PLACER GOLD IN ONTARIO.

Belief That Such Districts Do Exist Here.

THE RAINY RIVER REGION

Desribed in a Pamphlet Written by Mr. W. Hamilton Merritt.

Where the Gold Occurs—Facts About Miners' Wages—Seine River Country Looking Well—Assay Office of the Foley Mine Burned to the Ground—A Toronto Company to Develop a New Property—Silver Mine Sold.

Rumors of placer gold being found in different parts of Ontario's northwestern gold fields have been in circulation for some time, and it may be that this form of mining may yet divide with quartz-delving the interest that is being universally taken in that part of the country. The Journal, published in Rainy Lake City, Minn., on the south shore of Rainy Lake, just across the water from the Rainy River gold region of Ontario, says that it has always contended that where so much gold bearing territory exists, with such enormous showing of free-gold matter, there must of necessity be placer ground. Such a theory is further substantiated by the fact of the tremendous glacial action manifest on every hand through this great region. But the fact that the gold-bearing country is practically denuded of all soil by glacial action, which has caused an exposure of the vein matter to a degree totally unheard of in mining experience, together with the multiplicity of waterways on every hand—which has also been a potent factor in locating gold-bearing quartz veins—has made it so easy to prospect for quartz leads that no effort has been made so far toward locating placer gold mines in these new gold fields; thus reversing the usual experience of opening up a new gold region, where the first prospectors always look up placer ground, the poor man's gold fields, and quartz mining follows later on.

There is no question that if placers in paying quantities could be found here, the result would be that thousands of people would flock into the country, and would find employment with pick, shovel and pan, where only hundreds can find work in a country devoted exclusively to quartz mining.

The Journal has heretofore had mention of placer gold in small quantities being found in different localities in this region, but this week A. Dimon, a hunter and trapper in the Rat Root valley, 12 or 13 miles south of this city, brought in a fine showing of placer gold, some of the species being as large as pin heads, which he says he washed from a shovelful of earth taken from the top of the ground, with no attempt to reach bed rock. If gold in that quantity can be secured from the "grass roots," rich pannings should be obtained from the bed rock. Mr. Dimon refused to divulge the location of his placer ground, but intimated that it was not far away from his home.

RAINY RIVER REGION.

Extracts From Mr. W. H. Merritt's Paper Regarding Western Gold Fields.

The World has a copy of Mr. W. Hamilton Merritt's paper on "The occurrence of gold-ores in the Rainy River district," just printed in pamphlet form, and the publication is a very interesting one. In that portion of the paper wherein he deals with the geological conditions of the region, he makes the following observations:

The gold occurs in quartz-veins in the Huronian rocks in the districts above mentioned are the evidences they carry of great igneous activity. On some of the islands in the Lake of the Woods volcanic ashes have been weathered out most clearly, and lava beds, with which they are interstratified, are equally well-marked. Most of the igneous rocks in this locality have been subject to considerable alteration. * * * The most prolific of all rocks in the Rainy River district is intrusive granite, both in its normal condition and altered to the decomposed state of protogene. The granite areas in the Lake of the Woods part of the district are chiefly of the former character. Sometimes the gold-carrying veins occur at or near the junction between granite and greenstone, and sometimes they are found cutting through the granite into the neighboring greenstone. It is noted that the copper contents have increased when in the latter rock. Frequently the schists in the vicinity of the granite carry veins which furnish a high grade of auriferous quartz. * * * It must be noted that, with the exception of the Sultana and the Regina in the Lake of the Woods district and the Foley mine in the Seine River district, no considerable depth has yet been reached; but as the above have proved their ore to be entirely free-milling from 200 to 300 feet in depth, the outlook for the district is extremely promising as an area in which free-milling ores can be mined at a comparatively low cost. It might be expected with reason that the free-milling character in the altered granites would last as far down as the granite has been altered into protogene.

In the Seine River district the veins cutting protogene are found to carry their gold in a very free condition, and in most cases the gold is very coarse. Some ores which carry much pyrites and which might be expected to be more refractory, have shown by milling-tests that they have, as far as sunk upon, the major part of their gold in a free condition. * * * There is little doubt in the mind of the writer that through this great extent of Huronian formation in the Rainy River and Lake of the Woods district, out of the many veins which have already been located (the number of which locations will be immensely increased in the next few years), as large a proportion of paying gold-mines will be developed as are found as an average in successful mining districts.

Regarding the conveniences of the district, and the cost of mining, he says: The district enjoys very fair transportation conveniences, which are being constantly improved.

Wages are low in comparison to the west, miners being paid from $1.50 to $2.50 per day.

On the Seine River, sinking costs from $25 to $40 per foot, and drifting by machines about $10 and hand-drifting $15 per foot in the granite.

PROGRESS OF WORK.

News of What is Being Done on the Seine River and Elsewhere.

The Seine River country is looking up well. Latest advices from Mine Centre state that navigation is just about open and regular communication between there and Rat Portage is expected to be started daily.

The assay office of the Foley mine and outfit were burned to the ground. The cause of the fire is supposed to have been green charcoal, just taken fresh from the charcoal pit; in spite of this, however, the mine is continuing to work, and is turning out the usual number of gold bricks.

The shaft on the Golden Goblin is now down about 40 feet. The vein is now well defined, the foot wall having been exposed by the shaft. The sinking will be continued about another 10 feet, when a cross-cut will be made to find the other wall, which may be anything from 10 to 20 feet to the north. Tests of the ore at this level show values running up over $100 a ton.

The Merritts of Duluth have secured part of the Randolph claim, and are making all arrangements to push the developing work this summer.

A company, of which Messrs. S. H. Janes, Bristol & Cawthra, of Toronto, are the chief stock-holders, is said to have secured E 176 and 177 near the Foley mine, and it is understood that they are going to develop the properties at once.

The Black Fly is a property that is being opened up on Clear Water lake in the Upper Seine country. All supplies are in and the work is being actively pushed by F. N. Gibbs of Port Arthur.

W. H. Kiltin of Duluth has sold K257 for $20,000. The property is located above Sturgeon Falls on Seine River, and is a hill that rises abruptly for 700 feet, affording a fine tunnel proposition. There are two leads on the property each 30 feet wide that give the assay value of $34.40 gold per ton. The property gives promise of being a great one. A London syndicate wanted the property, but it was sold to Duluth people. Mr. Kiltin is a baker in West Duluth.

Silver Mine Sold.

The big Ogema silver mine, near Port Arthur, was sold recently to Eastern capitalists. It was formerly worked by Philadelphia people, but the slump in silver caused it to shut down. Recent assays show the ores contain a percentage of gold, and for that reason the mine is to be reopened by the new owners.

About Other Properties.

The following is from Aemilius Jarvis & Co.'s weekly letter: On H.P. 301 the shaft is down over 60 feet and shows a good body of quartz carrying visible gold. The Grimsby Co. have the shaft down 25 feet on their "Eagle Lake" property, the reef assaying $18. On the Golden Goblin the shaft is down over 22 feet, with a well-defined widening reef which, it is reported, shows visible gold every shot. On the Ferguson, which has been temporarily stopped owing to the death of Mr. Ferguson, they now have their mill erected. On the Sultana the width of the reef at 300 feet is said to be 50 feet, and it is continuing to put out a weekly gold brick of from $2000 to $3000. The Neepawa is opening up well, and its shaft is down to a depth of 50 feet. A 20-stamp battery is going up in the summer. On the Saw Bill development is progressing most satisfactorily. The ore from the bottom of the shafts and drift faces is as rich as ever, and about 300 feet of drifting is now done. The second shaft near the intersection of the Hammond reef and Saw Bill vein is progressing rapidly. On the Hawk Bay, No. 2 shaft is down about 30 feet, and the timbering of No. 1 is nearly complete. For the future both shafts are going to be sunk by compressors. The vein in No. 2, now four feet wide, is showing the same gradual increase in width as found in No. 1, and continues to give good returns. The Foley is giving great satisfaction. It is proposed to put in a new compressor plant and other labor-saving machinery which will enable the mine to dispense with twenty-five to thirty hands, and will give a great saving in fuel as well as labor. The vein in the 200-foot level has widened to 7 feet 3 inches, and average samples taken across the vein give $38 per ton. The clean up for the first half of the month gave $7500, a large increase upon March, and, even with the present stamp power, a return of $200,000 per annum appears reasonably probable.

On the Empress the 400-foot tunnel has been completed, and a splendid body of ore has been shown un. 100 feet in width, with an additional 15-foot reef beyond.

Hastings County Gold.

One of the richest veins of gold-bearing rock yet discovered in Madoc township is that found on the farm of Mr. John Eagleson, south 1-2 of lot 13, in the 10th concession, and the vein extends across the public road into adjoining lots. The North Hastings Review says that samples show ore fairly bristling with gold and assaying $1.26 to the ton.

An Important Deal Closed.

Negotiations that have been pending for some days have just resulted in the closing of a deal by Messrs. H. O. W. Higgins and W. A. Hampton of Toronto and Galt, Ont., respectively, with the Ramsay C. Bogy Investment Company, Bankers and Brokers of Denver, Colo, and one of the heaviest firms of mining operators in the West, by which that company open a branch office here, with Messrs. Higgins & Hampton as managers. Mr. Bogy, who came to this city for the purpose of deciding finally in the matter, says that he finds Toronto in better shape financially than any place he has visited on an extended trip. His firm has been investing for a number of local people during the past few years, so that fortunately at least a small part of the many millions of dollars produced by Cripple Creek has found its way to Canada.

Tribute to the Prospector.

Of the prospector Sam Davis says in The Chautauquan: "To the brave and rugged prospector with his cheap outfit of mining tools, his empty stomach, and his hopeful heart is due the rapid development of the west. At the tap of his pick the doors of Nature's treasure vaults open; but their wealth is not for him. The stock sharks, the speculators and the promoters rob him of his interest, and the snow is no sooner sinking from the slopes of the foothills than the poor fellow is wending his course into new territory. He appears in the rocky fastnesses of the mountains, and with no companions but his pick and frying pan, is lost to memory. Suddenly comes the news of another discovery and a city rises like a pillar of flame in the wilderness. 'Lucky Bill has struck it rich,' gambled away his pile and pushed on. The bones of hundreds of the advance couriers of civilization blaze the path of progress in the west, or moulder in forgotten graves, while in their wake are teeming cities they have founded, and the ceaseless murmur of the money-seeking multitude whose fortunes they have builded."

MORE RICH DISCOVERIES.

Camp McKinney Shows Lots of Free Milling Ore.

COPPER ON BOWEN ISLAND

A Crusade to be Started Against the British Columbia Government

In Connection With Granting of Cash and Land Subsidies to Railway Corporations—Have Surveys Been Improperly Made?—Quartz Creek to Become Famous—Matters of Interest in General Mining.

British Columbia seems to contain lots of free-milling as well as refractory gold ore. Besides there being free-milling ore in Camp McKinney and at other points great excitement prevails over several rich discoveries near Wharnock. In some of the samples of quartz brought in free gold can be plainly seen, while other samples show yellow iron pyrites in large quantities, some mineralized to fully 50 per cent. The largest ledge yet discovered is that belonging to James Rolley, 40 feet wide and 100 feet high, highly mineralized and carrying both gold and silver.

L. C. Cork and J. A. Williamson have several good claims, one of which has a ledge of white quartz 15 feet wide, carrying gold. Everything indicates that this is a good mineral district. Assays run all the way from traces up to $150 per ton, principally in gold, and this too from surface croppings.

Gold Mining on the Islands.

Mr. W. M. Platt of Victoria-street, Toronto, reports that mining is very active on the coast and on the islands near Vancouver. He is interested in some valuable copper prospects on Bowen Island, 12 miles from Vancouver. He says the coast and island properties have this advantage over the mines in the interior, viz.: supplies and shipping facilities are good, and the ore can be shipped by vessel to Vancouver. Mr. Platt intends going to the coast in a few weeks. He is forming a company on entirely new lines, he having experience in mining in Australia for a number of years. He does not believe in selling stock under the par value or giving shares to the directors for the use of their names. The company he is forming will have a capital of $100,000 and some of the leading business men in the city have subscribed for stock.

AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT.

Society Being Formed to Work a Political Upheaval in British Columbia.

Stories are in circulation in Rossland regarding a certain moral and political upheaval, which is to surprise the people of British Columbia in the immediate future, says The Rossland Miner. It is said that an oath bound society has been formed, with ramifications all over the province, whose principal object is to secure the impeachment of the present Provincial Ministry on charges of malfeasance in office. The principal ground of complaint appears to be in connection with granting of cash and land subsidies to railway corporations.

Just who are at the head of this movement we are unable to learn, though from hints dropped it would appear W. B. McInnes, the Dominion member for Vancouver, is high up in the order. J. N. Blake, lately arrived from Toronto, and Joseph Powell, a mining engineer, are among the prime movers in this community. A local committee is said to have been formed, which is gathering data to use in the proposed impeachment proceedings, and this committee has given some attention to the matter of land grants and railways in Kootenay.

Members of this committee have stated publicly that the surveys of the Nelson and Fort Sheppard land grant have been improperly made, and are therefore illegal; that the railroad has not been built according to law and is unsafe; that the lands granted to the Nelson & Fort Sheppard Railway have consequently not been earned, but have reverted back to the Crown. The immediate object of the committee is said to be to prevent any extension of time to the Nelson & Fort Sheppard Railway Company to complete its land survey.

QUARTZ CREEK.

A Point That is Likely to Become an Active Mining Centre.

The town of Quartz Creek on the Nelson & Fort Sheppard railroad, will probably become famous before the close of the year as an important mining centre and as a place of great activity and thrift. Just now it is laboring under the embarrassment of being a town only in name and outward appearance. The people there are all squatters. Six months ago nothing was there except a water tank used by the railroad company. To-day three or four hundred people are there and a number of flourishing hotels, stores and other business houses. The townsite has not yet been surveyed by the railroad company, and not a lot has been sold. There is one street which runs parallel with the railroad, and back of that many shacks and cabins thrown in promiscuously. It is expected Mr. Corbin will visit the place this week and order a survey. If so, people living there will soon be able to buy lots and make permanent improvements.

Heather Bell.

Heather Bell tunnel No. 1 is in 142 feet with an improved showing in the face. There is a total width of three feet of clean ore.

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Phone 1639 . . Toronto.

The following telegram was received at the Canada Mutual Mining and Development Co. in this city:

ROSSLAND, May 1, 1897.

M. O. TIBBITS,

32 Toronto St., Toronto.

Struck Twenty Feet of Shipping Ore on "Little Giant." "Minnie" also looks well.

C. A. POUNDER.

This great strike on one of the Canada Mutual properties assures us of at least ONE GREAT MINE.

Development work is going on on our other properties.

The amount of stock to be sold at the present price, 19½ cents per share, is limited to 100,000 shares.

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Deer Park	17½c
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Commander	18½c
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Giant	12½c
Stemwinder	5½c
Imperial	3½c
Celtic Queen	5½c

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SOME SPECIAL CHANCES.

Ethel Group (guaranteed), large ore body struck	75
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Hammond Go'd Reef	Special
Ledyard (1,000,000 tons in sight)	$2 50
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Two Friends, 300	$ .27
B. C. Gold Fields, 2000	.11
St. Paul, 100	.07½
Rossland Dev. Co., 200	.12½
Butte, 3000	.03½
Dom. Dev. Co.	1.82½
Pug, 1000 share lots	.09½
White Bear, 5000	Offer wanted
Phoenix Con.-Slocan, 10,000	Offer wanted
Slocan Maid, protomers' stock, 7000	.03

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TO-DAY

for full particulars, circular, etc., for it will certainly pay you to do so. Our Mr. Bogy, President and Manager of the Ramsay C. Bogy Investment Co., is here for a few days and will be pleased to meet anyone desirous of obtaining authentic information on any particular Colorado Mines or Stocks, whether we are interested in them or not.

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B. C. Gold Fields	12c	Rossland G. M. & D. Co.	Call
Colorado, 5000	Offer	Royal Five, 1000 only	Special
Dominion Development Co.	Call	Rathmullen Con. Co.	12½c
Ethel Group, 2000	29c	Smuggler	10c
Elsie, 2000	Wanted	Sweden	25c
Gold Bar	7c	Saw Bill	Call
Hammond Reef, 1000	35c	Slocan-Cariboo	10c
Kelley Creek, 250 and 1000	12c	Two Friends	27½c
Ledyard, 100	Call	Victory-Triumph	8c
Noble Three, 5000 pro. stock	2c	White Bear	Call

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