

The Huronian Belt Company of Canada has taken an option on the Murray Mogridge claims near Wolf Lake. These claims were under option to a Montreal syndicate until recently, and considerable work has been done upon them. The veins are wide but of low grade content.

Considerable difficulty has arisen with regard to the stoppage of Farr creek owing to the large tonnage of tailings that has been pouring into it from half a dozen Cobalt mills for the last three or four years. The township of Coleman has taken the matter up and has had a conference with the Mine Managers' Association and the mines particularly concerned. Farr creek is the outlet of Cross lake, and in the past there has been some lumbering activity, which the stoppage of the creek has interfered with. A basis of settlement is now being sought.

The McKinley Darragh continues to mine very remarkable ore from its new vein to the east. The winze which is being put down continues in fine ore.

PORCUPINE, SWASTIKA, KIRKLAND LAKE

Porcupine is more than maintaining its position as one of the sections of the country where there is absolutely no industrial depression as evidenced by the fact that there are several hundred more men at work to-day than at the beginning of the war.

At the Dome Mr. Keading is obtaining a new and more thorough revaluation of the property by diamond drilling. A contract for six drills has been let and five of these have been set up on the surface and one underground. These drills will systematically work over the whole known orebody, 1,700 by 400 ft., this area being divided off into hundred feet blocks and vertical holes being sunk. The management desires to discover as closely as possible at this stage the approximate amount of ore they may expect to obtain, so that a larger mill may be planned for and costs per ton run down at once instead of waiting until data have been obtained by the relatively slow process of opening up level after level by means of drift and crosscut. By systematic diamond drilling it is proposed to get an approximate outline of the tonnage and grade, sufficient at least to found a larger scheme of development upon. There is already six years' ore reserves blocked out, these reserves being computed at the present capacity of the mill, which last month treated over 22,000 tons. The various economies introduced in mine and mill are rapidly having their effect. Costs per ton have been cut to \$2.64 and there is every probability that they will be reduced to \$2.50 before the new year is far advanced.

Production is being maintained at just short of a hundred thousand dollars a month.

The October statement of the Hollinger mines shows a slight diminution in gross profits, but the surplus is now \$1,100,755. Both the milling and mining costs per ton were higher than for the previous months, but so was the average value per ton. It is only to be expected that the mining costs will show an increase for some time, since the completion of the new plant will enable the management to put a large number of drills upon development. To date the demands of the mill have made it imperative to keep most of the drills actually on ore and to cut down barren work to the minimum.

Both of the new compressors in the power house on Gillies lake are running very smoothly indeed. The second Nordberg is on the ground and is being rapidly installed. Before the end of the year the whole of

the new plant should be complete and running. To date eighty drills are being run by the new plant, twelve or fourteen of which are on the Acme, which will now be much more vigorously developed.

Good progress is also being made with the forty stamp addition to the mill. By January they should be dropping on ore and the Hollinger should be treating between 1,100 and 1,200 tons of Hollinger and Acme ore. Twenty of the stamps have been reserved for the Acme.

The vein has been cut in the winze at 800 ft. and shows the same grade and width as on other levels. No. 10 vein has been cut on the 220 ft. level, and No. 2 vein extension has been reached by a crosscut upon the 300 ft. level.

In the new shaft excellent progress is being made and the long crosscut which is to make connection with the Miller Middleton is well commenced.

Plans for a 150 ton mill are being prepared by Mr. Joe Houston, manager of the Schumacher Gold Mines. The treatment will be by cyanide and efforts are being made to include the latest improvements as exemplified in the practice of the camp. In the meantime with the small number of drills running excellent footage is being obtained.

COPPER.

Boston, Nov. 3, 1914.

A serious predicament confronts the copper producers of the United States. As a sequel to the interception off Gibraltar by British war vessels of neutral boats carrying copper and other commodities in their cargoes for neutral ports and the subsequent protest to the state department at Washington by four selling agencies, there has developed the refusal of steamship companies to carry copper to Italy so long as there exists the possibility of detention on the high seas.

Thus there has been put strongly up to the producers of this country the possibility of losing in the near future a large part of the foreign market left for their output following the elimination of Austria and Germany as takers of the metal. England has been taking larger amounts than usual of American copper, but producers do not have the unanimous opinion that England can continue to take large quantities.

When the American producers decided to curtail production 50 per cent. they had in mind the fact that somewhat more than one-half of the country's copper went abroad. Domestic demand has been very quiet for several months, so that in order to "break even" under the restricted output schedule the producers depended upon a reasonable maintenance of the foreign market.

Under the existing extraordinary conditions the exports have been going to Europe at a rate quite comparable with the preceding few months.

England and France have been using large quantities of copper in the manufacture of ammunition. In fact one plant in France has been commandeered by the government to work full time on army orders. Italy has always taken a fair amount of American copper for its own consumption. It also manufactures "bug poison" from bessemerized copper from which comes sulphate of copper. This product is bought by the vine growers of Italy as well as of France.

Crown Reserve has issued notice of the payment of a dividend of 2 per cent. for October. The cheques will be mailed on the 14th and are payable on the 17th of November.