

The Kerry mine has now finished pumping out its shaft and is commencing to sink the shaft below the 350-foot level. The Gould Consolidated, another lease on Peterson Lake, has commenced operations on Cart Lake. Brydge lease, St. Anthony, Union Pacific, and Little Nipissing are all working again.

The Meteor Mining Company, a wealthy Pittsburg syndicate, is now sinking a shaft on the west side of its claim near the Savage, in an attempt to catch the Savage veins. A considerable amount of work has previously been done by tunneling into the hill but without result.

The sale of the Cobalt Central has again been postponed and the further date for the offering up of this company is now placed at June 17. All the local debts of the Standard Cobalt, which is controlled by the Cobalt Central, have been paid, so that there is some probability that the property will never come to the hammer, but will be worked again by the company under the new management.

Those who are agitating for a Gowganda-Elk Lake railroad are now confident that they will get their desire in spite of the cold reception the Government gave the project a little while ago. It is stated that some New York capitalists are ready and willing to build an electric road if they are given exclusive rights in the territory. Mr. Englehart is going up to Elk Lake to look over the situation early in July.

Excellent results are being obtained at the Miller Lake O'Brien property this year. The ore bodies at the 200-foot and 250-foot level are far better than above, and during the first part of this year the ore reserves have been greatly increased.

NORTHERN ONTARIO AND QUEBEC.

Porcupine, Swastika, Keekeek, and Matachewan.

The fire at the Hollinger was the one event in the history of the new goldfields most likely to delay the inevitable boom. The Hollinger is the company that has so far represented Porcupine abroad, and now that its plant has been burned and its mill operations delayed for six or eight months, there is nothing yet in the camp to take its place.

The compressor at the Hollinger was not damaged and one boiler is available, so that it will be possible to keep work going on a small scale until machinery can be taken in over the railroad to South Porcupine and beyond. The reports from Porcupine are to the effect that the road from South Porcupine to the Hollinger is in such a condition that it is not possible to take heavy machinery over it, and that such transportation will have to be made when the railroad gets in. The T. and N. O. has now promised that there shall be no delay in extending the line from South Porcupine to South Tisdale, and this decision will undoubtedly have important consequences. The best natural townsite in the whole camp is on the sandy plain between the Mattagami and the Hollinger, and here the Hollinger Gold Mines propose to lay out a townsite. No doubt a considerable settlement will grow up here.

Steel on the Porcupine railroad has already been laid to Golden City, Porcupine, and it will be extended to South Porcupine by the middle of June. On July 1st, when the first passenger train will run over the line, it should be well on the way to the Hollinger.

Prospectors coming out of the Keekeek country in Northern Quebec report that while there appears to be no visible gold, the country is excellent for prospecting, and a considerable number of veteran prospectors will be in there this summer.

The route at present is from Ville Marie to Quinze, 22 miles on a stage, from foot of Quinze Lake to Sturgeon Rapids, 32 miles in a gasoline launch, from Sturgeon Rapids to Gonderau Portage out of the Kenojovis River 22 miles, one mile and a quarter and one-quarter of a mile portage into Simonard River, paddle two miles and a half to portage into Wobiskus Lake, and thence into Keekeek.

Prospectors have taken full advantage of the easy terms upon which staking can be undertaken in Quebec and lines have been run round probably 100,000 acres to date. Sam LeRoy, the original staker in this country, has a big vein of quartz in the schist on the edge of a bluff near the lake, and J. B. Roy, about two miles and a half back in the bush, has just torn the moss off what appears to be a pegmatite dike about 15 feet wide. Some few men are now going in to do work, and the country looks so promising that good discoveries are quite likely to be made between Keekeek Lake and the Transcontinental before the summer is over.

There is also a rush into the Fort Matachewan country north of Elk Lake, near the Montreal River. No authentic reports have been received from this field yet.

Bewick Moreing & Company, who now control the Rea Mines, have issued a statement that a reef has been struck at the 200-foot level about 15 feet from the shaft. It is 23 inches wide and shows a considerable amount of free gold. At a depth of 240 feet the sections from the shot drill show \$19.20 to the ton after free gold had been picked out.

It is stated on excellent authority that the Drummond interests of Montreal have taken over the control of the Jupiter properties in South Porcupine. This will insure efficient development for another Porcupine property. On the next claim to the Jupiter, the vein has been traced on to the Armstrong Booth for a distance of 350 feet. The lead is in places four feet wide and runs on grab assay from the pay streak \$42. At 83 feet a diamond drill core contained \$20 and \$40 assays from the same vein. Mr. E. P. Earle, of the Nipissing, and Mr. Frank Armstrong are interested in this property.

There has been a change in the management of the Swastika mine, an increase of capitalization, and a determination to put the mine on a working basis forthwith. The capital of the company has been increased from \$1,000,000 to \$2,000,000, and twenty stamps are to be added to the mill, with adequate compressor capacity also. Mr. R. B. Lamb stays as consulting engineer, but Mr. Summerhayes, formerly of the Porcupine Central, takes the place of Mr. Vandergrift as superintendent. Owing to the other good finds made round the Swastika, there is now a considerable amount of speculative interest in this area and a small settlement is rapidly growing up.

The National Porcupine Mines, the first to start operations in the Township of Ogden, have abandoned their option on the Weston properties.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

A late spring has in some measure retarded progress in the metal mining districts of British Columbia, first cold weather and then much rain having been experienced in many camps. By the end of May, though, weather conditions were generally favourable, with the season's placer gold mining operations fairly entered upon, and wagon roads in lode mining districts, wherever transportation is by horse teams, again hard enough for heavy hauling to be undertaken.

The effects of the general cessation of work in the coal mining districts of eastern British Columbia and western Alberta are not being felt to so great an extent in British Columbia lode mining camps, as it was feared they would be. The prompt action of the British Columbia Copper Company in obtaining a supply of coke for metallurgical purposes from Pennsylvania, followed by the Consolidated Mining and Smelting Company and, at the end of May, by the Granby Company, has resulted in there being no interruption in smelting operations at the respective works of the B. C. Copper and Consolidated companies, and only three weeks' suspension at those of the Granby Company, which last was in some measure influenced as well by the necessity for general overhaul and repair of blast furnaces and accessory plant.

Little or no progress seemed to have been made by the end of May by the Board of Conciliation and Investigation in the