

THE MAPLE MOUNTAIN MINING DISTRICT OF ONTARIO.

By J. D. Ramsay.*

Amid all the excitement and noise of successive booms in Elk Lake, Miller Lake, Gowganda and elsewhere, one district has quietly and persistently, without outside assistance or newspaper advertisement, gone ahead until it has asserted its right to be looked upon as one of the most promising silver mining regions outside of Cobalt. This is the Maple Mountain District, situated in the Township of Whitson, Van Nostrand and Speaight, in the Temagami Forest Reserve, and extending northwards from Anvil Lake for a distance of about nine miles. It is flanked on the west by the high ridge of Maple Mountain, which forms a kind of "Hog's Back" parallel to the diabase outcrop. The district is excellently illustrated in the geological map of the Montreal River district, published by the Mines Department.

It is not altogether easy, in view of the good surface showings from many different properties in the district, to understand why prospectors and others should have overlooked it, and rushed in to much less accessible regions, such as Miller Lake and Gowganda, to say nothing of Shining Tree Lake. A glance at the aforementioned map will show that the southern end of the region can be reached, at Anvil Lake, by no more than five portages, the longest of which is only three-quarters of a mile long, while the rest are "just a jump." However, this summer has witnessed a certain revulsion of feeling among many prospectors and the district is now receiving a little more of the notice which it deserves.

Leaving the River Steamer at Mowat's Landing, a short paddle brings the traveller to Mattawapika Falls, a distant view of which is familiar to those who have been up the Montreal River. Here the first portage, a short one, is encountered; but the tedium of

surrounded mainly by muskeg; and this in its turn gives place to Lady Evelyn Lake at the "Narrows," where the lake contracts for half a mile or so between high bluffs of sandstone and quartzite of Lower Huronian age. On emerging from the narrows, the course leads up the north-west arm of the Lake and round



BOILER ON WHITE RESERVE MINE.

Sucker Gut to the portage to Emily Lake, which is just below Willow Island Falls; this portage is three-quarters of a mile long, and very rough; and the writer hopes that none of his readers may have a similar experience to one, which in company with two companions, he recently fell a martyr to, when he had to make it during a total eclipse of the moon. This is however the only bad portage; and a convenient creek and chain of small lakes lead northwards from Emily Lake to Anvil Lake, on whose western shore the diabase ridge may be said to commence.

Like all the occurrences of this rock in northern Ontario this diabase is a laccolite of fair thickness, which appears to have been forced up from below Maple Mountain. The outcrop shows unmistakable escarpment on the east, and a dip slope of about 26° to the west, and runs almost due north and south. From Anvil Lake to Duncan Lake, it forms two high ridges, 200 to 300 feet above the sandy plain lying to the east, and the base of Maple Mountain to the west, these ridges forming a striking feature in the landscape. From conversations with prospectors and others, the writer gathers that this laccolite is probably the same as that found on Lost Bear Lake to the west, where it occurs dipping to the east in the direction of Maple Mountain. The latter probably owes its origin to this upheaval.

The diabase presents the usual features; it varies in texture from fine grained diabase to coarse gabbro, and in composition from ultra-basic almost to acid-intermediate; in one place on the property of the White Reserve Mines Limited it has all the appearances of syenite.

The veins are markedly parallel, running due east and west across the outcrop, and can in some cases be



ROCK DRILL IN CUTTING, WHITE MINE.

packing canoe and kit is amply made up for by the beauty of the falls, and of the succeeding stretch of river above them. Mattawapika River gives place to Mattawapika Lake, a broad and shallow sheet of water

*Mining Engineer, Traders Bank Building, Toronto.