, engaged in the riskiest game in the world so far as it concerns financial success, manage over a long period of years to retain his friends? Year after year he has to go to his acquaintances for a grubstake, or for help in raising one. Sometimes a long period elapses before he makes money for himself or his backers, although it must be admitted he is done for. The mystery of the continued popularity of a good prospector sometimes lies in his sense of humour and in the same gift in his friends. A man who can tell a good story is forgiven a lot, particularly when it is known that he does his best in the bush.

"The dean of Ontario prospectors is Russ Cryderman, of Sudbury, who, on his own admission, has been over forty years on the trail of the elusive goddess of mining luck. Russ has not only retained his sense of humour but has famously polished it up by long contact with the rough edges of outrageous fortune.

"Concluding a long discussion with the writer, a talk which extended from prospecting in Timagami in 1892, right through the Sudbury nickel-copper discoveries, on to Cobalt early days and up to the current season, Russ summed up his philosophy in these words:

"I have got to the point where I can't tell whether Mr. Pickwick, the ideal gentleman, or Sam Weller, the faithful guy or Alfred Jungle or Job Trotter was the best man, but when I get in a reminiscence mood and try to co-ordinate the past with the present, it has a mellowing effect on me like moonlight over the Matheson sand plains."

"Aye, as Mrs. Schreiner would make Trader Horn say, aye, all of these old-timers are moon struck. They read Dickens and Omar Khayyam, they have a precious streak of pay ore in their imaginations, that lifts them over the low spots. They nurse their own philosophies, religions and political notions. They cultivate their own peculiar sense of humour and they emerge from a long and sometimes losing battle with nature with a viewpoint which would shame the grouching of the disappointed money grubber in other fields of endeavour.

"Russell Cryderman started out with his father over forty years ago, his son and his grandson now take the field with him. Reminiscing, he said: "Back in 1892 my father, Jim Hallock and I came down from Timagami and stopped off at one of the mines on the northeast shore of Wahnapitae Lake. There were a couple of directors of the



Royal Scholar
PRINCESS SHIGEKO

Though she is proud of the fact that she has reached school age, little Princess Shigeko, eldest daughter of the Empress of Japan, is still proud of the new miniature military bag shown strapped on her back. These bags became popular with Japanese school children when the country experienced a wave of militarism during the recent clash with China.

company there to look over the work, where they had sunk a 100-foot shaft on a hauler ore showing. When we landed in to the office one of these directors who was a German, picked up a bottle of Pankiller from the table and muttered: "Vell, ve'd better take that bottle home vith us; some of the shareholders will be sick."

"That same outfit started later to work on a big quartz vein on the south side of the lake, where I had previously panned for a month and got nary a colour of gold. They sunk shafts, run drifts, diamond drilled and shipped bulk samples to Germany and Ottawa. They got good results from Germany and a blank from Ottawa. Anyhow, they put up a ten-stamp mill all complete, ran it for a month, had an expert millman come up from Nova Scotia, and when he cleaned up he got something like a dollar's worth of gold. The general superintendent was a minister of the gospel but that was not his golden opportunity."

"One time," continued Russ, "I was in Webbwood and met an old pal named Cameron with whom I had worked in the lumber camps. He confessed that he, too, had turned prospector and said he knew where there was a good gold vein and that he would send me some samples. Some weeks later I met him in Sudbury and he told me he had left some samples at Bill Munn's livery barn. Later, I called at the barn, and asked for them, took them home and broke them up. I found they were rich in free gold. I rushed back to the livery barn and asked for Cameron and was told that he had gone to Lake Penage to work in a lumber camp. I took the train to Whitefish station and walked in to Penage; when I got there I was informed I would most likely find him at Webbwood, for which place I hotfooted. There I was told Cameron was at Cartier and so came back to Sudbury, saw Bill Munn's who promptly said Cameron was over in the White House hotel a few minutes before. I went to the hotel, found him and said 'I got your samples; have a drink.' He said 'Sure, I'll have a drink, but you didn't get my samples, I gave them to Mike Meehan.' Just for curiosity I went back to Bill Munn's and asked him when the samples I had received came from, and he said they had been lying around the place for five or six years." Just another lost mine.

"Some years ago Russ Cryderman (with his tongue in his cheek) told the writer of a mercury mine which some Sudbury prospectors claimed to have found out Garson way. His story was that the mercury flew out of the rocks at every hammer stroke and got in the prospectors' eyes. Half blinded, they went to the doctor who acquainted them with the nature of their find. Jostling about this alleged mercury mine on the occasion of the latest interview, Russ said: "It reminds me that I recently had a talk with a man who had been told of a sulphide deposit which I owned, that had some mispelkel in it. He said I should have it assayed for mispelkel as they used it for sheep dip and to kill boll weevils and couldn't get enough of it." Such expert observations brighten the faces of the old-timers for days on end."

NORTH COBALT MAN SAVED HIS LIFE BUT LOST HIS BANK ROLL

Falling recently into the swiftly-flowing Montreal river, William Bush, North Cobalt, well-known Nipissing Central railway conductor, saved his life, but lost his bank roll, containing \$35, while on a fishing trip there. Companions on shore managed to rescue the angler after he had been whirled down the stream some distance, but a number of his bills he had in one pocket disappeared in the flood and could not be recovered.

Gore Bay Recorder:—A bit of anti-depression advice runs thus: "Throw away your wishbone, straighten up your backbone, stick out your jawbone and step on it!"

PROVINCIAL PATROL ON THE HIGHWAY STARTED

Road patrol work by the provincial police on the Ferguson highway has been commenced for the season. The provincial officers delegated to this duty got their motor cycles and other equipment from Toronto some days ago and are now engaged at their regular summer duties. For this North Land there are three officers specially detailed for highway patrol work. This year's officers are the same as last year, being as follows:—Constable P. Berard, operating out of North Bay; Constable H. Allison, in charge of the Halleybury district; and Constable W. McCord, who looks after this northern section. Constable McCord was formerly stationed at Porquus Junction, but now has his headquarters at Matheson, and he will work from there on the road patrol work.

FALSE REPORTS ABOUT THE CONDITION OF HIGHWAY

A despatch last week from Halleybury says:—"According to C. A. Foster, a former mayor of Halleybury, who has been in town this week on business, he was told in Toronto before leaving for the North that the Ferguson highway beyond North Bay was not open generally for traffic and, in consequence, he left his car behind him when he started for Halleybury. Mr. Foster declared he knew of other men who had received similar information, apparently from officials of the Ontario Motor League, who had declared that, while the road was open to North Bay, only the occasional car was getting through to Cobalt and beyond. This information, he learned on arrival here, was quite incorrect, as traffic has been in progress over the Ferguson highway both ways out of here for some time now."

ACTIVITY REPORTED FOR PATRICIA AREA THIS SEASON

Mining operations on a large scale will be carried on during the present season in the Patricia district according to announced plans of the various companies interested in this field. At the Casey Summit Mines underground work is reported having disclosed good results, and a small mill is in operation at this property. Adjacent to this, Patricia Birch Lake Mining has, after a sustained and resultful surface campaign, decided on underground work, and a plant is to be taken in with this view. The plant will also include a small mill. At Metals Developments, in the Confederation Lake area, shaft sinking is well under way on a prospect that has already shown good results from a limited campaign to 100 feet in depth. Adjacent is the recently combined holdings of Jackson-Manion and McIntore, now operated as McIntore Consolidated, and it is expected that a small milling plant will be set up to treat known gold ore from earlier underground work on the former.

TIMMINS BASKETBALL TEAM WINS GAME WITH COBALT


A despatch last week from Cobalt says:—"The Timmins high school team, scholastic basketball champions of the Temiskaming district, defeated Cobalt high school by 27-25 in an exhibition game here on Saturday night. On the night's play the Porcupiners were the better team, showing the benefit of team play, although their shooting was off colour at times. Cobalt tried hard and almost pulled the game out of the fire in the closing minutes. For the visitors, points were scored by Gilbert, 19; Shields, McFadden and Romuldi, 2 each, and Drew and Grant, one apiece. For Cobalt, Jackson got 14, Hutt 9 and McCarthy 2.

The line up was:—
Timmins—W. Drew, L. McFadden, forwards; W. Shields, centre; F. Grant, L. Del Villano, guards; F. Gilbert, L. Romuldi, S. Walsh, subs.
Cobalt—P. McCarthy, V. George, forwards; C. Hutt, centre; L. Dixon, A. Stesco, guards; C. Murphy, T. Jackson, J. Holland, J. Armstrong, J. Tomney, subs.

Referee, Principal Anderson, Cobalt. Umpire, Mr. Gauthier, Timmins.

Our Want Ad. Column Brings Results

Fortune's Favourite



MRS. MARIE MEEHL

The old saw: "It never rains but it pours" has a new significance for Mrs. Marie Meehl (above) of Chicago, since her recent experience. In one day Mrs. Meehl was amazed to learn that she is the grand-niece of President von Hindenburg of Germany, that she is a co-heiress to a \$500,000 estate, and that her brother, missing for twenty-two years, is alive and well in California. She's still trying to realize her good fortune.

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Sudbury Star:—Any woman, says Dr. Boris Sokoloff, Russian scientist, can lead a man into marriage by telling him over and over that he is "wonderful." We doubt it. Your smart young man of today is likely to yawn and say: "Tell me something I don't know already."

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