

There is no doubt whatever that the mines of Central Canada are greatly superior to any yet known in South Africa, both in extent, size of ore body, and grade of ore. The conditions and facilities for economical working are greatly in favor of Canada, both in respect to cost of labor, abundance of water power, cheapness of provisions, accessibility through regular railway communication in all directions, and the important fact that the reefs are payable almost from the surface, as has been abundantly proved by the few mines now working at the Lake of the Woods and other centers, where, with the most primitive appliances, highly encouraging results are even now being achieved.

The total white population of South Africa never exceeded 500,000 persons, the gold fields being distant and difficult of access. Compare this with the central position of Canada, with probably 80,000,000 of people on the American continent south of us, and about 350,000,000 in Europe, all within ten days reach of the Central Canadian gold fields. Many of these (especially those who have made money through mining investments elsewhere) would undoubtedly invest, if they knew of the existence of these mines, a fractional percentage of which will suffice to place Canada on a satisfactory basis as a gold-producing center, and cannot fail to prove advantageous to Canada as a whole, and the great expansion of population and commerce generally.

GOLD FIELDS.

Extract from the Canadian Government Gazette.

The Gold Fields of Central Canada are very extensive, the quartz reefs being situated principally in the Provinces of Ontario and Manitoba, in the hilly region on the shores of the Lake of the Woods, also Lakes Manitoba and Winnipeg.

The ore bodies are large, clearly-defined fissure veins, of free-milling high-grade ores and of great extent, covering some 350 by 150 miles in area.

In certain localities, there are immense bodies of low-grade ore, running up to 150 feet and over in width, at the surface, and of unknown depth; 5 to 10 dwts. per ton mill returns from trial crushings are common averages; these reefs could be worked as quarries at small cost, and should in the near future yield important results.

Unlimited water power is available throughout the whole district, fuel is plentiful, and other facilities are all that can be desired for extensive mining operations.

At present, development is only in its infancy; but, as the railway now passes through this region, important results are anticipated in the near future.

Some of the pioneer mines, with primitive appliances, have proved highly productive, and the reefs increase in size, grade and uniformity as depth is attained.

The following is quoted from an address of Mr. Allan Sullivan to the shareholders of the Anglo-Canadian Company in London:

I should like to make a few preliminary observations as to the gold fields of the Lake of the Woods and Rainy River districts. Their area is, approximately, 60,000 square miles, an extent of country 400 miles long by 150 wide, lying directly northwest of Lake Superior and between that magnificent body of water and Winnipeg, which latter place may be said to be the beginning of the prairie country of the West. This region is traversed along its northern edge by the main line of the Canadian Pacific Railway, and there is at present under construction another independent line, called the Ontario & Rainy River Railway, which practically bisects it from end to end. The district has an unrivaled waterway, consisting of a maze of lakes and navigable rivers stretching for hundreds of miles. For instance, I can leave Rat Portage on the Lake of the Woods, which is the point where the Canadian Pacific Railway touches that lake, and take a steamer of 400 tons burden and proceed for 180 miles; I can then take another steamer and proceed another seventy miles, after which canoes are utilized. The ground, where bare rock exposures do not occur, is covered with a dense growth of pine and spruce and other merchantable timber. The most attractive feature of the district is, of course, its auriferous belt. This I find somewhat hard to describe, because this whole enormous tract may be said to compose this auriferous belt. Wherever you go, in any part of it, there are out-cropping reefs varying from one foot to 400 feet, and my personal estimate is that fifty per cent. of these reefs carry gold in appreciable quantities. This high percentage is no exaggeration, and I venture to say it is unparalleled in any other part of the globe. There has been a great deal of volcanic disturbance throughout the district, to which fact I attribute its auriferous qualities. All along and near the edge of the contacts bounding the eruptive points gold is found—sometimes in reefs of outcropping quartz, sometimes in dykes or bands of schistose rocks, through which the solution carrying gold values has percolated with extraordinary uniformity.

I do not consider that the future of the district lies so much in the treatment of the quartz reefs, which vary in size from two feet to six feet and in value from 10 dwts. to 15 dwts., as in the winning of gold from these large dykes, where the marginal profit, while not so great, may be counted upon as absolutely certain. I myself have seen these dykes 300 feet wide, with an average value of 6 dwts., where, under conditions due to available water-power, the cost of treatment should not exceed 3 dwts. In an ore body of this nature a very small amount of development work is necessary to prove the existence of a very large