

master, for one year. During the Summer months I had a strong desire to go West, and when I had served seven months out of the year, I told Mr. Octoby I intended to go West and gave him one month's notice.

Towards the end of October I left for Dryden, Algoma District, accompanied by Thomas Baker, with whom I got acquainted eight months after my arrival in Canada. About the time I landed in Dryden, there were only two houses and a few shanties, and no work whatever. By the 6th of November, I had located, applied for, and made first payment on, 160 acres of land, Tom doing the same for eighty acres. We built a log shanty on the farm (might as well call it farm) and stayed there for one month. Then we heard that a man had arrived at Dryden and was going to put in a cord-wood camp. Now, as our financial basis was not very solid, we went to work in the camp.

About the 10th of January, 1897, I obtained employment in a gold mine, and in a short time was very handy with the hammer. Towards the end of February, the mine shut down; but the foreman got me a job with a party that were going to test another claim. In ten days we were through. Then I went with another testing party for ten days, where I took the job of blasting.

When I came back to Dryden, I was promised a job at the McLeod Mine, but would have to wait until May. On the 8th of May I started at the McLeod Mine, and stayed there until it shut down in the fall. About a week after the mine closed, I went with a man that was out prospecting for a company, on condition that if I found a prospect, I would get equal share in it with the company. The first two days we found nothing; the third day I found a claim. We did some work on it and sent some quartz to the company in Winnipeg, who got it assayed (\$71.15), took it up and gave me an equal share in it (being one-eighth). The following Spring (1898) Tom Baker and myself spent two months prospecting, and found two claims. As money was getting low, I sold eighty acres of my farm. Then we hired out for the rest of the Summer. In the fall we put our money together and did all the work we could on the claims with it. In a short time we were broke, so went to work in the bush for the rest of the Winter.

The next Spring (1899) I bought eighty acres of land from a young man that was called away to his home in Eastern Ontario. I then hired out for the rest of the Summer, and in the fall Tom and I put our money together again and did some more work on the claims, this time getting some free gold. In all, we have put at least \$500 into the claims.

About the end of December, I built a shanty on my farm, and again went in the bush for the rest of the Winter. Last Spring (1900) I started to work at the Independence Mine, Gold Rock, via Wabigoon, and last fall moved into my shanty on the farm. I have now seventy cords of green jack pine wood cut for sale next fall, and with the money it brings I mean to build a house. Five acres of my farm are ready for the plough.

I am sending you a photograph of Tom Baker, my shanty and myself. In case you do not know which is which, Tom Baker wears the black shirt. I expect to get Mr. H. Hiblorn, of 24 Manning Arcade, Toronto, interested in my claims.

Wishing you every happiness through the present year.

PETER ASPINALL.

