

new has been found to carry good values in silver and lead.

In the Almsworth camp very little work has been done beyond that required by law to hold the claims. On the Highland, however, considerable work has been done. A wire rope tramway has been built from the mine to Kootenay lake, where a concentrator of 100 tons a day capacity has been erected.

On the Highlander a tunnel is being driven 2,000 feet. This work has been done with machine drills operated by compressed air.

Mining has been rather quiet this year owing to the action of the American smelter trust and to relieve the situation a number of the citizens of Kaslo formed themselves into a company to erect a smelter at that point as its situation was considered to be very favorable for this purpose. This company secured from the corporation a bonus of \$50,000 and exemption from taxation for a period of ten years and they are now negotiating with eastern capitalists with a view to securing the funds necessary to carry out this enterprise. They have employed Mr. E. J. Wilson, of the pyrite

The Lake of the Woods Country

By a Commercial Representative

The northern portion of the Lake of the Woods, where the towns of Rat Portage and Keewatin are situated, has for years been the favorite resort for holiday seekers from all parts of Manitoba and the Northwest Territories, and this summer the number of campers has far exceeded that of any former year. It has been customary in the past for the majority of the campers to get as close to Rat Portage as possible, but they are now building their cottages or pitching their tents on the islands further away, and Keewatin beach and the islands near the town of Keewatin are receiving more campers than ever before, as they have the advantage of being near a town where supplies can be procured and at the same time not being crowded by other campers. It is not necessary

to do a wholesale business in groceries and produce. Cameron & Heape warehouse, which was burned last May, has been replaced by a larger and more conveniently arranged premises. The new warehouse is 100 feet long by 50 feet wide, has two stories, and is built on the spur track running to the saw mill, and every advantage has been taken of the lay of the land to make the loading and unloading of the freight as easy as possible.

Norman is a portion of Rat Portage, although to all intents and purposes it is a separate town. The saw mill and sash and door factory of the Rat Portage Lumber Co. forms practically the entire support of its place at present and there are, therefore, not many business places here. There is a great deal now heard about a pulp mill be-

ing erected to utilize the immense power secured by the dam built here some years ago, and if this should go ahead, as there are good reasons for thinking it will, this place will become much more important from a business standpoint. The only business change to report is in the general store business of Lauson & Co., which is now owned by J. H. Snider, who took it over last spring.

At Keewatin is the large flour mill of the Lake of the Woods Milling Co., the saw mill of the Keewatin Lumber Co., and a 20-stamp mill of the Ottawa Gold Mining and Milling Co. The flour mill is one of the largest and best equipped in Canada and gives employment to about 80 hands, including those working in the barrel factory, which is run in connection with the mill. The saw mill has a capacity of 100,000 to 170,000 feet per day of 24 hours and gives employment to a large number of men. The stamp mill has been running all season treating ore from the Sakonine mine near Pymont, as well as from other properties.

Three new business places have been started here in the last year. Hall & Co., dry goods merchants, of Rat Portage, opened a branch here. R. H. Stewart opened a confectionery and bake shop this spring in the stand formerly occupied by Jackson, the baker, and Holmes & Co. opened out a

grocery store. There are now two general stores here, a drug store, two bakery and confectionery shops, a butcher shop, dry goods store and a weekly newspaper.

A great deal has been heard in the last few years about the mining in the surrounding districts, but during the past year operations have been stopped on a number of the properties owing to a lack of capital, caused by the South Africa trouble, poor crops in the west and various other reasons. Some of the properties, however, are being worked. The Hodgins mine has been acquired by an English company and by them re-named the Black Eagle. This mine being worked by a force of about 70 men and a 20-stamp mill is to be erected. The St. Ignace mine has been under development all summer and it is reported that a good body of medium grade ore has been struck. This property is equipped with a 30-stamp mill. The Mikado has also been under development during the summer and they have recently re-commenced crushing ore in their 20-stamp mill. The Golden Star on the Seine river, is being worked after having been closed down for about a

RAT PORTAGE FROM ACROSS THE BAY

smelter, near Grand Forks, to make a thorough examination of the conditions and to report on the best means of carrying out the undertaking. An objection which has been raised to this project is the lack of dry ore, which is a necessary adjunct as a flux in smelting lead and rich bodies of this ore are said to exist in the immediate vicinity, but these have not been developed owing to the excessive freight charges that would have to be paid in shipping to United States smelters. The Dominion government bonus granted on refined lead will help considerably in putting this deal through.

The Value of Mica.

The following are the figures given by the Ontario assay office.

Thumb dressed mica, of good quality, sells according to size of sheet as follows: 16x18 inch, 3c per lb.; 16x21 inch, 4c per lb.; 23x18 inch, 6c per lb.; 3x4 inch, 8c per lb. Larger sizes run up as high as \$1 per pound. The quality for electrical use depends on freedom from cracks and absence of magnesian.

Refuse mica of any grade will be bought by the Mica Boiler Cover Co., 83-85 Anne street, Montreal, and mica dust will be bought by the Ontario Mica Works, Kingston, Ont., for use as a lubricator.

to say anything about the beauty of this resort or of the fine bathing and boating to be had, as everyone in this country is more or less familiar with all that. Some watering places grow monotonous after a time, but this is not the case with this resort, as those who have been coming here every summer for a number of years are just as anxious at the commencement of each season to get back as they were after their first visit. Other summer resorts such as Lake Winnipeg, Lake Manitoba, Shoal Lake, etc., are attracting large numbers, but the Lake of the Woods is sure to remain the favorite for a number of years yet.

Rat Portage is the larger of the two towns. It has a population of 5,293 and has a large number of first class stores, carrying heavy stocks, made necessary from the fact that their trade extends to the mining and lumbering camps of the Lake of the Woods and Kainay River districts.

This is a railway divisional point and there are some manufacturing concerns here, thus employment is given to a large number of men. The most important manufacturing is that of the Rat Portage Lumber Co., which has large mills here and at Norman, and do an immense business in rough and dressed lumber, sashes and doors, etc., throughout the west.

The Rat Portage Cold Storage Co., Cameron & Heape, and A. Macdonald &

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year and quite a number of prospects have had some work done on them this summer. The Mikado is the only property that has paid a dividend and it only made one payment of 5 per cent. One great trouble has been that the companies or individuals opening up these properties had very little money to start with and after this was exhausted any further work that was done, as well as the equipment, had to be paid for out of the gold mined and in this way operations were greatly handicapped. Then too, a large percentage of the men had very little experience in this class of mining and much time and money were wasted. A large number of people have almost lost faith in this district, but there are a number of experienced mining men who still think that there is gold in paying quantities here and that when one or two properties are brought to a paying basis others will rapidly follow as until then it is unlikely that money will be freely invested.

New Minister—You have three sons, have you not, Brother Goodwin?
Brother Goodwin—No, two sons and a cigarette destroyer.—Chicago News.

Old Farmer (to his son)—"Now don't forget while you're in the city to bring some electric light plants we hear so much about. We kin well grow 'em ourselves an' save paraffin."