

GOLD DISCOVERY NEAR DRYDEN

By James Bartlett.

In the latter part of October, 1915, the writer spent a part of one day on the Rognon gold claims south of Dryden. Gold was discovered this fall on surveyed claims A. S. 14 and A. S. 15, the property of Ernest G. Rognon of Dryden, Ont. These claims are situated on the west side of Contact Bay, Wabigoon Lake, and are in unsurveyed territory about 60 chains south of lot 2, concession 1, Van Horne township. In summer the claims are reached by taking a launch from Dryden along the west side of Wabigoon lake to Contact Bay; in winter the wagon road leading from Dryden to the Redeemer mine will be used.

The vein in which the gold occurs has a strike of about N. 70 degrees W. and appears to dip to the north at 75 or 80 degrees. Stripping has been done along the strike of the vein at intervals for some 1,600 feet, and, although the vein is not continuous for this distance, the rock has been fissured and quartz deposited to some extent along considerable of it. The vein is narrow, varying from a mere crack to 24 inches. At one point near the east end it may be considered eight feet wide if some schist be included. The vein-filling consists almost entirely of quartz, much of which is pink to red in color, due to the presence of hematite. Earthy red hematite occurs at different points in the vein. No sulphides whatever are visible. Free gold was seen in the wall rock in a small prospect shaft, 14 feet deep, sunk on the vein. At this point the vein averages 18 inches in width. In sinking the shaft Mr. Rognon has obtained a number of remarkably rich and beautiful specimens of gold-bearing quartz.

In order to obtain some idea of the distribution of values at different parts of the vein, ten samples of quartz were taken for assay. As moils were not available, the samples were taken by chipping across the vein with a prospecting pick. They, therefore, should not be considered "grab" samples. The chainages stated below are approximations. The samples were assayed for gold by Mr. W. K. McNeill, Provincial Assayer, and the following values obtained:

No. 1—Gold, \$7.20 per ton. Sample taken 60 feet from east end of vein. Vein at this point 8 feet wide with some rock included.

No. 2—Gold, \$7.60 per ton. Sample taken 170 feet from east end of vein. Vein 12 inches wide.

No. 3—Gold, \$13.20 per ton. Sample taken 265 feet from east end of vein. This is from prospect shaft at depth of about ten feet. Includes twenty inches of quartz and three inches of soft schist from wall.

No. 4—Gold, none. Sample taken 275 feet from east end of vein. Width, 16 inches; quartz and a little schist.

No. 5—Gold, \$2.80. Sample taken 300 feet from east end of vein. Width, 22 inches of quartz.

No. 6—Gold, \$0.80. Sample taken 565 feet from east end. Width, 13 inches quartz + 2 inches schist from walls.

No. 7—Gold, none. Sample taken 635 feet from east end. Width, 15 inches quartz + inch red hematite.

No. 8—Gold, none. Sample taken 720 feet from east end. Width, 14 inches quartz.

No. 9—Gold, \$86.40. Sample taken about 1,200 feet from east end of vein. Width, 15 inches rusty quartz.

No. 10—Gold, \$1.00 per ton. Sample taken about 1,500 feet from east end of vein. Width 18 inches white quartz.

The country rock is a fine-grained gray to pale green rock in which biotite was the only mineral which could be identified in the hand specimens. The schistosity is not marked a short distance from the vein. Thin sections were made from samples taken on both sides of the vein and were examined under the microscope by Mr. A. G. Burrows of the Provincial Geologist's staff. Mr. Burrows reports as follows regarding these samples:

No. 1 country rock, south side of Rognon vein.—A fine-grained rock. Under the microscope it is seen to be of igneous origin. The prominent constituent is plagioclase feldspar in rods, while a few broad crystals of plagioclase are also recognizable. In addition there are numerous rods of hornblende and flakes of biotite. Sample is a schist which has been derived from a diorite; name, diorite schist.

No. 2 country rock, north side of Rognon vein.—A dark, fine-grained rock showing under the microscope fine grains of a colorless mineral and numerous crystals of biotite.

The latter mineral is partly altered to chlorite. There seems to be a few obscure plagioclase crystals. The sample may be called a very fine-grained biotite or mica schist. The origin, whether from igneous or sedimentary rock, is uncertain, but is probably igneous."

About ten chains north of the vein a rock occurs which appears to be a volcanic breccia with tuff associated. About ten chains south of the vein is a large body of granite.

Further work is certainly warranted on these claims and it is to be hoped that this discovery may lead to a revival of interest in the district as a whole. Were this a new territory, the gold-bearing quartz recently found on these claims would undoubtedly cause a rush of prospectors into the district. Several companies operated to a small extent in the country west of Wabigoon lake several years ago, but, so far as can be learned, little trenching was done and a great deal of likely rock remains unprospected and open for staking.

RENEWED ACTIVITY AT COBALT.

Cobalt, Nov. 26.—The rise in the price of silver has set the managers of the various producing mines planning to increase production. The Timiskaming, which for a long time has had only 29 stamps of the mill running, will probably start the remaining 20 and begin running at full capacity. Coniagas, which has curtailed its operations almost to the limit, merely mining enough to pay running expenses and provide for further development; the Nipissing, Beaver, and others will, if the increased price is maintained, increase their production to full capacity. Sixty-cent silver would have a wonderful effect on the camp in this way, and would, according to a number of the mine managers, result in some producing records being broken.

GIFFORD.

Cobalt, Nov. 23.—It is understood directors of the Gifford Cobalt Mines are considering reopening the property, which adjoins the Beaver. The main shaft is down 200 feet. The property has been idle about six years.