

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE

COBALT, GOWGANDA, SOUTH LORRAIN

Timiskaming.—The discovery on the 530 ft. level of the Timiskaming mine is proving up very satisfactorily. The vein was followed across the Beaver line, where it has been worked for ninety feet into the Timiskaming mine, and it has now been opened up there for 40 ft. Altogether nine tons of ore, reminiscent of the palmy days of the Timiskaming, has been mined from the vein, and at the middle of the month it was still 5 in. wide in the face and of the same grade of ore. Operations in the walls of old stopes are also revealing a very satisfactory tonnage of milling ore.

Casey.—Encouraging results are being obtained in the new workings of the Casey Cobalt mine. A shaft has recently been sunk in order to verify the existence of a mineralized zone discovered by diamond drill operations. There is here an overburden of 100 ft. of clay, which makes surface operations impossible. The new shaft is situated more than 1,400 ft. from the old shaft. A new vein 6 in. wide carrying some silver values has just been cut and will now be drifted upon.

Mining Corporation.—Another step has been taken towards the consolidation of the three mines of the Mining Corporation of Canada. Mr. Chas. Watson, who has for some time been the manager of the Cobalt Townsite and the City of Cobalt, has now been given charge of the Cobalt Lake Mining Company in succession to Mr. M. B. R. Gordon, who has had charge of the latter mine for several years. The Cobalt Lake ore is still being concentrated in the Cobalt Lake mill, and will probably continue to be; but the mill will be under the direction of Mr. M. Fairlie, who now is superintendent of the Cobalt Reduction plant, where the Cobalt Townsite and the City of Cobalt ore is being treated. The three companies adjoin and, if necessity arises, can be worked conjointly with economy and ease. The City and Townsite ore is now coming up the shaft near the Cobalt Reduction mill, where a new steel head frame was erected last fall. Economies will, no doubt, be effected by the consolidation in management.

Savage.—At 55 ft. the new vein on the 140 ft. level of the Savage is patchy, although a fair milling grade can be obtained for the 50 ft. upon which drifting has been done. The ore when the winze was commenced at the 140 ft. level was very rich, and so continued in the winze for twenty or thirty feet.

Boucher.—The first shipment of ore from Elk Lake for many months was included in the list for December. This ore came from the Boucher property, adjoining the Fleur de Lis, and consisted of eight tons, said to be of good grade. The only other property working near Elk Lake is the Mapes Johnston.

Crown Reserve.—The annual report of the Crown Reserve Mining Company will show a total production of 1,500,000 oz. Only a few thousand ounces of this production came from the Carson vein, which has now been almost worked out. Narrow stopes are now being put up on ore to within a few feet of the bottom of Kerr Lake, which is now dry of all but mud and boulder clay. The discovery on the Silver Leaf continues to be good and the winze is still in good ore.

Wettlaufer.—The annual report of the Wettlaufer Lorrain Silver Mines shows that the company has still on hand \$29,680, with which it is intended to take up prospects and commence developments. A suitable

property has not yet been found for the investment of this money, although many prospects have been investigated by the company's engineer. At the mine in South Lorrain a watchman is being kept and the mine has only been allowed to fill up to the fourth level. The only company now working in South Lorrain is the Pittsburg Lorrain syndicate operating the Currie property.

Canadian Mining Institute.—At a very well attended meeting of the Cobalt branch of the Canadian Mining Institute, Mr. R. B. Watson, of the Nipissing and La Rose mines, led the discussion on the "The Essential features of a Report on a Mining Prospect."

Mr. G. G. S. Lindsey, president of the Institute, was the guest of the evening. Mr. Lindsey said that it had been one of the desires of the Institute to complete and round off the organization through the Dominion. Now, after some negotiations, the Nova Scotia Mining Society had decided to join with them. The Institute summoned up its courage and went down to Nova Scotia and stormed the citadel and induced the older society to throw in their lot with them upon equal terms, the Nova Scotia Society to retain its identity as a separate organization within the Institute. Mr. Lindsey also spoke of the institution of the monthly bulletin, which he believed had been a real step forward. It had indeed dissipated a difficulty with the Rocky Mountain branch of the Society.

Although the balance sheet of the Institute this year would show a favorable balance, they could not expect to maintain it unless they got many new members to replace the many who had gone to fight for the Empire in Europe; and he was proud to say that one-tenth of the membership had gone. The Institute is remitting their fees and subscriptions while they were on active service, and the revenue so lost must be regained by the obtaining of new members. The Institute had also done much to obtain a uniform mining law for the whole Dominion.

Mr. R. B. Watson started the discussion on the topic of the evening. He stated that too often mining reports were full of scenery, water power, dump room, timber and geology, omitting what was most essential, an assay plan. Geology particularly was often used to pad out a report and make it look like something. An assay plan was absolutely essential if there was any ore at all. If there was an assay plan it could be checked up, if there was not the judgment of the engineer had to be relied upon solely.

On a prospect, if there was only the outcrop to work upon, it was necessary to sample it carefully on the surface, drift or adit, summarize results and bring it to a conclusion. A report to be worth anything must be definite. Ninety per cent. of the reports would be for buyers and the buyer wanted to know if the property was a good buy at the price asked. It is a bad fault of a good many mining reports that they do not say anything definite. If it is not possible to sample, all an engineer could say was that it was a good prospect with possibilities.

A report should be short and to the point, and the information should be based on facts and not on conversation. The facts should include location, the amount of development, how far from railway or road, the working costs, the probable profits on grade, and then a little geology as to what the formation had produced in that particular district.