

boundary line until he had come to Rat Portage and heard them talk about it. He must express his pleasure at attending the convention and his admiration of the able way in which it had been managed. A good deal had been said about getting English capital to develop the mines, but he did not think American capital would be refused. He had generally found people willing to accept the American dollar for 100 cents. He had been charmed with the gentlemen who advised them to keep on sinking their shafts. He had tried that in Colorado and his money had sunk out of sight, but in the Seine River country, where he had his mines, they got pay ore at a very slight depth. If some of the Colorado miners saw specimens taken from the Seine River mines at a depth of thirty and forty feet they would have a fit. He wanted to tell them a little about Mine Centre. They were building a large hotel there, because the people were bound to come. They were putting up sixteen houses. The streets were being paved and electric light and waterworks were being put in. It was going to be a paradise. In fact there would be but one place better and that was Rat Portage. A new boat was being built to run to Mine Centre it would run an excursion from Winnipeg, Toronto, Montreal and Rat Portage and he hoped they would all come and buy a town lot. On behalf of New York he thanked Rat Portage for the courtesies of the convention and concluded with a joking allusion to ex-Mayor Barnes, to which that gentleman replied in his well known style. This concluded the programme.

Mr. D. C. Cameron moved a vote of thanks to all who had made addresses or given papers. This was seconded by R. Ross Sutherland in a neat speech, and carried with a perfect volley of ayes, followed by vigorous applause.

Mr. Beebe, of New York, then proposed the singing of God Save the Queen, and at the close of the national anthem some one proposed three cheers for President Dewey, which were given in a way to test the character of the new opera house foundation and the first mining convention of Rat Portage was brought to a successful close.

Rat Portage, June 7.—At Friday evening's session of the mining convention Mr. T. R. Deacon, C. E., of Rat Portage, read the following paper:

"Five Years Observations in the District of Algoma." He said, "As I am not a literary genius, I must content myself with a plain statement of facts. As a body of business men you will not be inclined to take things for granted, but want to know if the writer or speaker is giving his personal knowledge, and so I simply say that I have resided here continuously for five years and my professional work has taken me into every point of interest in the district. I propose first to deal briefly with the geography of the gold bearing region, leaving to others the geological and mineralogical conditions. The territory which I classify as gold bearing in Ontario has for its eastern boundary a line drawn north from Heron Bay on Lake Superior, and for its western boundary the western boundary of the province.

thirty miles west of Rat Portage. I do not mean by this to limit it to these boundaries, for I have reason to believe it extends both east and west, but am just speaking of the territory I have personally covered. Heron Bay to the west boundary is about 425 miles, and the known width of the gold bearing region is 60 miles. This contains about 16,000,000 acres, of which 25 to 30 per cent is water. But as mineral is not confined to land we may say that the whole 16,000,000 acres is gold bearing and 1,500,000 acres have been surveyed, but the balance is unexplored land waiting investigation. Most of this area is covered with timber, Jack pine, tamarac, spruce, poplar, birch and cedar, so that abundance of timber is here for mining purposes, and wherever necessary to use steam power in a mine, the question of fuel is not a formidable one. Fuel can be obtained here in great abundance and at less cost than in any other gold mining region. I wrote that statement a week ago, Mr. Chairman, but I am still prepared to stand by it notwithstanding what Mr. Purchase said last night. A matter of importance is entire absence of storms of a destructive character. In summer we have a fine climate, and in winter just enough frost to make lake travel safe and comfortable. (Loud applause.) This is a convenience of some importance. We have not the extreme heat and sand storms of the desert, nor the intense cold of Alaska. Over the region is a complete net of waterways, and with slight improvements at some points, we can have hundreds of miles of waterways. The gold is here in paying quantities, as no man who had travelled over the region and made even superficial examination will at all doubt. Much money has been lost in the district that cannot be attributed to mines. Many companies and individuals having only limited capital have erected buildings and exhausted their funds before they had a hole in the ground. Of 500,000 acres surveyed, I do not believe 7 per cent has been prospected. In my opinion as little surface work as possible should be done until the shaft is down 200 feet. As to prospecting, it is only within two years that any systematic work has been done, and look at the result, the Mikado, the Cornucopia, Gold Coin, Yum-Yum, Lady of the Lake, Nankipoo, Monarch, Trojan, Mascot, Master Jack, None Such, Foley, Ferguson, Saw Bill, Hawk Bay, Hammond-Folgor Dyke, Empress and others, jumping from total obscurity into bullion producing mines.

"There is a point in regard to prospecting which has been often impressed upon me, and that is the impossibility of judging any tract, vein or discovery in this district from surface indications. No intuitive knowledge of experts, or experience of old miners, can take the place of powder and steel for furnishing reliable data upon which to base conclusions as to subterranean facts. From my observations I should say that the vein that lies in or near the contact of granite with horn blende schists, particularly if it is granite, is in itself a pretty sure thing. There is practically unlimited water power, where the average head of 20 feet can be developed in many cases very cheaply and a practical invention is

now on the market for compressing air by the direct fall of the water without intermediate machinery. This will all tend to reduce the cost of ore to a minimum.

"It is sometimes said that the very fact that so many natural advantages exist here for mining cheaply and economically has tended to retard development. It seems too good to be true. It reminds me of the story of the duke who made a wager that he would stand on London Bridge with a tray of sovereigns to sell for a penny and find no purchasers after offering them all afternoon. He sold only one. People say it cannot be true the gold is to be found in such an easy place, or people would be tumbling over one another to get there; but the Sultana, the Regina, the Empress and Mikado are proving it every day. There will, of course be some illusions shattered, and over-sanguine hopes blasted; yet, I am confident that before two years, there will be fifty mines working west of Lake Superior profitably, producing gold bullion, and paying dividends with the regularity and precision of a machine. Only a fringe of the gold bearing region has yet been touched. It is my opinion that fifty years from now the prospecting will not all be done, though in the meantime cities will grow up where all was solitude; but it is work requiring patience, diligence and perseverance, and if it is to be finally successful, must be allied to ample capital, so that the prospector, the capitalist and country at large may reap the benefit."

#### VISIT TO THE SCRAMBLE

On Saturday morning the directors of the Scramble mine invited a large party to visit that property, and though the weather was disagreeable, a number availed themselves of the comfortable conveyances provided and made the trip. Among those going were A. Blue and Mrs. B. Dr. Coleman, Col. J. G. Crawford, Mr. S. V. Halstead, Prof. W. Mot, Acton Burrows, Mr. Coates, a son of Hon. J. Coates, of Ottawa, vice-president of the Scramble, H. S. Cratty, your correspondent and others.

The party was accompanied by Messrs. Williamson, Beck and Halstead, directors, and W. L. Parkridge, president of the company, met them on their arrival.

The road out to this mine is in very bad condition, and as it was built by the government, Mr. Blue was called on the subject at every bump, all of which was received with the most imperturbable good humor.

The Scramble camp is very prettily situated on a sloping hill side, and substantial and commodious buildings have been erected. A noticeable feature is their being built at regular intervals along a sort of road or street. On the right, as you look in, is the comfortable cooking and dining camp, with large airy rooms above for the officers in charge, and the sleeping camp and reading room for the unmarried men. Across the street on the left is the stable, the store, a large open space, and on the brow of the hill the engine house, engine room and blacksmith shop. The open space referred to is reserved for the mill building which will thus be in a position to receive the ore as it comes from the shaft by natural