The Canadian Miner.

VOL. I. TORONTO, JANUARY 23, 1897. No. 2.

SEVERAL SEINE RIVER MINES.

SOMETHING ABOUT THE CELEBRATED FOLEY MINE, AND THE SAW-BILL, AND HAWK BAY. —THEIR PRESENT DEVELOPMENT.

THE region of the Seine River and Rainy Lake, rivaling in fame the district of the Lake of the Woods, as a gold region, contains a considerable number of partially developed mines, and amongst them the Foley mine, one of the best developed mines west of the Great Lakes. The centre of the region mentioned is Shoal Lake, an expansion of the Seine, around which are clustered many hundreds of mining locations. In the most marked of present developments, a group of Port Arthur men, formerly engaged in quiet commercial pursuits, have been prominent. The group embraces Messrs. Geo. T. Marks, H. A. and F. S. Wyley and others. Amongst the mines with which they have been prominently connected, are the Foley, the Saw-Bill, the Hawk Bay and the Lake Harold, and several others of equal promise.

To a few of the mines we give attention in our present issue.

The Foley Mine.

THE Foley Mine, on Shoal Lake, was owned by a New Jersey company, the Ontario Gold Mines Co., which decided finally to take out an Ontario charter, and reorganized a new company representing the American and Canadian investors. The new company is called the Foley Mines Co. of Ontario, Ltd., with Rod. A. Demme, of Detroit, as President; Hon. Lyman Melvin Jones, Vice-President; W. H. Cawthra, Treasurer; Edmund Bristol, Secretary, and Joseph C. Foley, General Manager of the mines. The capitalization of the company is $200,000, in $5 shares—all paid up. We believe, and say so for the benefit of the curious, who like to know who control the stock of successful companies, that Messrs. Demme and Foley own over 100,000 shares. Notwithstanding the errors that new companies make almost invariably, especially in countries where practical miners are scarce, the mine is rapidly reaching the condition of an ideal mine. We have before us the original report in mining of Mr. J. H. Chewett, B.A.Sc., C.E., of the date November 30, 1896, on this property. The chief development—an outline of which was given in Mr. Harvey's article in our last number—is at the north shaft on the Bonanza vein. From another plan we have seen in the company's office, we assume that the wings and upraise indicated in the plan we have published will be continued to meet adjacent levels. At present, the main shaft, has reached a depth of considerably over 200 feet, and the drifts on either side at the 100, 150 and 200 feet levels have been considerably extended beyond the points reached on November 30th. On January 16th the cross-cut from the 150 foot level to the Jumbo vein was in 95 feet, and it is thought that at 120 feet, or with only 25 feet more tunneling, the Jumbo vein will be reached. That vein averages 5 feet in width at the surface for a distance of 700 feet.

The next most forward mine is at shaft No. 5 on the same vein, and there are various other veins in which shafts had, on December 1st, been carried down to a considerable depth and with results indicating large but, in different veins. varying returns. The ore is free milling to the extent of 88 per cent. on an average. Assays of different veins—and the veins are surprisingly numerous—vary from $5 per ton to $63, with $24 per ton as the average, or say $21 of free milling ore. The cost in the present isolated condition of the property is $6 per ton for mining and milling, leaving a profit of $15 per ton. The quartz from the veins operated at present is very friable, and from 2½ to 3 tons of ore per stamp can be crushed daily. As the lesser figure the 20 stamp mill can crush 50 tons per diem, with a net profit of $750 dollars a day.

The region around Shoal Lake presents remarkable features which will require discussion in a later issue. The vein rock is eruptive. The veins are numerous, and the largest operated does not exceed 6 feet in width. The veins with the greatest surface exposure—the Jumbo and the Bonanza—are close together and cross each other in one place. Nine or 10 veins are already in process of development, but there are 25 other known veins that outcrop on the surface. And all this on an area of 83 acres.

A vein was discovered towards the end of last summer only 300 feet east of shaft No. 5 on the Bonanza, and at date of the report had been wholly stripped for 175 feet, and exposed at intervals for 700 feet. On the surface the width was only 10 to 15 inches. At a depth of 10 feet the width had increased to 20 inches, and the ore was somewhat richer. Some of the assays exceeded $100: the average was $61.58, or in round numbers, $60 per ton. The vein, which is called the "Lucky Joe," may, it is thought, prove to be the best on the property. If the present grade of ore continues, the Lucky Joe would yield, when giving employment to a 20 stamp mill, $2,000 per diem. Since the report was written, the Lucky Joe's shaft has been deepened and on December 21st, it is now about forty feet in depth, and has, if anything, increased in richness.

Since the discovery of Lucky Joe, another promising vein has been discovered 250 feet west of shaft No. 5, but has not yet been sufficiently tested to estimate its value.

The Foley Mine may now be said to have attained the real character of a mine, at least at its main shaft. The mill will probably be in operation this week. Boiler and engine houses are provided, and accommodation for 100 men, and for horses, etc. Four thousand feet of tram-way from the main shaft to the dock on the lake shore have been laid, and between the mostly bare mining area and the water, a town site, under which the veins continue, has been laid out, and various buildings erected. This town site has a deep soil and is well timbered. We would like to enter more fully into a discription of the Foley Mine, for the details are most interesting: but space forbids for the present.

We may mention, however, that the country rock is altered granite, probably due to a movement on the strata that has been the cause of the great fissuring here noticeable. The vein matter is quartz carrying fine gold, iron pyrites, chalcopyrite, galena and zinc blende. Lucky Joe carries an appreciable (financially) quantity of silver. The equipment of the mine embraces a duplex hoist and skip road laid with steel rails for the north shaft; a self dumping car discharging into a hoppered ore bin at the top of a most substantial shaft house, from the ore bin of which the tramway cars, having a capacity of 3 tons each, are filled. The tramway to the dock has sufficient grade to allow the cars to run by their own weight. Compressor, machine and blacksmith shops, crusher, retorts for smelting into bullion, a tug and scows are amongst the equipments in addition to other equipments before mentioned.

***

The Saw-Bill Mines.

THE Saw-Bill Mine is regarded as a most promising property. Its creation is due to the Port Arthur miners before referred to. The company operating it—The Saw-Bill Lake Gold Mining Company is largely a Hamilton concern, embracing Messrs. J. H. Tilden, W. Southam, F. C. Bruce, Thos. H. Lester, H. Becket, John Hoodless, prominent business men of that city, and G. T. Marks, and H. A. & F. S. Wyley, of Port Arthur, W. H. Plummer of Sault Ste Marie, and others. The Local Managing Director is Mr. F. S. Wyley.

To reach the Saw-Bill, the most northern of the three best developed mines in the Seine River district west of Port Arthur, a visitor must get off at Bonheur Station on the C.P.R. Thence by canoe with occasional portaging, he traverses romantic lakes and rivers, bordered by rugged ridges, forest clad slopes and fire swept reaches of scrubby timber, for 33 miles. In winter he makes the distance, after the waters are frozen over, across the ice most of the way, with occasional bits of bush road between. Until a good road or a railway is built, winter will furnish the best opportunity for economical carriage of machinery and supplies to Saw-Bill and the other mines in that neighborhood.

The Saw-Bill mines are situated on Saw-Bill Lake, an arm of the Upper Seine River. Parallel rocky ridges mark the neighborhood. In places the surface is bare, but an ample supply of wood for mining purposes is found, and large pine suitable for building grows on the lake shore. Altered granite (green) is the country rock. The viens carry iron and copper pyrites, galena, and occasionally zinc-blende, the last, however, absent from the Saw-Bill property. Such promising mines as the Regina, Foley, Ferguson, and Lake Harold mines are in the same formation. One vein on the Saw-Bill location is exposed for 650 feet, and again at 1,500 feet. The vein is 2 to 4 feet wide at the surface. At the lowest point on the outcrop the vein is 4 feet wide and at the higher points narrower, hence the original inference that the vein widens as the depth increases—an inference justified by the work done. The cost of treatment is amply covered by