



To One and All  
the Sincere Wish  
Merry Christmas and  
Happy New Year.

### KING EDWARD HOTEL

Opposite T. & N. O. Station

Phone 324



CHRISTMAS

For a Quarter of a Century  
we have  
been wishing all a

### Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

and this year we pass along  
the message with all sincerity  
and hope.

## Smith & Elston

Plumbing and Heating Contractors

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Timmins

Phone 327



TO OUR MANY  
CUSTOMERS AND FRIENDS  
WE EXTEND  
BEST WISHES FOR

## A Merry Christmas AND A Prosperous New Year

**Friedman's**  
DEPARTMENT STORES LIMITED

Pine Street South

Phone 166

## Christmas 1941 Finds Porcupine's First Producer Still Going Strong

It was the discovery of the Dome mine in the Porcupine area which gave Eastern Canada one of its most important industries. It is quite true that gold had been found in Ontario many years before 1910, in such areas as Port Arthur and Michipicoten, but these discoveries failed to stand up to commercial development. In fact some of the early gold prospecting in Northwestern Ontario had the unfortunate result of giving gold mining a doubtful name, as many of the promotions were very inexpertly handled, with mills being placed on properties which could not support them, says the Annual Number of The Northern Miner.

When, in 1910, the Edwards party found the Dome showing which was referred to by the staker as "rich beyond description" they really started something. In a few weeks the Hollinger and McIntyre properties were staked and had also disclosed spectacular ore. Numerous other finds were quickly made and a dozen companies got busy.

### The Initial Deal

Edwards had no trouble in making a deal for his claims, although there was, for a short period at the beginning, some dispute as to the manner in which the stakers should be rewarded. However, these points were ironed out on the spot and Edwards returned to Chicago, whence he had been summoned to look at the discovery. He made contact with some of the International Nickel principals and in due course a deal was worked out. It seems rather odd now that the money which was found for the early development of Porcupine originated in the Sudbury nickel-copper camp. Around Copper Cliff it was possible at one time to buy Dome stock for half a dollar a share and some of it may have cost considerably less to those on the inside. The whole venture, despite the richness of the visible ore, was in those days regarded as risky, due to the experience suffered by earlier speculators in gold mining.

When the "Golden Stairway" of Dome flashed on the astonished eyes of prospectors, most of whom had up to that time confined their work to silver, a real stampede was on. The country was not too easy to get at, although two canoe routes were worked out. Another point of some importance was that the season for prospecting was nearly at an end when the Dome find was made and it was only the circumstance that there was a late fall which permitted a number of the successful early comers to make their discoveries before the coming of snow. But the finds came quickly and they were, such as that of Hollinger, McIntyre and Gillies, really impressive. By spring of 1911 the whole country was staked solid and the serious work of opening up the mines was in full swing. The disaster of the great forest fire which swept the country, with heavy loss of life, had its compensations in that more rock exposures were visible and prospecting was facilitated.

Dome had a small production of gold in 1910 and 1911 but it was not until the mill got going in 1912 that the impressive record which the company has built up began to appear. In the latter year output had reached \$737,000 promptly went over the million mark and got up eventually to nearly eight millions annually. It was the initial success at this property which was never interrupted except for the forced shut down in 1918 that encouraged the other operators. It was not plain sailing for some of the others who had, in some cases, several years of struggle before they were established as profitable. But the continued improvement at the Dome kept heart in the less fortunate and also had the effect of attracting American and Canadian capital to the field. In connection with one large mine the early days did not look too bright and the company president invited a large crowd of brokers and others to the camp with the obvious intention of interesting them in the sale of stock. When he took the party underground to about the third level he was himself amazed to see some newly broken ore which was as rich as anything the camp had and was heard to mutter: "Why the thing is a mine!" However, that was not Dome's experience.

### Contribution to Mining

The metallurgy of gold was not as well understood in Canada in the early days of Porcupine and one of the most valuable contributions made by Dome was in the direction of improving milling practice. It has often been remarked that Dome millmen were later to be found all over the country and even in the United States, carrying on their excellent technique. They really trained them at Dome.

Of the downs Dome has its share, having lost its mill by fire on one occasion and having participated in the labour difficulties which resulted from the situation which developed in the camp when so many of the miners enlisted in the First Great War and when the costs of supplies went sky-high. It must also be remembered that gold in those days was valued at \$20.67 an ounce and that the margin of profit was seriously affected by labour and supply conditions. The Porcupine mines even had trouble toward the last in getting drill steel, as the usual United States sources had gone into munition making and shipbuilding. Most mine managers had plenty of headaches in the period.

When Edwards wired his partner that fall day in 1910 about the richness of the discovery he had no conception that the mine would produce over a hundred million dollars in gold. Yet such is the record of this remarkable property which is going steeper now than it has ever done and seems to have many years of life ahead. At the annual meeting of Dome shareholders for a number of years it was invariably said that the mine had a couple of years of life ahead but that was more than a decade ago.

There has always been some dispute concerning who made the original discovery on the Dome property. Perhaps the point is not important but it has been argued. Whether the man in charge of a prospecting party is responsible for a find or whether one of his men who strolls on to the outcrop is credited with it is always debatable. From the record it would appear that Preston actually hit the jack pot and that is the general consensus of opinion in the North, although others have claimed the honour. In any event, the important point was that visible gold was found and that the area was immediately invaded by a host who succeeded in uncovering other showings, some of which were equally sensational.

### -:- A Child's Song of Christmas -:-

My counterpane is soft as silk,  
My blankets white as creamy milk,  
The hay was soft to Him, I know,  
Our little Lord of long ago.

Above the roofs the pigeons fly  
In silver wheels across the sky,  
The table-doves they cooed to them,  
Mary and Christ in Bethlehem.

Bright shines the sun across the drifts,  
And bright upon my Christmas gifts,  
They brought Him incense, myrrh and gold,  
Our little Lord who lived of old.

Oh, soft and clear our mother sings  
Of Christmas joys and Christmas things,  
God's holy angels sang to them,  
Mary and Christ in Bethlehem.

Our hearts they hold all Christmas dear,  
And seems sweet and heaven seems near,  
Oh, heaven was in His sight, I know,  
That little Child of long ago.

—Marjorie L. C. Pickthall.



## The Officers and Personnel of Northern Ontario Power Company Limited

### Extend Heartiest Christmas and New Year's Greetings

to all their Customers and  
Friends in the  
Porcupine District



## A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

It is our Sincere Wish that your Holiday be  
a Merry One surrounded by your family and  
friends. But if loved ones be far away  
bring them into the family circle by telephone.

When a telephone is at hand there is no such  
thing as distance. Our facilities are always at  
your service, and holiday rates are reasonable.



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