



# Going Back to the Early Days

Old-time residents of Cobalt will remember the trainloads of expensive coal that poured into the camp to run the compressors, in the silverfield's first flush of production. The cost of making energy by steam proved high, and several people almost simultaneously conceived what was then the novel idea of supplying electric power to the young field. Also, at about the same time, an unusual method for making compressed air naturally was conceived. This meant that four power plants were established to serve the Cobalt field. Competition and duplication prevented any of these groups making a success of their efforts and finally they were merged into one company.

Today, and regretfully, mining activity in Cobalt has shrunk to small proportions. The miles and miles of air pipelines, that have always caught the visitor's eye as an outstanding feature of the camp are virtually worthless. They represent a tremendous investment that would have enjoyed the success its engineering ingenuity deserved if Cobalt had had the permanency of an industrial city.

The decline that has occurred in Cobalt has been repeated in Gowganda, and again in South Lorrain, where to-day the Power Company has no mining customers. In these fields is pictured the other side of the business of supplying power to mines. There is an impermanency to the most glorious of mining fields, striking in contrast with the settled demand of a metropolitan industrial area.

However, other fields have come forward, and if in their early days their advance was slow their adult life has proved large. Perhaps a review of the power history of the Kirkland Lake camp will assist toward an appreciation of the manner in which the Canada Northern Power system has built up, step by step. People who were early in Kirkland Lake will remember the excitement that reigned upon the arrival of power from the little 1,000-h.p. plant at Charlton. It was a great day; newspapers carried columns of stories about the electrification of the young field. This first power went to the Tough-Oakes Mine, and this illustrates the vagaries of power supply, for this mine has closed down several times during its checkered career.

The field grew slowly. It was six years after the beginning of production before Lake Shore got up to 100 tons daily milling tonnage. However, it presently became apparent that other sources of current should be tapped. The Power Company took a long chance and built a transmission line from Cobalt—the wisdom of which was questioned by many as the future of the Camp was by no means assured. But as the mines worked downward they revealed larger and still larger ore resources, and the Power Company kept pace by bringing in new supplies of energy, until to-day the field is served by no less than five transmission lines, two from Cobalt, two from the Quinze, and one from Indian Chutes. The once little Lake Shore mine has become a user of over 10,000-h.p.

As a matter of fact, the way the power supply of the camp developed, has proved a great asset to the field. Kirkland Lake is to-day not dependent upon a single line; five lines and seven power houses are merged and smoothed into a constant, even, ample flow of energy.



## Canada Northern Power Corporation Limited

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### Sault Man Upholds Record for Fish Yarn

Gentleman from the South a Mere Amateur when it Comes to a Story. "Was you there, Charley?"

When it comes to mendacity the Sault outdistances all rivals. They simply have to take off their hats to Sault Ste. Marie. Even Munchausen is a mere piker when it comes to fish stories from the Sault. The Sault wolves are the longest and the strongest; the kindest and the most cunning. Sault bears are different from all other bears. The Sault hockey team has it all over any other aggregation that thinks it can play hockey. The Sault has a lying competition in progress all the time. When it isn't one thing, it's another! You know the story of the ugly looking fellow at the party where they had a contest for the man or woman who could make the ugliest face. The prize was awarded to the aforesaid ugly man. "I wasn't playing," he said when he was asked to come forward for the prize. That was just the kind of a face he had all the time. Just the same in regard to the Sault and the idea of running the Trans-Canada highway on the rocks along the shore of Lake Superior. When the Sault sprung that one about putting the highway among the rocks, the Sault was not playing the game. The Sault apparently could win high honours in a lying competition even without actually trying. When the Sault does try, then new records are made. It was so the other night. There was one of the most remarkable contests ever staged in this wicked world. It was a case of two members seeking to establish a reputation for doing things that can not be classed as too strict fidelity to the truth.

Last week the Sault had another of those contests where there is competition as to who can tell the best story that is the farthest away from hard-boiled fact and commonsense.

D. H. Jones, of Sault Ste. Marie, to-day kept Algoma's reputation for veracity unscathed and the Ananias Cup safe from the onslaught of threats from the outside.

Last week when fishing tales were told for three hours at the Soo Hackle Club, his effort took first prize over that of Jack Hambleton, Toronto newspaper man.

After the club had clarified the amateur status and eligibility of the outside contestant, Jones told of his fishing trip on the north shore of Lake Superior. A back cast caught a loon in the head. The loon went into the water where it was taken by a trout. In the weird struggle that ensued, the loon's head came off and the trout made for the shore where it jumped on to the rocks and sent Jones into the water.

#### Renders it Helpless

Jones bent the heavy butt of his rod and struck it into the fish's mouth, rendering it helpless. With his friends, he went to retrieve the body of the loon and found it attacked by another trout. He recovered the body, despatched the new assailant with a hand-axe from his boat, then tied the fish to a spruce tree cut down with the axe.

From the top of the tree, a mink fell dead of fright at the size of the fish, and in falling killed a rabbit underneath. Meanwhile, in salvaging the first fish, the canoe turned over and Jones had to rescue a companion who fell into the lake.

When the excitement died down, Jones found he had caught at one cast, one mink, one loon, one rabbit, one man, and two huge trout, and on reaching shore found he had caught a tartar, as a game warden charged him with taking more than 20 pounds of fish, killing mink out of season, killing a loon and cutting timber on Crown lands without paying stumpage fees. The warden said he would overlook the rabbit.

#### Tells Eerie Tale

Hambleton's runner-up story told an eerie tale of Spruce Lake. Armed with fishing tackle, he and his partner in a Hudson Bay canoe sighted a streak in the water. After using a Silver Doctor, other flies and even worms, nothing happened until he fished out a newspaper with several wolf stories in print and used that for bait.

"That was when Hambleton and his partner took a ride. Across the lake the giant speckled fish tore to the shallow portage at the lake's end. Back and forth they were towed until the bottom of their canoe caught fire, started to leak and the water in the bottom began to boil.

On the verge of cutting the line, the terrific pace slowed and stopped. Hambleton hauled in the line, and at the end was a pulp mass that once was the newspaper.

"I wonder," said Hambleton to his partner, "why that fish turned loose?" "Well," she replied, "you couldn't expect even a fish to swallow some of those wolf stories."

#### DISPUTES SETTLED BETWEEN RAILWAY AND EMPLOYEES

Three of the four cases of disputes between railway employees and employers, reported in the February issue of the Labour Gazette, concern the Temiskaming & Northern Ontario Railway. The first case, a question as to the methods of paying train crews in work train service, ended with the claim of the employees sustained. The employees also won in a dispute over the manner of compensating a conductor in work train service. The third case, won by the railways, was an appeal by employees for a different apportionment of crews on passenger trains operating between North Bay and Cochrane.

Simcoe Reformer:—The town of Orillia has 1,600 persons on direct relief and its outlay for the months of December and January totalled \$17,000. Another northern town is reported to have expended \$23,000 in the same time. In this light Simcoe is quite fortunate with its 500 residents on relief and an outlay of about \$2,500 a month.