

abounds in mica of fair quality and as no deposits of phosphate of lime of any importance have yet been discovered in this direction, it would seem to indicate that this latter economic belongs to a higher portion of the rock series, which has not been deposited to any extent in this section. In fact, this truth has already been established in Ottawa County, the mica-producing rocks always having been observed to "come in" before those in which the phosphate of lime occurs.

### GALENA IN FITZROY.

It has been rumoured in Ottawa that a property was purchased not long since in the Township of Fitzroy by some American gentlemen. This property is said to be very valuable owing to the presence of an extensive deposit of galena having been discovered thereon, supposed to carry a large percentage of silver. It is stated that \$16,000 is the price that was paid and that it is the intention of the present owners to begin mining operations at once.

We cannot vouch for the correctness of these statements and will be pleased to receive authentic information in verification of current reports. — [Ed.]

### MINING IN WESTERN CANADA.

(From the *Montreal Star*.)  
The Lake Winnipeg and the Keewatin Gold Mining Companies have received their charters from the Manitoba Legislature. The former company, the latter, was in the city of Winnipeg, en route for Nova Scotia, when he goes to the city of Winnipeg and engage in the mining companies. He is a *Star* reporter, and regarding these two enterprises. Both companies are composed of Canadian and American capitalists, the Board of Directors of each being the same. The subscribed capital of each is two million dollars. The Lake Winnipeg Company's mine is situated on the Big Black Island, in Lake Winnipeg, about seventy-five miles north of the mouth of Red River. The island is about nine miles wide and thirteen long, and the Saskatchewan steamers pass it regularly on their route, thus affording easy communication with Selkirk via the branch of the Canadian Pacific Railway from Colville Landing. The company began work last fall and have sunk a shaft to a depth of 56 feet all the way through "pay rock." Operations have not yet gone far enough to enable a calculation to be made of the probable extent of the lode, but where it crops out at the bank it is about 20 feet deep. The company intend to sink another shaft further back, to strike the lode about 200 feet below the sur-

face. The assays which have been made of the ore yielded from \$90 to \$150 of gold per ton; a single, very rich specimen gave \$300 per ton. The ore will have to be reduced by what is known as the "washer" process; there is some free gold in the mine, but a great deal is refractory ore.

"When will you be ready to begin to work the mine?"

"Everything is waiting for the machinery. The company have constructed a wharf at which any steamer on the lake can land, and all the necessary buildings for working the mine—boardinghouse, machine and blacksmith shops, etc., are built; but we won't begin to take out ore until the other shaft has been sunk. I don't think it pays to commence operations before we are fully prepared."

"Do you expect to get the machinery you require manufactured in Nova Scotia?"

"The purpose is to get all the machinery we can in the Dominion, and we hope to find what we require in the gold districts of Nova Scotia. I am also going to engage miners there, where they are to be found in large numbers, for men who have had the experience are the most profitable to employ."

"By whom was this mine discovered?"

"By Messrs. Anderson and Guest. They also discovered iron in abundance and of excellent quality on this island, part bog ore and part hematite. There are indications of coal in the island, too."

"What about the Keewatin Company's mine?" "It is on Hay Islands in the Lake of the Woods, nine miles south of Rat Portage, where the Canadian Pacific Railway touches the lakes. This is one of the richest mines in the Dominion. There are at least some thousands of tons of ore right inside of it. It crops out of the side and you can hardly pick up a piece of stone but you can see free gold in it. The lode can be traced for about half a mile very plainly. About a thousand feet distant from these cropings, the company have sunk a shaft 62 feet deep; and the ore looks better the deeper they go. This can be made a paying mine right away, and it is intended to put up the mill the first thing as soon as it reaches the place. The company expect to pay a dividend on the first operations, besides paying all the expenses of working the mine. It is hoped that the mill will be running in the course of three or four months from now, everything else being ready for operations, and about four hundred tons of ore having already been taken out."

"What are the prospects for mining generally in Manitoba?"

"The only obstacle in the way of the speedy and extensive development of the mineral resources of the province is the lack of confidence on the part of the men who have

the money to invest, and that is a serious difficulty. A great many persons speculated largely in land during the great boom about a year and a half ago, and many of them were badly bitten, too. The capital invested in this way is now locked up, while those who have available funds are afraid to invest it. There is a great deal of the country yet unexplored, which, I believe, will yield immense mineral wealth. The native Indians are continually bringing in specimens of gold and silver ore astonishingly rich, but they cannot be induced by any means to tell where the ore is taken from. It is, no doubt, somewhere between Lake of the Woods and Lake Winnipeg. The country is now being slowly explored, and shows a large mineral belt. The other mines in Manitoba already in operation are in a prosperous condition, and their owners seem confident of success; all they want is capital to develop them."

Captain Robbins, President of the Eureka Mines, Nevada, visited Port Arthur recently, and, it is said, while there, representing the Bullion Club, of New York City, he purchased the property at Clearwater Bay, known as the "Joe Thompson location" for \$35,000. It is further stated that Captain Robbins will at once erect an \$80,000 stamp mill at Rat Portage, for his own use, and capable of working up the output of other mines in the district.

Mr. Langdon, of Langdon, Shepard & Co., contractors on the Canadian Pacific Railway, arrived in Winnipeg about the middle of July from the end of the track, with a car load of curiosities. He brought a specimen of lignite coal of a bright, clear character, some of which had been used for the engine driving piles in the Saskatchewan River. It burned excellently, retaining its character of forming no clinkers. Mr. Langdon will experiment with the specimen he has with him when he reaches St. Paul and, if it comes up to his expectations, a car-load will be forwarded at once.

In addition to coal, he brought some very interesting specimens of petrified pine, showing perfect formation of the ancient tree, clinging to which there were clusters of quartz, showing indications of gold. A quantity of buffalo bones and some very handsome antlers formed a portion of this curious cargo.

Early in July Saskatchewan coal was tested on the Canadian Pacific Railway and was pronounced to be of very superior quality for steam purposes. It is said to burn without forming "clinkers."

Negotiations are afloat to organize a company to engage in extensive coal mining operations in the Souris district. The owners of the location are sanguine of success.

### GOLD MINING ON THE LAKE OF THE WOODS.

(From our Special Correspondent.)

RAT PORTAGE,  
July 24th, 1883

Your correspondent has just had an opportunity of visiting some of the gold mines of the Lake of the Woods, and has obtained the most recent reliable information in regard to the others. The following notes will, therefore, give a pretty good idea of what has hitherto been done and of the present condition of mining up here.

I may promise that there is now less activity than existed two months ago, but this arises from the difficulty of obtaining money in Winnipeg, where the mines are owned and not from any failure or diminution of confidence in the mine themselves. Most of the discoveries so far made are situated around Big-stone Bay, in the northeastern part of the lake, and near Clearwater Bay, in the northern part. Hay Island, which has become well known on account of its gold-bearing veins, lies on the south side of the former bay.

The *Winnipeg Consolidated Mining* is on the south-eastern side of Big-stone Bay, about twelve miles from Rat Portage. The vein, including some green schist, is from two to four feet wide and runs about north-east. The main shaft is down 100 feet. At 80 feet from the surface an adit is driven 30 feet N.E., and 20 feet S.W. The ore is a fine-grained granular porous quartz containing copper and iron pyrites, with free gold. The accompanying schist also holds gold. At the mine are a wharf, shafthouse, boarding-house and stamp-mill containing a battery of five stamps in position, and another ready for putting in a similar number. In April, the mill made an experimental crushing of about 17 tons which yielded some \$45 to the ton, and the tailings were found to contain \$16 to the ton, the loss having been due to the imperfect amalgamation on the plates and the want of other means of saving the gold. A grinding pan and amalgamator have just been put into the mill. Work was begun at this mine in October, 1882. About 40 men were employed in April and May, but the sinking and driving are now almost at a standstill from the cause already mentioned.

The *Canada Mining Company* vein is a continuation of the Consolidated. They are working with five men and are down about 30 feet.

The *Lake of the Woods Company* are working a further continuation of the same vein. Their shaft, which is down 20 feet, is all within the walls of the vein, which is here about 8 feet wide.

The *Keewatin Mine* is on the north end of Hay Island. A shaft