

## Our Portrait Gallery.

[A series of portraits and biographical sketches of Canadian mining engineers, mine managers, inspectors, geologists, explorers etc.]

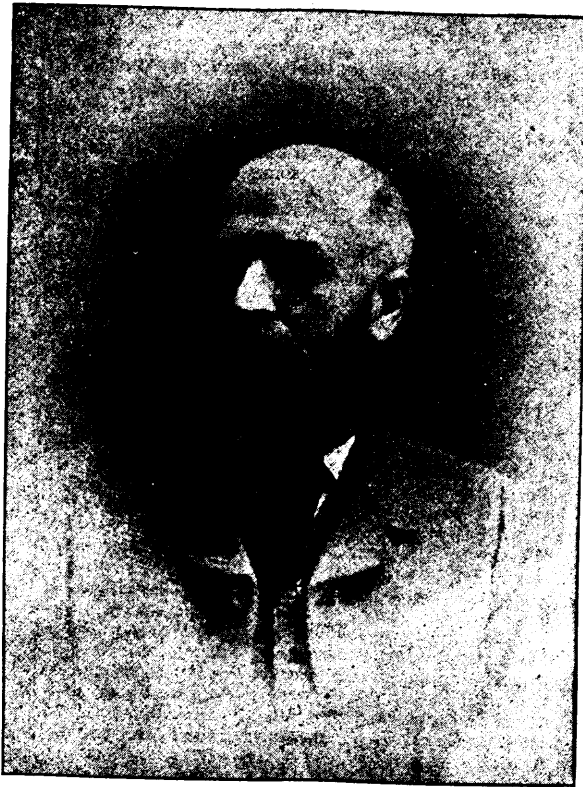
## No. 6.

Capt. Thomas H. Tretheway, Port Arthur, Ont.

The subject of our sketch was born in St. Stevens' Parish, Cornwall, England, on the 22nd day of December, 1841. He is the eldest son of James Tretheway, the miner, of the same place, and is a living exemplification of what integrity, perseverance and intelligence faithfully applied, will do for any man who marks out for himself a course, the beacon star of which is to render the most faithful and honest service in his power to his employers, no matter in what capacity he may serve. He is closely identified with the progress and advancement of the district of Algoma, both by land and water, having served the early settlers on both elements, through many years of its early history, and the name "Capt. Tom" is familiar in every household from Thunder Bay, on Lake Superior, to the Bruce Mines on Lake Huron. He has not always confined his attention to mining, having at different periods in his history been a master of construction on public works, such as breakwaters, docks, etc. He followed a seafaring life during several summers on the Great Lakes, rising steadily, from "before the mast," to be master of several different steam and sailing vessels. At present he holds a master's certificate, entitling him to take command of any passenger or freight-carrying vessel, steam or sail, plying on the great inland waters. He also holds a certificate as a third-class marine engineer. So that it may readily be seen that no matter what the nature of the employment might be his one object was to excel and thereby gain the top rung of the ladder. With regard to his connection with mining it need only be said, that from sorting ore, up to being superintendent, he always gave eminent satisfaction. He has three sons growing up perfect imitations of their father. The eldest is 23 years of age, and is a competent assayer. He had charge of all machinery, including the repairing of drills and pumps underground, and the erection of two hoisting engines, one compressor and four steam pumps at the Shuniah Weachu mines. He improved the pumps so that they condensed their own steam, by turning the exhaust steam into the suction pipe of the pump, thereby increasing the power of the pumps from 10 to 20 per cent. and saving the company a proportionate amount. An incident in the early life of Capt. Tretheway well illustrates the character of the man. He was employed doing some work for his father, and was chided by him, in the old Cornish fashion, "that

he would never be as good a man as his father." He answered "yes I shall, and a better, and some day have charge of all your other sons." Four years after this he was in charge of The Roberts Coal Mine, at Salineville, Ohio, at which time his father and brothers were employed under him.

The subject of our sketch emigrated to Canada in company with his parents. The family landed in Quebec in the summer of 1848, and proceeded westward by river and lake, and settled at Port Hope, Ont. His father was given charge of the Grand Trunk Railway Company's quarries between Cobourg and Toronto. During his residence in Port Hope our subject enjoyed the only schooling it was his privilege to receive during life, and then only for a period of about two years, for as soon as he was able,



like many others of Canada's sons in those early days, he was, from force of circumstances, compelled to labor for his daily bread. He continued to work in and about the quarries until the summer of 1858, when the family again joined the stream of emigration flowing westward through Canada, and settled at Bruce mines, Algoma.

He was then 17 years of age and went to work in the jiggling houses of the West Canada Mining Company, of which the late Wm. Plummer, M.E., was then Superintendent, and James Bennets, Manager. The company operated the Wellington and Huron Copper Bay properties, which were adjacent to and a continuation of the veins of the old Bruce Mines, which were operated by the Montreal Mining Company. This group of mines may be said to have been

the cradle of the mining industry in Western Canada, and in it our young friend was nurtured up to the years of early manhood. In 1850, Capt. Richard Wallis, of the North-West Mine, Keewenan County, Mich., engaged him to go to the then northern wilds of Michigan, on the south shore of Lake Superior, where he worked as a miner, timberman and shaft foreman for a period of two years. Later, under the superintendence of S. W. Hill, he was employed by the same company as an explorer, on the property which is now known as the Delaware and Pennsylvania Mine. He was thus employed for two years, when he returned to the Bruce Mines, and worked as a tributer at the Bruce, Wellington and Copper Bay mines. In 1863 he removed to Woodville, near Jackson Mich., and entered the employ of the Woodville Coal Mining Company as a coal miner, and in that capacity advanced very rapidly to a front rank. He was then engaged by Roberts & Co., coal miners of Cleveland, Ohio, to take charge of their works and open up their coal properties at Salinville, Columbiana Co., Ohio. He performed this work in the most satisfactory manner. In addition to opening the mine, it included the building of half a mile of railway and three-quarters of a mile of tram-road. He once more turned his steps towards Bruce Mines and entered the employ of the West Canada Mining Company as manager of the jiggling houses. His somewhat restless disposition induced him to adopt a seafaring life on the lakes during the summers, where he evinced the same aptitude that he already had at mining, exploring and works of construction. By his energy and economy he soon became the owner of vessel property. He was master and owner of the schooner *Warner* and other vessels well known to the older residents of Algoma, trading on Lakes Huron, Superior and Georgian Bay. In 1871 he was sent to Thunder Bay, now Port Arthur, by Thomas Marks & Bro. to superintend the construction of

two stores, a dock and warehouse. In 1873 he was given charge of a portion of the work on the Government dock, then under construction. He was then employed as a master dock builder and had charge of the erection of machinery at the famous "3A" mine, and at Jarvis Island Mine, in each of which cases he received a considerable bonus for the satisfactory way in which he performed the work. He again took to sailing, and was master of the steamers *A. Neff*, *Watchman* and *Kate Marks*. In 1880 he entered the employ of the Silver Islet Consolidated Mining and Land Company, first at rebuilding the tugs and scows used in transporting the ore from the islet to the mill on the mainland. He was then given charge of the construction of 200 feet of breakwater at the most exposed part of Silver Islet. This piece of work still