

Manitoba Notes

Rice Lake Operators to Form Association.

In order to keep a vigilant eye upon the doings in the Rice Lake field, and also to ascertain its requirements, and if possible supply them, it is proposed to organize a strong association of mining operators, which will include all those now operating and who have received certificates from the public utilities commissioner.

The call has been sent out by Gordon C. McTavish, and the following is a copy:—

"Gentlemen:—A suggestion has been made that the time has arrived for the making of a concerted effort on the part of those having interests in the Rice Lake district, with a view to securing from the Dominion and provincial governments certain absolutely essential improvements.

"Certain interests are already working to this end, but it is felt that representations made by those who are now actively engaged or about to engage in actual mining operations will carry most weight with the proper authorities.

"The suggestion is that there should be formed a small association of mining operators including those now operating and those raising funds for the purpose of operating, and that the members should consist of two officials of each of the companies or syndicates involved. A copy of this letter is being sent to all of the companies operating in the Rice Lake district, which have received certificates from the public utilities commissioner, and in addition, to the Brooklyn Mining Company, Limited, which has not yet put its stock upon the local market, and to the Angus McDonald syndicate, which has raised its development funds by private subscription.

"It is proposed to hold a preliminary meeting in the lecture hall of the Board of Trade building on Friday, November 21, at 4 p.m., and you are urgently requested to be represented at such meeting by two of your officials.

"If you are interested in this project, a line from you to that effect and statement that you will be represented at the meeting above mentioned, will be very much appreciated.

"If any of the eligible companies, syndicates or private owners are omitted, it is hoped that intimation of that fact will be made to the writer before the date fixed for the meeting.

"Yours truly,

"G. C. McTAVISH.

Secretary Gold Pan Mines, Ltd."

THE GET-RICH QUICK BRIGADE.

The following excerpts from an article by "C.A.B." in the mining columns of the Manitoba Free Press have a wider application than the environs of Winnipeg.

"But of all the sickening depravity which the greed for gold is responsible for, perhaps the most repulsive is the subordination of persons who hold positions of trust, and whose conduct previously had not been above suspicion. The favorite game of the baser seller of stocks is to ferret out some journalist who can get their puffs into his paper under the guise of news. They do not as a rule pay him anything in cash—that

would be too crude; besides these gentry usually have a very distinct reluctance to parting with real money, but they allow this "press agent" to "underwrite a block of stock" at a low price. It is evidently then his duty to his wallet to boost this stock to such a point that he can sell (something he never paid for) at a profit. To the eternal credit of an underpaid class, it can be said newspaper men who lend themselves to such infamous deceits are few and far between, yet it is most unfortunately true that they exist, and apparently, for a time at any rate, flourish like young bay trees.

And the weak-kneed amongst the news-gatherers are not the only victims of the high priests of the Get-rich-quick cult. There is the man of budding scientific reputation, who standing, perhaps, on the threshold of what might have been a noble career, in a weak moment yields to the temptation of a big cheque and lends his name to reports, that while they help the sale of stock to the ignorant yet effectually debar the signer from the confidence and respect of men whose trust had been worth many gold mines to him, later on. The men at the head of a mining engineering profession are always above suspicion, otherwise they would not receive such princely pay. For instance, John Hays Hammond is known to have been paid \$250,000 a year and expenses, for a long period."

It may be said in defence of the journalist that his sins arise more often from lack of accurate knowledge than from deliberate depravity, and truth to tell the wiles of the stock promoter would deceive the very elect.

The Canadian journalist has moreover such an innate fear of "knocking" his district that he unconsciously helps the stock promoter.

Recently, an eminent mining geologist visited Winnipeg, and that part of his address given before the mining men of Winnipeg which referred to the similarity of Northern Manitoba to pre-Cambrian districts in other portions of Canada which had been proved to yield precious metals was given much prominence. The other part of the address, which concerned prospecting and wise investment, was not reported. Was it because the speaker said that no prospect in Canada had ever been developed into a mine by the sale of ten cent stock, and that an investor should set aside a tenth of the money that he intended to invest in a mine for the purpose of getting proper professional advice?

There is a certain town in the West, which defaulted on its bonds, and at one time in its history, the person who had doubts as to the financial sanity of the way things were progressing was intimidated by large bill-posters warning "knockers" to have a care, and dare not open his mouth, no matter how wise his counsel.

Canada is large enough, and rich enough not to fear "knockers," but it has many and grave reasons to fear the giddy, irresponsible and clamant booster.

CANADA'S PER CAPITA WEALTH.

Ottawa.—National wealth of Canada was \$19,002,000,000 in 1917, ranking the Dominion sixth among all countries. This shows per capita wealth of \$2,375, the highest of any country on the figures used, and most likely the highest on any current estimates of world wealth now available.