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## How North's Best Deposits of Gold Were Discovered

Discovery of Hollinger, McIntyre and Dome. The Cobalt and Larder Lake Rushes. Staking at Night Hawk Lake. The Discovery of the Lake Shore Mine at Kirkland Lake. An Interesting Review of the Gold Mines.

Reference was made in The Advance last week to the annual number issued by The Northern Miner. It was pointed out that on nearly every phase of mining the annual number had an authoritative article. In regard to the stories of the discoveries of the various gold camps of this North the special article in the annual number is of particular interest and importance. It is by R. E. Hore, consulting geologist, an acknowledged authority, and reads as follows:—

### How North's Best Gold Deposits Were Discovered.

Gold has been discovered in hundreds of places in Ontario and there are doubtless many well hidden deposits of mineable size. A few of these have been found and developed and are contributing many millions of new wealth annually. The successful operation of a few gold mines has led to a more general interest in the search for gold and the recent recognition of the fact that dollars have been for some time too highly rated in relation to gold has intensified the search. It is to be expected that more of Ontario's great gold deposits will now be found.

Gold mining is a relatively new experience for the people of this province. We had no big gold mine until the Hollinger and Dome were opened up just two decades ago. Before that time it was not known that there were any notable gold deposits anywhere in Ontario or the neighbouring provinces. An earlier generation of gold miners had met with a little success in the Lake of the Woods area; but had not found anything comparable with the deposits now being worked.

Gold is where you find it. This oft repeated statement is doubtless intended to convey the idea that gold occurs in a great variety of places and that in its discovery chance plays a large part. Admitting this to be the case, it should be added that a lot of careful searching preceded the discovery and development of any of the notable gold deposits in Ontario.

Since experience in gold mining in Ontario is very limited, in a true sense, it seems desirable that some of the

events that led to the discovery of our few great gold deposits should be recalled for the benefit of those who search for others. Most of the pioneers who played a part in the discovery are still active, but few have written of their experience, and it is difficult to retrace the steps of many of the star actors in the gold drama of Ontario. There are, however, records sufficient to show that a great variety of events were factors in the discovery and that persistent and long sustained search preceded any success.

### Discovery of Hollinger, McIntyre and Dome.

The Hollinger-McIntyre and the Dome ore zones are the outstanding ones of the Porcupine area. Their discovery in 1909 signalled a new industry for Ontario and the story of the development is pretty well known. We are here concerned only with events leading to the discovery.

When the news broke that the Timmings Syndicate had optioned for a large sum an important gold discovery in the recently surveyed township of Tisdale west of Porcupine lake, it was noted that this place was almost due north of Sudbury and west of Nighthawk lake. It seems not to have occurred to anyone to mention that this place was very definitely on the map many years earlier and that the position of Tisdale township was itself one of the reasons that the Hollinger and Dome were found. It was because Porcupine lake is due north of Sudbury that this area was first thoroughly explored, for Niven's meridian line run north in 1895 reached at Porcupine lake the edge of the clay belt and the 120 mile post, from which a base line was then run west to Missinabie. During the next few years Porcupine lake, Nighthawk lake and the Big Bend on the Mattagami received unusual attention and the Porcupine lake's canoe route from the Mattagami to Nighthawk was many times travelled by observant explorers. Nighthawk was a point of start and finish for many exploring parties and was definitely on the map ten years before the Hollinger and Dome were found. Niven's meridian was the Algoma-Nipissing boundary, and he returned in 1898 to continue it from Porcupine down to Moose River. A few years later the cutting up of the country into townships was started. The first township west along the base line was called Whitney and the next was Tisdale. Again the Porcupine portages were travelled by surveyors. In 1896 E. M. Burwash and in 1898 W. A. Parks were geologists attached to Niven's parties and they reported quartz veins and evidences of gold. In 1904, after Tisdale and Whitney were surveyed Geo. Kay, geologist, and Tennyson Jarvis, agriculturalist, made a survey of the area and described in some detail the rocks and animal and plant life along the Porcupine route. Kay reported the remarkable schist zone at Jarvis lake in Tisdale township, that is now known as the Hollinger-McIntyre ore zone at Pearl Lake. Jarvis examined the soil and trees and the animals and insects and told all about the habits of mosquitoes, black flies and other pests. The miners did not know Jarvis so they renamed his lake after the lady who ran the boarding house there. Kay described the chloritic and sericitic schists at Jarvis lake and the porphyry east of it and reported quartz veins with traces of gold; but he did not find anything that could be called ore. Like many others before him he saw much pyritic rock and quartz, but no gold and his samples showed only traces of gold.

### The Larder Rush

While Porcupine lake, Nighthawk and Big Bend of the Mattagami received a lot of attention in the late nineties because they happened to be nearly north of Sudbury on the Algoma-Nipissing boundary and also at the south edge of the great clay belt, Larder Lake was little known until the silver hunters from Cobalt began to follow the conglomerate and diabase outcrops north-easterly into Quebec. One of the first governmental expeditions in the Larder country was the geological survey party headed by Dr. W. A. Parks, who after examining the silver discoveries at Cobalt worked his way through the Wendigo Larder, Chemain's country in 1904. One of the members of Dr. Parks' party, H. L. Kerr, two years later grubstaked a trio of gold hunters who found gold and staked claims on the northeast arm of Larder lake in the summer of 1906. Larder caught the popular fancy and during the following winter hundreds of parties scoured the country between the new railway and the Quebec boundary. This influx of gold seekers did not immediately result in notable discoveries, but it was a big factor in many discoveries. Gold was found in many places in Temiskaming during the years following the Larder rush.

### Staking at Nighthawk

Gold hunters were active at Nighthawk lake in 1906. Discoveries on Gold Island near the north shore attracted many and numerous claims were staked. The first work did not give great encouragement and many of the stakers did not return to thoroughly prospect their claims. Some came back later and continued their search more successfully farther west.

Harry Hunter of Toronto was one of the first men of this city to show any great interest in searching for gold along the Porcupine trail. It was J. J. Dwyer, prospecting for Hunter, who made the first promising gold discovery at Porcupine lake and started sinking pits on the vein. This showing was visited by many others and was a big factor in stimulating search in Whitney and Tisdale townships. John Wilson, George Bannerman, Bill Davidson and Joe Vipond were working in the area early in 1909; Wilson working for some time south of Porcupine lake and Bannerman northwest. Davidson and Vipond were the first to make discoveries in the Hollinger schist belt, staking claims since operated by Vipond Consolidated Mines. Davidson had previously staked claims adjoining Bannerman's in north Tisdale. Still the Hollinger and Dome had not been found. The summer was well advanced when John Wilson's party finally

found gold at the Dome. About the same time, Ben Hollinger and Alex Gillies took up the ground between Davidson's claims and Clies lake. Sandy McIntyre staked at the west end of Pearl lake and Bill Smith at the east. Numerous gold showings were uncovered during the latter part of the season, and by the end of the year the discoveries were attracting the serious attention of mine operators. Development of the Hollinger by the Timmings syndicate and of the Dome by the Nickel syndicate quickly showed that the deposits were large and rich. The running north of the Algoma-Nipissing line in 1896, the exploring of the country tributary to the proposed transcontinental line that was to open the Abitibi clay belt, the extension of the Ontario Government railway north to connect with the transcontinental line, the discovery of silver at Cobalt, all were important factors in the discovery of gold at Porcupine, for they brought people where the gold is. But of all the people who were attracted to Porcupine by the reports made by the many pioneers the only ones to find gold in any quantity were men who were there for the express purpose of looking for gold and they did not find the big deposits until they had done a lot of looking.

### Discovery of Lake Shore

Among the first discoveries which led to gold mining along the T. & N. O. were those at Swastika where small mills were operated at the Swastika and Lucky Cross mines. It was the gold ore from these properties that revived hopes in the area east of Swastika after the first efforts there had been abandoned. It was the Swastika discovery that started Harry Oakes on the long search that ended at the Lake Shore.

The discovery of gold at Swastika was one of the many results of the discovery of silver at Cobalt, each being directly attributable to the construction of the Ontario Government railway. The search for other silver areas that led to the discovery of gold at Larder led silver hunters to look for gold and resulted in 1907 in the staking of claims at Kirkland Lake and hundreds of other places in the country easily reached from the railway. No notable discoveries were made there and most claims had been abandoned by 1911.

Some time after the Lake Shore became a producer I asked Harry Oakes what brought him to Kirkland Lake and the Lake Shore. This is what he told me:

"I had spent many years in prospecting in widely scattered mining countries, from Yukon and Alaska in the north to New Zealand and the Philippines in the Southern Oceans. While in the Western United States I had heard of Cobalt's silver mines and later of the gold discoveries at Porcupine. In June, 1911, I came to Ontario. At Toronto I heard much of the metal mines of the North. I made a visit to the Parliament Buildings and procured a miner's license and reports on the mining districts. I chanced to call at the office of the Swastika Mining Company and was shown pieces of ore from the company's property. This interested me and after taking a look at the silver mines at Cobalt, I went on to Swastika station.

"In the vicinity of Swastika and eastward to Kirkland Lake many claims had been staked some years previously. There was, however, little work being done on most of the claims. Many stakings reverted to the province because of non-performance of work or non-payment of the nominal dues. The Swastika mine was the chief operator at this time. Later in the summer a very promising discovery was made at the Lucky Cross mine.

"When I arrived at Swastika I made many enquiries about the country. I was particularly interested in the reports that there was a porphyry belt at Kirkland Lake. I had been recently in a country where rich orebodies occur in porphyry and the prospectors' descriptions of the rocks made a favourable impression upon me.

"I put in a very busy year in 1911, prospecting many hundreds of acres in the area from the railway eastward to Gull Lake. I panned everywhere. At one time I had four camps—each merely a waterproof shelter under which I could spend the night.

"The early discoveries had not made a very favourable impression on those who visited the Kirkland Lake area. Although only an hour distant from the prosperous silver mining area at Cobalt, it did not attract the companies operating there. The men who were prospecting during 1911 received little encouragement from the occasional visitors.

"One of the best discoveries of that year was made by Will Wright. He staked what is now known as the Wright-Hargreaves. His discovery was made north of the belt along which most of us were working—across a swamp which looked uninviting to the prospectors. Later the Wright discovery was sampled many times and the various reports on it differed widely. There was high grade at the surface, but it was spotty and a few shots would make a great difference in its apparent value.

"After being in the area for several months, during which time I staked several claims on which I found gold, I had come to the conclusion that the immediate vicinity of the lake was the most promising section. Porphyry exposures being particularly numerous at the east end of the lake I worked eastward and when the Tough-Oakes claims were open I staked there. Development at the Tough-Oakes opened up very rich ore—a vein about eight inches wide being particularly high grade. We expected to make a tidy fortune out of this property, but we got very much less than we expected. Financing difficulties followed by disappointing developments at the mine, swept away our hopes of winning a fortune from that property.

"While developments were proceeding at the Tough-Oakes I continued prospecting. I found a promising deposit near the south shore of the lake and

begin development. I also acquired some of the adjoining claims which were not at that time highly regarded. "Close to the lake I started sinking on a gray hard band in the softer rocks. This gray band was in places quite high grade and as the work proceeded I found it to be fairly persistent. Unfortunately the softer rocks carried only low values and samples taken over a mining width were often low. Some of the samples cut where the gray rib was missing gave very little gold and I did not receive much encouragement from those who sampled the walls of the shaft. If it had not been for the high grade in that little gray band I would not have had much inducement to go on. That friendly gray rock led me on, at times giving very high values.

"During this period I was expecting to get payments for my share in the Tough-Oakes. I had little money and the cash payments did not materialize. Later I received some shares and some dividends from the Tough-Oakes, but there were many times when I was clean broke. Under these circumstances I could not make great headway, but fortunately I held on and eventually I obtained the money necessary to get my shaft down.

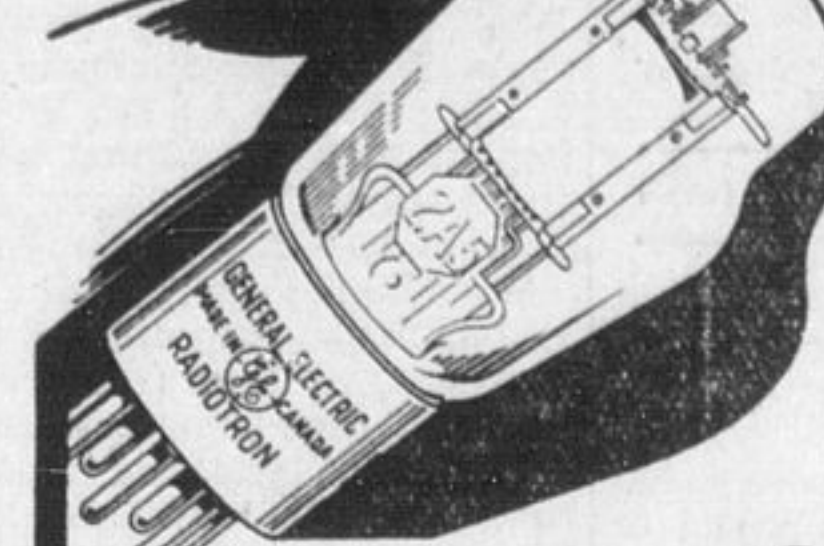
"While I was working at this shaft, there were many visitors to the area. The Wright-Hargreaves was many times sampled. The history of the examinations made on that property would be an interesting story. Then work was started at the Teck-Hughes. The Teck had varied experiences, getting some good ore and a lot that was not so good. Tom Jones kept his people at it, however, and the main ore zone of the camp was opened up there. While it was low grade it was wide and persistent, and it did have the appearance of ore. With the Teck-Hughes crushed zone on my left and the Wright-Hargreaves showing on my right, it seemed reasonable to drive north under the lake. It would probably catch the extension of the Teck zone and might hit it where it was rich. There was no conclusive evidence of this, but neither was there any reason to proceed in other directions. I had to take a chance and fortunately I struck high grade. I was lucky, of course, but I had at least been persistent. I had succeeded in making a mine out of a prospect."

"Carry on Work on Gillies Airport Through Winter

The Halleyburian last week says:—"Dr. E. F. Armstrong, president of the Cobalt Board of Trade, learned this week from Ottawa that the Department of National Defence would continue the work of clearing the airport site at Gillies' Depot throughout the winter



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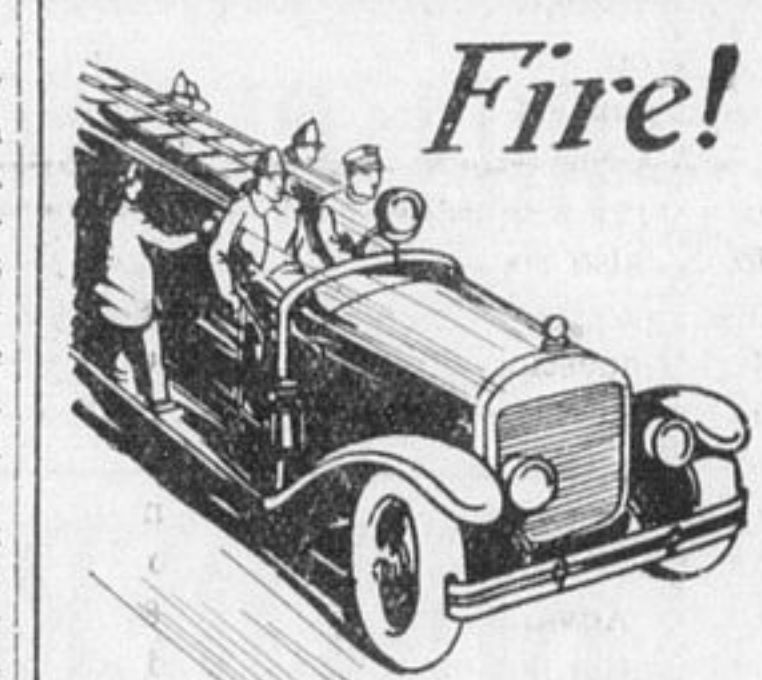
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