

working when I arrived in the country. Its ten clanging stamps were a welcome sound to me, I must confess, in the midst of the general apathy which seemed to pervade the whole district. I took hold earnestly to see what could be done to improve matters, and although my interests were entirely in the Regina property at that time, I never withheld advice and assistance to those who applied to me, and I am happy to say that I have been the means of contributing in some degree to the advancement made in the past year and a half.

"I think our progress has been highly satisfactory and that you will agree with me when I tell you what has been and what is being done. We have now in the Lake of the Woods, in and near Rat Portage, the following stamps: Sultana, 10; Regina, 10; Gold Hill, 10; Reduction works, 20; These are practically all that are in actual use at present, but in addition we have the following in course of erection and contracted for: Oliver Daunais, the Nonsuch mine, 20 stamps; Halstead and Partridge, the Scramble mine, 10 stamps; Goodhouse & Co., the Eschweller mine, 10 stamps; Haycock, 10 stamps; Empress mine, 10 stamps; Foley mine, 40 stamps; Saw Bill mine, 10 stamps; Harold mine, 10 stamps; Wiggins mine, 20 stamps; Lucky Coon, 10 stamps—or in all two hundred stamps where only ten were dropping eighteen months ago. In addition there are 20 stamps on the Minnesota side, 10 at the Lyle and 10 at the Little American, which may be fairly included in the aggregate of the district.

"It must be admitted that this is a wonderful showing for such a short time, and I consider that what has been done is but a small portion of what we may reasonably expect to see accomplished within the next twelve months. Attention is now being directed to the district, and as it presents exceptionally good prospects and facilities, there is no doubt in my mind but ample capital will soon be enlisted to develop the mines on an extensive scale. In this connection I may say that the Mines Contract company, one of the strongest mining corporations in Great Britain, have secured control of some promising locations on Pipe Stone point, which they are about to open as soon as the lake is clear of ice. The work will be under the supervision of Mr. R. H. Ahn, who has also charge of operations on a property adjoining the Gold Hill, which was recently bought by a wealthy English company.

"Mr. Burley Smith, M. E., has been doing some good work near Rat Portage with the diamond drill. He is well satisfied with the results of his tests, a fact that should silence those who have prophesied the pinching out of the leads when a great depth is reached. I consider the veins continuous and lasting some true fissures and others bedded. The average of value will compare favorably with any of the mining countries I am familiar with. It is better than South Africa or West Australia, but when the district is more generally developed and the low grade ores, which are now neglected, are worked the average will be lowered proportionately.

"You may say that I am so well pleased with the district that I have invested largely in it and will advise

all my friends to invest there. I expect to return to Rat Portage in a few weeks and will begin work on one of my properties immediately."

Regarding the work of Mr. Burley Smith, who is in charge of the diamond drill, he was subsequently seen by a representative of the Colonist. Asked as to the results, so far, of his work in the district, he stated that, as yet, he was not in a position to say anything very definite. Since he had been there, the season had not been, until recently, favorable for investigating surface indications; and as to the result of the work of the drill, he was not authorized to make any statements for the present. Regarding the prospects of the district in general, he said that as far as he was able to judge from his short and imperfect experience here, he should consider the indications very promising.

## The Gates Ajar.

This property, which takes its name from the pass through which the C. P. R. runs, and which is now highly spoken of throughout the Rainy River district, was discovered by Mr. Wm. W. Baby, several years ago, and has the distinction of being the first discovery and survey in the Tache section of the gold field.

It is situated four miles east of Tache station, on the Canadian Pacific railway, and contains one hundred and sixty acres, less the right-of-way of that great road, which crosses it from southeast to west near its north boundary. It lies in the granatolite rocks between the great ranges of slate on the one side and the granite on the other, with a fine creek suitable for all mining purposes wending its way through the pass.

Although this property has been patented for several years, its enormous volume of ore, assaying from a trace to \$53.50 in gold, was not known till last fall, when a considerable amount of earth stripping was done, which exposed a chimney of 437 feet in length by an average width of twenty feet, cutting through the granatolite rocks with large well defined veins running from it in all directions, some of which have been traced for over a mile.

This property is owned by Mr. Wm. W. Baby, of Rat Portage, and R. W. Jameson, Esq., mayor of Winnipeg.

The country surrounding Tache is noted for its large and continuous fissure veins of low grade free milling ore.

The above are, of course, not by any means all the mines that have been more or less developed in the Lake of the Woods district. As a matter of

fact, there are a number of good properties that we have not the space to describe. Such mines, for instance, as the Bad mine, near Roseland, a station on the C. P. R. about eight miles from Rat Portage, the Esweiler, the Ophir, the Winnipeg Consolidated, and a number of others, a complete list of which will be found in the advertisement of the Russell house hotel on another page. On nearly all these properties some work has been done and in some cases most promising results have been obtained.

As a very large number of this issue will fall into the hands of strangers at a distance from Rat Portage, we give below, for their convenience, the names of a few men from whom they can obtain any information they require, and which we have not space to print in full. As regards the Bad mine, which has come to the front very considerably of late, and is beginning to be considered one of the best properties in the district, the local agent is Mr. H. F. Holmes, of Rat Portage. This gentleman also can give any particulars desired concerning town houses or island cottages and lots. Mr. C. W. Chadwick, of Rat Portage, is agent for the Bullion Mining company of Ontario, which has a capital of \$300,000, and has a great deal of valuable property. Mr. Chadwick is an old resident of the district and can supply any kind of information. Mr. Harding Rideout, of Rat Portage, has also promised to furnish any information required. He is interested in the Rideout estate and mining property, and knows all about this district.

There are many other gentlemen in the district, whose names will be found in these pages, associated with the mining industry, who will be always willing to reply to any inquiries regarding the mines of this great gold field which is coming so rapidly to the front.

## A Remarkable Industry.

Anyone who has been through the woods picking blueberries, and has suffered from a pain in the back long before he could half fill a pail, will be surprised to hear that there was actually picked, handled, packed and exported from Rat Portage last year, one hundred tons of this wild fruit. It is an industry with money in it, too, for we hear that there was one merchant in Rat Portage last year, who made a profit of \$700 in handling it; and as, in favorable years, the supply is practically inexhaustible, it is possible that the time may come when they will be shipping blueberries from Rat Portage by the train load, in the same way as they ship wheat from Manitoba.