

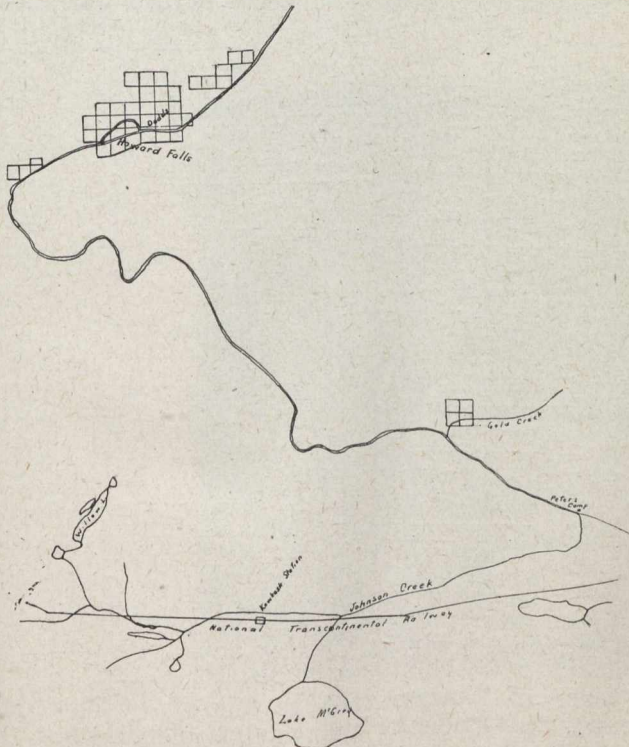
THE KOWKASH GOLD AREA

By P. E. Hopkins.

In accordance with instructions from Mr. T. W. Gibson, Deputy Minister of Mines of Ontario, I left Toronto on September 6th, and proceeded to Kowkash to make a preliminary examination of the recent gold discovery in that area.

Kowkash station is 297 miles west of Cochrane on the National Transcontinental Railway. The recent discovery nine miles northwesterly from Kowkash Station near Howard falls on the Kawa-kash-kagama river, shortened to Kowkash.

The canoe route commences one and one-half miles east of Kowkash station at Johnson creek which flows two and one half miles northeast and enters the Kowkash river. Two portages, one of one hundred yards around a log jam, and one of four hundred yards around Howard falls, occur on the Kowkash river. It requires about seven hours to make the twenty miles canoe trip.



Sketch Map showing Route from Railway to Howard Falls, Kawashkagama River

The country is of low relief and consists of rocky hills up to 100 ft. or more in height separated by large swamps, semi-muskegs and sand and gravel areas. The rocky hills are covered with a dense growth of small timber and moss and sometimes large loose boulders, which make prospecting somewhat difficult. The height of land at Redmond, 15 miles west of Kowkash station, has an elevation of 1,122 ft. This northwest and southeast divide separates the waters of the Great lakes from those of Hudson Bay.

Early Exploration and History of the Kowkash Region.—The gold discovery occurs on the river which the Indians call Kawa-kash-kagama, which signifies sparkling water. This name has been shortened to Kawashkagama by the Geographic Board. The National Transcontinental Railway has further shortened the word by naming the station Kowkash, which the prospectors have likewise

done to the name of the river. Hence the name of the new gold area.

The part of the Kowkash river near the gold find was examined by Dr. R. Bell and is described in the annual report of the Geological Survey of Canada for 1870-71; also by party number 5, Exploration of Northern Ontario, issued by the Ontario Department of Crown Lands, 1900, p. 156. In this later report E. V. Neelands, geologist with party number 5, blazed the way for the prospector when he stated "Huronian rocks, mainly chlorite and other soft green schists, occur on the Kawa-kash-kagama [Kowkash] river from about four miles below the Wawong portage to the northern limit of exploration (Howard falls)—The most promising district is the country on the Kawa-kash-kagama river below the Wawong portage. Here Huronian exposures are numerous, mostly chlorite and other soft green schists. Several samples from small quartz veins in this district showed traces of gold, and it might be that careful prospecting in this district would be rewarded." W. J. Wilson and W. H. Collins' map number 964 published by the Geological Survey, Ottawa, which roughly outlines this Kowkash Keewatin area is being much used by the prospectors at the present time. (Extracts from the reports by E. V. Neelands and W. J. Wilson were published in the Sept. 15th issue of the Canadian Mining Journal.)

Mr. E. W. King Dodds made his spectacular gold discovery on August 21st, 1915, by walking over the rocky hill below Howard falls, which had been burned clean of moss and trees on the previous day. The news of the very spectacular ore caused a rush of about 400 prospectors to the neighborhood and about 75 to 100 claims were staked within three weeks.

General Geology of the Kowkash Region.—In the Kowkash area is a belt of Keewatin rocks 10 to 15 miles wide and extending from the north end of O'Sullivan (or Sesekenaga) lake in a southwest

direction through Howard falls and across the height of land at Redmond. This whole Keewatin area is worth prospecting for gold. For miles around this Keewatin belt are Laurentian granite and gneiss rocks, as will be seen on Wilson and Collins' map.

The Keewatin are largely massive, fine-grained green chlorite and hornblende rocks which are in places altered to schist. Some of the chlorite rock is altered diabase. Numerous exposures can be seen along the Kowkash river from three miles below where Johnson creek enters the Kowkash to within a mile of the driftwood portage. Altered basalts showing the pillow or ellipsoidal structure are common. They are well exposed from Howard falls to beyond the Dodds gold showing, on the portage below Howard falls and around O'Sullivan lake. They are in places gone to chlorite schist. With the basalts are small agglomerate areas. Cutting these greenstones are numerous white-weathering quartz-porphry dikes up to 30 ft. or more in width. They contain numerous white quartz phenocrysts the size of peas in a grey to green fine ground mass.

Porphyry like that of Porcupine.—The porphyry contains some quartz stringers, is schistose in places and resembles the quartz porphyry at Por-