

COBALT LAKE AND ITS SURROUNDINGS

AS I shall from time to time speak of the various mines, let's sit down in the office of the Cobalt Lake Company—or better still, let's get out in that naphtha launch in front of the office and I'll point out to you where are some of the principal mines. We will take this as the viewpoint, for the "Cobalt Lake" seems to hold the "centre of the stage."

Now listen while I tell you things. The lake runs along the railroad, or as it was here first, the railroad comes into town from the south along its west bank. The lake is like a long, high-top boot with the foot at the south end, across which the railroad cuts, leaving the severed toes on the west side of the track. The lake is long and narrow, and contains 53 acres. Cobalt—built-up Cobalt—lies along the west side of the railway. Wish I could incidentally describe the town, but I can't—it's that mixed up. It hasn't a whole street. It has a "square" just to the west of the depot. "Square" in name only, for it runs as it pleases, with streets running out—two to the north, one to the west, and that one which runs down along the track to the south.

"Main" Street has so many names that it's all owing to the man you ask, who can tell you where it is. I asked the Mayor and he said he didn't know—but then he's only been here four years. Like "Broadway," New York, so called because it is so narrow, "Main" Street, Cobalt, is so called because it runs off to the side, toward the east. I could once have jumped across it, it's that narrow. Two waggons might pass abreast, if one went in front, as Patrick would say, but would sure lock wheels if they went together. None of the roads are worked. Nothing seems to be "worked" in Cobalt but the people, and that keeps every-

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