

North-Western Ontario

store of hidden wealth of the region becomes more definitely understood.

Rat Portage, on the northern shore of Lake of the Woods, is a progressive town of over 6,000 population, and possesses fine stores, large hotels, several banks, newspapers, etc.

Wabigoon, from which the Manitou country is reached, is a growing town, also on the main line of the Canadian Pacific, 133 miles east of Rat Portage, near which are Dinorwic and Dryden, the latter being the centre of a good agricultural district.

Fort Frances, at the head of Rainy River, is an old established Hudson's Bay post, that is showing renewed activity as a result of the development of the country, and along the Canadian bank of the river are Emo, Boucherville and several other rising villages.

Mine Centre, on Shoal Lake, an expansion of the Seine River, is a new town created by the mines within a radius of five miles, and possesses an excellent large new hotel and several smaller ones, well-stocked stores, etc. Near Mine Centre are Bell City and Foley.

In the Michipicoton district are Michipicoton, an old Hudson's Bay post on Lake Superior, and Wawa City, on Lake Wawa, in the centre of the gold mining district.

LABOR

The rate of wages generally prevailing is for miners \$1.75 to \$2.25 per day and board, mechanics \$2.00 to \$4.00, blacksmiths \$3.00, laborers \$1.75, wood-choppers 90 cents to \$1.10 per cord, although it may vary slightly in the different localities. Board is usually \$4.00 to 4.50 per week at the mines. Bushmen are paid \$22 to \$30 per month and board in winter.

LIBERAL MINING LAWS

The Mining Laws are Remarkably Liberal, and give every opportunity for the development of legitimate mining enterprises, being favorable both to the small operator and the capitalist, and any amendments likely to be made to them are sure to be in the direction of greater liberality.

Any person may explore for minerals on any Crown lands not previously staked out or marked or otherwise occupied, and not withdrawn by Order-in-Council.

MINING LOCATIONS

Mining lands in Northwestern Ontario are sold as "mining locations" at the following prices per acre: In surveyed townships and within six miles of a railway \$3, elsewhere \$2.50; in unsurveyed territory within six miles of a railway \$2.50, elsewhere \$2; or they may be leased for ten years renewable, at \$1 per acre for the first year and 25 cents per acre thereafter.

The owner of the surface rights may acquire the mining rights at half the above rates, except where another party has been the first discoverer of valuable mineral and has first applied.

Locations must be not less than 40 acres nor more than 320 acres. The applicant is required to file a plan by a surveyor (if the location is in unsurveyed territory) with an affidavit showing discovery of valuable mineral and no adverse claim, and within sixty days to pay one-quarter of the purchase money or rental, and the remainder in three months.

No individual can acquire more than 320 acres, and no company or syndicate more than 640 acres, within a radius of 15 miles in any one year.

The purchaser or lessee must expend in actual mining

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work \$1 per acre in the first two years and \$1 per acre for the following five years.

After seven years a royalty of not more than 10% is payable to the Crown on the value of the mineral less the cost of extraction and treatment.

A prospector or explorer who is the first to discover a valuable mineral not less than ten miles from the surface of the same mineral may receive a free grant of the same mineral.

A lessee, if not in default, may at any time convert his lease into a grant, and the first year's rent shall be paid on the purchase.

Pine trees are reserved except such as may be required for building, fencing and fuel or other work.

MINING CLAIMS

Where a tract of country has been set apart by the Council as a mining division, the holder may stake out one or more mining claims, and the holder of every post at the show of ore and a corner shall be the four corners.

On September 9, 1897, the Michipicoton Mining Division was established by Order-in-Council, and all mining claims have been staked out.

The license fee is \$10, and licenses are renewed annually. In case one or more claims are taken up, a fee of \$10 annually must be paid for each claim of twenty chains square, or of \$6.00 for each chain square or less.

Licenses may be granted to a registered person or to a mining company incorporated under the laws of the province upon payment of the fee, as well as to any other person.

Any person may be employed by the holder of a claim, and the working conditions to be complied with when the equivalent of a claim in actual mining has been performed as hereinafter provided.

If the working conditions have been complied with on a claim of twenty chains square, or on a claim of fifteen chains square, or on a claim of ten chains square, or on a claim of five chains square, the licensee may at any time convert his claim into a patent or lease free from further working, the survey of the land being made and filed and the first year's rental being paid.

No licensee can stake out and record claims within a radius of 15 miles in the same mining division within one calendar year, and for each additional claim he is required to pay a fee of \$10, or such other sum as may be fixed by regulation.

Claims may be 15 chains square, or of less area, but not to exceed 20 chains square, as may be fixed by regulation.

For every four claims or less held by one person, or by different persons agreeing to conduct mining operations within a radius of one mile, at least one claim may be carried on upon one of the claims, and the cost of the claim shall be the months of one man's time, or an equivalent sum. If a man is employed on the same claim, is required to be in every calendar year in actual mining operations.

HOW TO REACH THE GOLD FIELDS

The easiest and speediest route to the gold fields is by the Canadian Pacific Railway to the northern extremity of Lake of the Woods, thence to the mining district in that locality, from which numerous claims are obtainable in the vicinity in summer, and in winter they are obtainable. During the season of navigation, regular connection is made with steamers for Fort Frances, where connection is made with steamers for Minnesota, and for Seine River City, Foley