

CORRESPONDENCE.

EASTERN ALGOMA'S WEALTH.

Editor of THE CANADIAN MINER:

SIR:—As I understand THE CANADIAN MINER has already a fair circulation outside of Canada—and its outside circulation will of course grow—I take the opportunity to call your attention to the fact that in a large portion of the Districts of Algoma, Thunder Bay, Rainy River and Nipissing ("New Ontario") very good agricultural land can be found. I know more about Eastern Algoma than I do about the other districts named, but I am given to understand that they all largely present this feature; namely, that they all contain valleys where splendid soil for farming purposes can be found.

And I wish you would kindly call the attention of your readers in the Old Country and the United States to the fact that "New Ontario" is probably the only mining region in the world where mining and agriculture can be carried on successfully almost side by side, and where the producer and the consumer can live almost side by side.

If any one doubts the agricultural resources of this part of the province, he should attend the fall fairs held at Sault Ste. Marie, Thessalon, Bruce Mines, Iron Bridge and other places along "the North Shore," and he will be surprised and astonished to see the exhibits of all kinds of grain, roots, dairy produce, and even fruits which are raised all over a part of the province of Ontario which bids fair to be a great mining country. Here and there through the district farmers have even gone into the raising of apples, and I am told they have met with great success. (As to this point your readers should write Mr. Wm. Harris, J.P., Day Mills, Algoma.) A country which can successfully raise the different kinds of produce which are yearly exhibited at the different fall fairs I have mentioned cannot be said to be a barren country or to have an inhospitable climate.

Some years ago I took the trouble to gather what information I could on the subject of agriculture in this part of the province, and I interviewed settlers living in different parts of the District and obtained their views and the result of their experience, and I compiled a couple of pamphlets on the subject, which were circulated in the Old Country and which I trust have done and are yet doing good. One of these pamphlets was entitled "Algoma Farmers Testify," of which two editions were printed. I send you a copy, your readers in England can obtain copies from P. Byrne Esq., the agent of the Government of Ontario, Nottingham Buildings, 19 Brunswick street, Liverpool, Eng. The other pamphlet was entitled "Handbook of Information Respecting the District of Algoma," and copies can be obtained from J.G. Colmer Esq., C.M.G., of the High Commissioner's office, 17 Victoria street, London, S.W. I also enclose a copy of this pamphlet. These pamphlets were published under the auspices of the Algoma Colonization Society, in the work of which Mr. A. G. Duncan, J.P., of Marksville, Algoma, took great interest, and largely aided. Mr. Duncan is well known among Algoma mining men, having been one of the very first to endeavor to attract attention to our mining interests, and having been at one time the vice-president of the Vermilion mine near Sudbury.

The Society has widely circulated these two pamphlets over older Canada and to some extent throughout the United States.

I would ask you to read over the two pamphlets which I send you to-day, and to give your readers in the Old Country and the United States a general idea of the kind of country

they would be coming to if they locate in "New Ontario." You will notice a little map on the cover of each pamphlet showing the townships on "the North Shore," between Maimainse point on Lake Superior, N. W. of the "Sault" and Sudbury. I feel sure that if any of your readers wrote (enclosing a stamp for return postage) to either of the two gentlemen I have mentioned or to Alex. McQueen, Korah township, Sault Ste. Marie, Ont., or Henry Knight, President of the Central Algoma Farmers' Institute, Sault Ste. Marie, Ont., asking for further information as to the agricultural resources of "New Ontario" his letter would be answered. Yours faithfully,

FRED ROGERS.

SAULT STE. MARIE.

NEW MINING COMPANIES.

LETTERS patent have been granted incorporating the following mining companies:

The Wabigoon Land Agency, capital \$300,000, in \$10 shares. The incorporators, who seek general mining powers, are John Sifton Dignam, William Henry Jones, manufacturers; Francis Phillips, contractor; Frederick William Garvin, barrister; Robert Samuel King, broker; and Lewis Van Allen, journalist.

The Wabigoon Free Milling Gold Mining Company; capital \$1,000,000, in \$1 shares. The incorporators are: Robert Thornton Johnston, Ontario land surveyor; William Theophilus Stuart, physician; Christopher Conway Robinson and William Holloway Wallbridge, barristers; Archibald Mills, jeweller; Barnett Lawrence, wholesale optician, and Harriet Maude Jewell, widow, all of Toronto.

The Nanki Poo Gold Mining Company of Ottawa; capital \$1,000,000, in \$1 shares. The incorporators are: Albert Henry Edmison, Rat Portage, physician; John Murray Clark, barrister, and James Todhunter, wholesale merchant, both of Toronto; William Andrew Clark, express agent, and Angus William Fraser, barrister, both of Ottawa.

The Eastern Mining Syndicate of Ontario; capital \$1,000,000, in \$1 shares. The incorporators are: John Alexander McGillivray, Uxbridge, barrister, and Alfred Ansley and William Kirkpatrick McNaught, merchants; Thos. Winning Dyas, gentleman, and Hugh C. McLean, publisher.

CLAIM JUMPING, ETC.

MR. WM. MARGACH, Crown Timber Agent at Rat Portage, interviewed by the *Globe*, says: There is a decided increase in the demand for lumber in the mining districts, and the lumber industry is employing nearly a 1,000 men in the Rainy River district alone. As to blanket applications and claim-jumping Mr. M. says: You evidently hear more of it in Toronto than we do up north. Of course, there may be some claim-jumping done, but not nearly to the extent alleged. It would indeed be surprising if there was not an occasional instance. Can you name any line of business in which means are not used by men to outgeneral each other and gain a point? In my opinion the so-called prospector is more of a "blanketer" than the man who takes up a few locations and pays for them. The prospector who takes up a number of locations and does not pay in a cent on them does far more harm, and the department would be justified in disregarding such applications. When a bona-fide purchaser comes along this prospector asks a fabulous price for his so-called location. I know of some explorers on the Seine River and Manitou Lake who have had a number

of locations surveyed but who have not paid a cent on them. They have not even paid for the survey. These are the men who are crying out against those who are willing to pay for the land and take their chances. There are others who don't even send in their applications and plans to the department, knowing that they would next be called upon to pay the purchase money for the first year's rental. They content themselves with doing a few days' work on each claim so as to prevent a purchaser from making the necessary affidavit as to no adverse occupation or improvement.

There should be an inspector appointed for the country north and west of Lake Superior—I mean a competent Government representative, stationed, say, at Rat Portage, who would hear evidence in disputed cases and determine as to the first applicant, the improvements and as to the quality of the evidence offered, and then submit the same to the department at Toronto for a ruling. Such an officer, especially if he had a knowledge of surveying, could be of great use in this way, and he could sift the rival affidavits and claims. The saving of time, too, would be another feature in favor of such an appointment.

The mining activity will increase the risks of fire in the timber for some explorers are unfortunately very careless with fire. A burnt-over country is much more easily explored for minerals, as the vegetable matter is removed, revealing the veins more clearly. They perhaps do not stop to think of the great loss a forest fire causes. As a matter of fact, they should be as much interested in preserving the forest as the lumberman.

There must be 500 men employed in the various mines, and in assisting explorers and prospectors. The greatest activity is in the Lake of the Woods and Shoal Lake districts. The indications, are equally good, though, for the Manitou section, where some of the very best outcroppings have been found. With further development and exploration, I predict that the Manitou country will equal the Lake of the Woods part. Then the Seine River is very promising.

I have been acting as Crown Lands agent temporarily for the past year, and I can therefore speak from experience that the inquiries have been greater than for some years past, not only from Ontario, but especially from Michigan and other States, and I look for a large influx of settlers in the spring to the Rainy River country, where there is excellent land to be had, and where high prices for produce will prevail owing to the demands created by the mining industry.

SMALLEST IN THE WORLD.

THE smallest coal mine in the world is in the southern province of New Zealand, where, according to the reports of the inspectors of mines for the colony, the Murray Creek Colliery is worked by one man, T. Bolitho, a Chinaman, who owns, manages and works this small, but to him valuable, coal mine. There is another small colliery in the same province worked by one man with the assistance of a donkey. The next smallest colliery is in England, in the village of Nelson, in Lancashire. It is situated near the Colliers' Arms, and affords employment for two miners, father and son, who combine in themselves the positions of proprietors, managers, miners and haulers of the undertaking. They have the assistance of a donkey, and all the output of the mine is sold to the householders who live in the village or its immediate vicinity.