

ONTARIO NEWS.

Lake of the Woods.

The Rat Portage Diamond Drill Company are completing arrangements for 4,000 feet of borings.

Engineer Fraser who is superintending the improvements in the Rainy River Rapids will at the completion of this work go up to the Fort, and make a report to the Dominion Government on the cost of completing the lock at that place.—Rat Portage News.

It is said that arrangements are being completed for the Reduction Works at the old Dick & Banning Power, Keewatin, by a strong syndicate of capitalists. It will be remembered, says the News, that this water power was acquired a short time since for \$25,000.

Mr. Wm. Caldwell, of Sultana fame, says that if the alleged locating of the Sultana lead, in Bald Indian Bay, be true, it means that the Sultana will have enough gold in it to keep this and the next generation busy in getting it out. Hon. G. E. Foster, Mr. C. B. Murray, of Toronto, and Messrs. Ross, Sutherland and Deacon, of Winnipeg, visited the Sultana mines recently. Mr. Foster's company, the British Columbia Gold Fields Co., will seek an opening in the Lake of the Woods district for future operations.

C. S. Morris, sec. pro tem, of the Rat Portage Mining Exchange, in his invitations to those interested in mining pursuits as investors or otherwise to attend the mining convention at that town on the 6th, 7th and 8th of April, says: "The relations of capital and mining" will receive special consideration, as well as subjects, such as:—"The Successful Treatment of Ores;" "Cost of Opening Mines;" "The Machinery Best adapted for the Efficient and Economical Working of Mines;" "The Facilities for Carrying on Mining Operations;" and the Geological and Mineralogical features of the region will be discussed by men of experience.

The Rat Portage Miner is pleased with the Ontario Government's decision to appoint a mining officer for the district. Such an agent, it says, will greatly facilitate the taking up of the provincial mining lands in this district. He is to be a surveyor and draftsman, with a clerk and an office boy, and, we understand, will have all information in the office here so that he can give all information as to what lands are open for entry and what are taken. While he may not be able to settle disputes, no doubt he will be commissioner to take evidence and report to the department. Where the first applicant is the first to file his plans and field notes and pay his money, he will obtain a title at once, thus avoiding the circumlocution of the present system of securing lands.

Mr. J. W. Kennedy, of Winnipeg, happening to pick up an eastern paper a short time ago, and seeing an account of the Ledyard Gold Mines Company's operations in Peterboro' county, and the results obtained, at once be thought him of some 200 acres he had acquired 20 years ago in the same neighborhood. He immediately made inquiries, and the result was that, probably, the same leads that run through the celebrated Ledyard Gold Mines property run through his. As the property is said to be very rich, Mr. Kennedy naturally feels elated over what, at one time, was considered almost valueless property. It is his intention, says the R. P. News, to proceed with development work this summer, and see what there is in it. The Ledyard mine is already being rapidly developed, and, from recent assays, is said to be very rich.

Says the Rat Portage News, "Much comment is heard about here in reference to this

big deal (the 64,000 acre option granted to the South African Co.), but it is generally favorable to the action taken by the Government, especially when coming from men interested in legitimate mining operations. It is the general opinion that the capital required to develop this district cannot be obtained in sufficient amount in any other way." The Rat Portage Miner does not take the same view. Under the Option "To Him That Hath," it says that five or ten years ago the option might have been advisable but not after Mr. Caldwell has proved the richness of the region. As to public feeling it says: "There is intense indignation among many in regard to this shutting out of prospectors or others from the privilege of going on those lands to prospect for minerals. We have no desire to roast the Government from a political standpoint, but claim the right to criticise the concession as being adverse to the interest of the district."

DREDGING FOR GOLD.

Captain Theodore Brisette, formerly of Rat Portage, and now managing a gold dredger on the Fraser River, writes to the Rat Portage News as follows:—"From the 9th to the 26th of January, the water in the Fraser was lower than it had ever been in the experience of the present inhabitants of the country, all the bars carrying gold being exposed. There was a great rush with rockers and sluice boxes by a large number of miners who, during the time mentioned, made from \$11 to \$50 per day. The British Columbia Gold Dredging Co. are the lucky owners or lessees of all the bars between Yale and Harrison River, 22 miles, for which they pay \$75 per mile per year. Their good luck so far has so encouraged them that they have started to build 10 new dredges to be ready for the next period of low water. The machines are to run day and night, for which purpose an electric lighting plant is to be put into operation. Head quarters for lighting will be at St. Elmo, half way between Yale and Harrison, and the lights are to be run on a trolley so they may be changed back and forth as the operations of the dredges may require." Captain Brisette is of the opinion that profitable deposits may be found in the water ways of the Rainy River District with suitable machinery to make a search. This is already, the News says, in contemplation, a fifteen thousand dollar plant being spoken of to be put into operation during the coming summer.

The Rat Portage Board of Trade last week referred to the needs of its district in regard to railway and water communication as follows: The attention of the Government has again been called to the Fort Frances lock, and to the many advantages that would follow its early completion. It is sincerely hoped that the water communication in the district will be opened up to the fullest extent possible, as on this improvement its rapid progress and settlement must greatly depend. The topography of the district is not of a nature to encourage railway construction, for the expense involved—estimated at \$18,000 a mile—is very large for the limited territory it could reach independently of water communication. The Ontario Government will grant \$1,000 per mile for the extension of the P. A. D. & W., on condition that the Dominion Government assist the undertaking. The matter will come before parliament at this session, and in all probability will be carried over, leaving things as they are for, at least, another year. Even were a grant made this year and work proceeded with at once, several seasons must elapse before communication could be established with the mining country to be served. It should therefore be evident that waterways are of first importance to the district: and that the expenditure of an amount less than the cost of 20 miles of rail-

way through this district, when devoted to the improvement of navigation, would enable boats to reach all places of importance: and, in view of the immediate requirement for transportation facilities, that it becomes our first duty to press the matter to the attention of the Federal authorities.

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Seine River.

The Port Arthur Herald furnishes from Mr. Wiley further information which we condense: Thirty men working at Hawk Bay mine; No. 1 shaft, 60 feet, being timbered up. No. 2 down 20 feet. A large building between the two is being erected for hoisting and compressor plants to secure equalized power and an economical operation of two shafts with one plant. Sleeping camp going up, will hold 50 men, and dining camp the same number, and a lot of other buildings referred to several weeks ago by the CANADIAN MINER.—A Hamilton syndicate are to spend \$10,000 on location 325 X, directly north of Hawk Bay mine. Surface indications are good on the locations now being surveyed north of Hawk Bay.—At Saw Bill mine work is pushed vigorously. Shaft down 150 feet, in rich ore. No. 1 drift south side at 60 foot level and north drift each about 100 feet in. Drifting at 120 foot level shows same uniform width of vein and same richness, and ore carries considerable rich nuggety quartz. Twenty to 30 tons of machinery, etc., arrive daily from Bonheur. Improvements include two-storey sleeping camp for 100 men and other buildings mentioned by THE CANADIAN MINER. The 10 stamp mill has arrived and doubles the milling capacity.—On the Wampum property, west of the Saw Bill, a well defined vein four feet wide is disclosed in the 10 foot shaft with ore identical in appearance with that of the Saw bill at the same depth.—At the Golden Fisher a large staff is employed. The shaft is down 60 feet, in a well defined fissure vein very richly mineralized with iron and copper pyrites and galena and panning free gold in exceedingly encouraging quantities.—On the Hammond-Folger dyke work is vigorous. A 10 stamp mill is there and this month will see everything necessary in the way of machinery and supplies on the spot. The ore shown Mr. Wiley from the shaft on 337X through which the big reef runs is wonderfully rich.—From Lynx-head Falls, north on the Seine for four miles, the country has been recently surveyed into mining locations upon which much development will be done this year by the syndicate of Toronto and European capitalists who have taken up these properties.

At Island Falls, west of Hawk Bay, Mr. H. B. Proudfoot and his associates had expended about \$8,000 in development work. In their shafts they had found some very rich showings. There are now forty teams hauling machinery and supplies from Bonheur station to the mines. About forty carloads of freight have been unloaded there this winter, with more to come.

Mr. F. S. Wiley has been in the upper Seine country, and talks enthusiastically. He says that 100 properties, within a radius of 10 miles of Sawbill Lake, will be placed under development this spring. "The great need of the country is roads. One should be constructed from Bonheur to the mines. You see in the spring the snow melts, and the muskegs and swamps become flooded and impassable. Thus, the only time machinery can be taken in is during the winter, as there are no roads in the summer."

Mr. Gibbs, of the Lake Harold mine, tells the Rat Portage Miner that the Lake Harold mine is now under option to an English syndicate. A cash offer has been made of \$1,250,000 for the Saw Bill mine. They had