

THE CANADIAN MINING JOURNAL

VOL. XXXI.

TORONTO, Nov. 1, 1910

No. 21

The Canadian Mining Journal

With which is incorporated the
"CANADIAN MINING REVIEW"

Devoted to Mining, Metallurgy and Allied Industries in Canada

Published fortnightly by the
MINES PUBLISHING CO., LIMITED

Head Office . . . Confederation Life Building, Toronto.
Branch Offices Montreal, Halifax, Victoria, and London, Eng.
London Office . . . Walter R. Skinner, 11-12 Clement's Lane,
London, E.C.

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SUBSCRIPTIONS—Payable in advance, \$2.00 a year of 24 numbers, including postage in Canada. In all other countries, including postage, \$3.00 a year.

Advertising copy should reach the Toronto Office by the 8th, for the issues of the 15th of each month, and by the 23rd for the issues of the first of the following month. If proof is required, the copy should be sent so that the accepted proof will reach the Toronto Office by the above dates.

CIRCULATION.

"Entered as second-class matter April 23rd, 1908, at the post-office at Buffalo, N.Y., under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879."

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PORCUPINE.

History is being made rapidly in the Porcupine district. Despite bad trails and the utter absence of decent mail service, telephone or telegraph communication, the camp is abundantly vigorous. Owners and prospectors are too busy and too enthusiastic to give more than casual expression to the many grievances that in less strenuous circumstances would be magnified into first-class sores. This is well.

In a previous issue we printed an article on the Porcupine trail, written by Mr. Reginald E. Hore. Already that article is in need of revision, for the Government road, in part bad, in part worse, and in part passable, has been pushed through from Hill's Landing to Golden City. This, along with the establishment of a recorder's office and the careful geological mapping of the region, embraces practically all the attention paid to Porcupine by the Ontario Government. We shall revert later to the question of the Government's duty to the new mining district. Meanwhile let us glance hurriedly at the present condition of the camp.

Porcupine has had a singularly auspicious early history. Large corporations have shown an unequivocal desire to get a strong footing, and several have succeeded. On one property in particular, intelligent and systematic work has been done to determine the character and extent of one section of the ore bodies. Although this work has extended over several months, and although much is now known as to the satisfactory nature of the ore, yet every day adds a little to that knowledge. In other words, every step taken is planned to bear definitely upon the past and the future. At another mine, one that has received a great deal of publicity, work is being conducted vigorously but most unsystematically. Whilst it is now known that the ore bodies here are large, the operators are still very much in the dark as to the distribution of the precious metal. Consequently the tendency to accept insufficient evidence of richness still persists.

On the hundred and one newer properties the chief work done consists in stripping and trenching. On numerous claims only assessment work has been completed. After looking over a few of the typical claims, the observer is amazed at the extraordinarily wide dissemination of gold. Sometimes that gold is visible to the naked eye. Sometimes close inspection will not reveal the tiny yellow specks until the more experienced Porcupiner has pointed them out. The total impression remaining is one of confused conviction that the chances are well worth taking.

There is no lack, of course, of absolutely worthless ground. There never is. But in Porcupine there is abundance and to spare of territory that can be de-