

found it) properly staked. Anderson only smiled at their faith, but kindly assisted them to get their papers fixed up and recorded. The first assay showed no sign of silver—only bismuth. But Assayer Milton Hersey, of Montreal, did better for them, finding, in samples sent him, 4,000 ounces of silver to the ton. They had the claim surveyed, and then went to work in the most primitive way to “develop” the claim.

The floating of this property would make great mining history, if all the stories told be true. Smith came within an ace of placing it to a millionaire from Montana. He even got him up from New York, right onto the ground, and do you believe it, he turned it down as no good. “It wasn’t like the stuff he’d been used to out in Colorado.” Then Black, from Sudbury, got an option on it, dug out several carloads, sent to Chicago for a capitalist to send his mine engineer up to see “the most wonderful proposition ever.” The engineer came, admitted that they certainly had dug a lot of it, but he didn’t believe “it” would go down, and he told the millionaire not to invest. As the “millionaire” was offered it for a song, he has never gotten through talking about how little mining engineers know of mining.

Then, again, another man either bought the McKinley-Darragh or didn’t buy it, or—well, he’s been crazy ever since. I would wager he *didn’t* buy it. I fear had it been offered to us and we had turned it down when we had had the amount to buy, “us” would likely now be in the crazy house lamenting our *unwiseness*, instead of simply talking about others’ misses at a fortune. Bless you, that mine is so rich that surrounding companies can’t be happy till they “strike the McKinley-Darragh vein.” (The “Cobalt Lake” are liable to strike it at any time, then watch the “Lake” stock boom.)

As before said, this was the first discovery, but so little was said about it that both the Larose and the Nipissing were known by the public before the McKinley-Darragh was even heard of.