

Madoc Gold Excitement

Of 1866-67

(C. Fraser Aylesworth, O.L.S., in The North Hastings Review)

Our industrious and enthusiastic Chairman of our Committee on Repository and Biography suggested to your humble servant a few years ago that he wanted a history of the Madoc and Eldorado gold excitement. Mr. Chipman and his characteristics are not strangers to the various members of this Association and other associations too numerous to mention. Behind his bespectacled smile there points at one the glint of determination from behind those glasses, that those among us who have known him throughout his long professional career do not hesitate to interpret his "requests" as a mandamus always. Since then I have recognized that I was not a free man until I was released from his mandamus of our worthy Chairman of Repository. Accordingly, through various means, I have tried to obtain a history of the Madoc gold excitement of 1866-67, but always failed.

Being only four years old when this exciting romance developed, I hesitated to undertake the accurate collection of the necessary data, especially since mostly all those interested had passed out of "his shadow of the vale and vain activities." However, when our Secretary a month ago wrote to me suggesting a paper on land surveying and engineering profession viewed from a professional standpoint and an incorporated body of land surveyors and individuals of the profession, I realize that this latter subject required a man behind it endowed with a more polished literary finish than mine, "that only fools walk in where angels feared to tread." I was therefore compelled to act where previously I had hesitated, and with your permission and sympathy I will attempt an imperfect history of the Madoc Gold Excitement. I don't know what Mr. Chipman wants to do excepting that he wants me to tell him where there is a gold mine or how to find one.

In the summer of 1866, Mark Powell and a German or Dutchman named Snider (an old timer) were prospecting for copper on the Richardson farm, being the east half of Lot 18 in the fifth concession of the township of Madoc, being about six miles north of the then small village of Madoc. Powell lived at Malaga, in the township of Marmora, in those days being the township of West-Madoc. Nothing is known now of Snider further than that he was "an old timer."

The Richardson farm is the one that caused the excitement and made Madoc famous. Madoc is twenty-five miles north of Belleville, both in the County of Hastings. Those from whom I sought information concerning the gold excitement were Messrs. Robert T. Gray, Lawyer D. E. K. Stewart and John N. Moore, the two former now and then of Madoc village, and the latter then owner of lot No. 27 adjoining lot 18, the latter being the Richardson farm.

Mr. Gray was then and is yet a popular and successful grocerman of Madoc. Mr. Stewart, while practicing law in Madoc, still finds time

to indulge in mining. Mr. John Moore has been Reeve of Madoc township and has been entrusted with many positions of responsibility and trust.

Mr. Stewart says that gold was first detected in the matter mined by Powell and Snider by Fred Marshall, that the latter was a drummer and a spectacular drummer, tall and athletic, in the Battalion that went from Belleville to Prescott to defend Canada against the Fenian Raid in 1866; that he would twirl the drumstick in the air in a manner that when it hit the drum it did so in such a manner as to cause consternation among the Fenians who were across the St. Lawrence on the American side. After the raid was over, Marshall returned to Belleville, and hearing of the gold excitement in Madoc, he came out and immediately went to where Powell and Snider were prospecting for copper. He told them that their copper was gold, and they got mad and handed him some mining phrases that are fit to be repeated only to miners. Stewart says this started the excitement. Mr. R. T. Gray says the late Lyman Moon of Madoc got two fire-shovels full of decomposed sulphurites from where Powell and Snider were mining that they conveyed to Madoc in a pillow slip, and from which they washed one hundred and ninety-three dollars worth of gold. This started the excitement. Another story is that Messrs. Gray and Moon took some of this vein matter to the late G. D. Rowe, a jeweller in Madoc, who pronounced it gold, after a blow-pipe test, and that this caused the excitement. Mr. Gray also says that Logan was the Canadian Geological Director at this time. He had two geologists, Verner and Perigue, examining the rocks throughout Madoc then, that one Sunday they went up to Eldorado to see what all the excitement there was about. When they returned, Gray who was boarding at Moon's hotel, where they also boarded, asked them what they found. They replied that they were permitted to put their hand into a hole and bring out black sand containing gold, but that the same hole would permit one to put the sand in there, and that they would like to see some of the wall rock containing gold. Gray replied that he had samples in store in dolomite. They went over and saw his samples, which they pronounced gold. These samples were densely dotted with gold showings like wheat grains. Old miners said that was the only place they ever saw gold in dolomite.

Moon went to the old Madoc House in Belleville with samples. While sitting there a number of the leading citizens of Belleville were discussing the excitement, the formation of a company, and how they would get the Richardson property. But a Yankee named J. F. Carr, of Boston, who was then drilling for oil near Belleville, sat near and overheard these men. When they dispersed he turned to Moon and discussed getting the mine ahead of them, and asked him if he knew anyone who could intercede for him with Richardson. Moon suggested Gray. Carr said he would give Gray \$1,000 if he would get it. Carr came to Madoc, and upon being introduced to Gray the two went to Eldorado. They found Richardson home. Carr offered him ten thousand dollars for his property. Richardson wanted \$20,000, so after looking over the property, Carr and Gray came away, and Carr came to Belleville without closing the deal.

There Carr found great excitement, and the same citizens still after the mine. Then Carr immediately wrote a letter and despatched a special messenger back to Madoc to Moon to get Gray to get a lawyer and go to Richardson and get a sixty-day option. Gray did this and procured an option on the south-east 19 1/2 acres for sixty days for \$20,000. Gray also sent in a special rider eight miles to Malone to get Powell to settle, but the latter would not come, so Gray and the lawyer went to Malone that night having to change horses on the way. Powell demanded \$15,000 for his interest, but Gray had no authority from Carr to deal with him that way so returned to Madoc. Then he went to Belleville and met Carr, who was waiting for him, and both went and put documents on record.

Gray now says he made the mistake of not getting the option put in his own name, as Carr never paid him the \$1,000.

Gray and Carr then returned to Madoc and put a building over the

mine, and a man named Joe Ellivier armed with a gun, on guard. The story goes that Ellivier did a nice little blind pig business in this rendezvous. Then Carr took samples of mine and returned to Boston where evidently, but without success, he tried to organize a company to supply the money to meet the option.

In the meantime Messrs. Lomax and Haddon of Chicago were waiting to see if Carr failed. He did fail, and Lomax and Haddon paid Richardson his \$20,000, and Powell his \$15,000. Then the fat was in the fire. Carr claimed that time was not the essence of the contract, and law began. Meanwhile people were flocking in.

Under one large boulder in this property near the mouth of the shaft of this pocket a piece of gold nearly an inch square was found. The main pocket was about 15 feet deep and 10 by 12 square.

Twenty-five mounted police were sent in and barracks were built for them to maintain order. During this excitement prospectors and miners galore were abroad in this country, nearly every farm within a radius of ten miles of the Richardson property having a prospecting shaft sunk on it looking for gold.

Regarding the geological formation of the Richardson farm district I will quote from a report of progress from 1886 to 1899, pages 145 to 147 of the Geological Survey of Canada. I may state that this is the only official report on this property. "In the early part of August, 1886, while exploring in the neighborhood of Bannockburn Village, in the township of Madoc, I was informed that a metal, supposed to be gold, had just been taken from an opening in the eighteenth lot of the fifth range of the township of Madoc, on the property of Mr. J. Richardson. A visit was at once made to the locality and the lot was found to be the same as that on which openings had previously been made for copper ore described in Mr. McFarlane's report of 1866. Mr. Richardson informed me that a person named Powell and an old Dutch miner had lately found a piece of yellow metal resembling copper, which he could heat out into thin leaves. At my request he showed me the specimen which he had collected and I at once informed him that the metal was gold.

The opening from which it was taken was on the east end of the lot, the copper veins being near the south-west corner, and in it an irregular layer of chlorite and epidote gneiss was overlaid by a siliceous ferruginous dolomite, and underlain by a band resembling an impure slate, the whole dipping N 5 degrees E. 45 degrees.

"The seat of the gold appears to be a crevice of longitudinal oval form about four feet below the surface, which was filled with ferruginous earth in which were scattered fragments of black carbonaceous matter, the latter showing when broken small flakes or scales of metal, possibly derived to be in the schist, at its junction with the dolomite, and presented an attitude conformable with the stratification."

This is, I believe, to have been the earliest discovery of the metal, and samples were procured and sent to the Geological Survey Office long before any reports were officially circulated as to its existence in the township. Having remained in the vicinity of the opening for a few days while some fresh blasts were made, and seeing no further development of the precious metal, my general exploration continued.

Early in October, however, information was brought to me that further discoveries of gold had been made on the Richardson lot, and returning, I found that at a depth of fifteen feet another open crevice had been struck, which, beyond doubt, had proved rich in the metal. By permission of Mr. Richardson I examined the opening, and took such samples for assay as were thought proper. The shaft, to the depth of fifteen feet with a transverse measure of about seven feet, had been sunk the whole way on the slope of the strata which were of the same character as those already described. The chlorite and epidote gneiss appeared to be much intermingled with caliche and bitter spar, even in short, horizontal interlocking patches, each an inch or so thick, in a total width of about eighteen inches at right angles to the stratification, and in place of them were occasionally small openings partially filled with the ferruginous earth, in several of which gold was detected. The opening at the bottom,

which was of a nearly spherical shape on the plane of the bed, and about eighteen inches across the stratification, appeared to indicate the whole thickness of the band holding the smaller dolomite patches and cavities above. It was partially filled with the same brown ferruginous earth as before mentioned, with which black carbonaceous matter was much intermingled. In some parts of the opening this black substance appeared to adhere to the chlorite schist and in others to the dolomite.

(To be continued.)

ENTERPRISE

Mr. Everett Smith lost a valuable horse last week in Carman Creek, while plowing for Mr. Jas. Milligan.

Mr. John Byrns, an old resident four miles north of the village, passed away at his home last week, aged eighty-seven years. Remains were taken to R. O. Church, Centerville, where Rev. Father McCarthy conducted the service.

This morning death visited the home of Mr. and Mrs. Leo Flynn, calling a very bright little girl of three years. The community extends sympathy to the bereaved friends.

The play "Brother Josiah" was rendered the second time in B. O. Jackson's hall by the young people of the Methodist church.

Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Graham entertained a number of their juvenile friends Saturday evening in honor of their children, Floyd and Mona Graham.

One of our village stores have changed hands as Mr. John L. Wilson and Mr. Clarence Weese have bought the building and contents from Mr. W. Mellow and will conduct the business in the future.

Mr. Walter Penwick is spending a few days in the northern country. Our milliners are busy preparing for the Easter Openings.

Our town is still without a barber, which causes our villagers to drive eight miles to have their work done. Our three neighboring villages also regret the inconvenience of no barber at Enterprise.

The rain we had last week was generally welcomed as many were in need of water.

The "flu" is quite prevalent in the country. Only one family in the village visited as yet.

Mr. Cyrus Wages has purchased the residence of Mr. Irvin Wagar so will move in the near future. Mr. Corey will take possession of Mr. Wagar's farm for the coming season.

The snow is going rapidly, making us think of spring.

Crows have been seen.

NAPANEE

Miss Yeomans, of Belleville, was the guest of Mrs. W. S. Herrington last week.

Dr. Scott, of Belleville, officiated at both services at Trinity Church on Sunday last.

Mr. and Mrs. Irvin Wagar and Miss Leitha are spending a few days in Colebrook this week.

Mrs. H. Mead has gone to Toronto to be with her daughter, Mrs. Maud Hoar, who is very ill.

Mrs. Geo. Shibley came down from Woodstock on Tuesday and is the guest of her brother, Mr. J. H. Ham, Morven.

Mrs. Damon L. Snider is spending a short time visiting friends in Peterboro.

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Day, of Portmouth, spent a couple of days this week at Mr. J. M. Spafford's, Switzerville.

Mrs. H. Herring, who has been visiting her sister, Mrs. Taylor, in London, Ont., returned to Napanee on Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. B. F. Davey took their daughter Helen to Kingston on Thursday to consult a surgeon. She will be operated on for appendicitis on Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Wagar and family left on Tuesday for their home in Forest River, N.D., after spending a few months in this vicinity visiting her brother, Mr. W. L. Peltors, and other relatives.

Friends of Mrs. Clayton Garrison-Morris will be glad to know she is improving nicely, after having undergone a successful operation by Dr. Bogart and Galbraith, in Kingston General Hospital.

Mr. J. G. D. Spafford, manager of the Standard Bank, Raymond, Alta., spent a few days at his home in Switzerville, after attending the annual meeting of the Standard Bank in Toronto.

Mrs. T. D. Sneath and Miss Rooney, of London, England, are taking a six weeks' trip in the Eastern States, and having friends in Boston, Baltimore, Washington and New York City.

On Monday evening of this week Mr. Markland Miles entertained a number of friends in honor of his mother's birthday. The first part of

the evening was spent in cards, after which supper was served, and the remainder of the evening was spent in dancing. During the evening Mrs. Miles was presented with a cut glass jug.

The dinner party given by Mrs. Cameron Wilson was a happy social event of last week. Covers were laid for fourteen. Mrs. Wilson welcomed her guests in the living room, which was most fascinating with its soft glow of shaded light and cosy grate fire, and she wore a striking gown of blue tulle, heavily trimmed in Oriental embroidery. During the evening five hundred was played and the prizes—hand-painted baskets, the artistic work of the clever young hostess—were won by Mrs. P. P. Miller and Miss A. Thompson. Before leaving the guests had the pleasure of seeing some exquisite paintings done by Mrs. Wilson, whose ability in this line is parallel to her musical talent.—Beaver and Express.

MARMORA

Reeve B. T. Gray was in Peterboro a couple of days last week.

Mr. Hugh Shannon left today to visit his daughter at Copper Cliff.

Mr. and Mrs. Pine, of New York, were guests of Mr. and Mrs. F. S. Pearce last Friday.

Mrs. Pearce and her two children, Reeve and Cora, are spending a few days with relatives in Marmora.

Mrs. Feeney and three grandchildren of Madoc township, are visiting the former's daughter, Mrs. Wm. Flynn.

Mr. F. S. Pearce is in Toronto attending the annual meeting of the Canadian Mining Institute and of the Dominion Alliance.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Pickel, of Hillier, visited the latter's son, Mr. Lorne Gray and other relatives in Marmora last week.

Miss Flossie Boyd has been ill with influenza in Hawkeford for nearly two weeks, but is recovering and expects to return home this week.

Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Storing, who were ill with the flu, are able to be around again.

Mr. D. E. Bell, who some time ago was appointed Local Chairman of the O.R.T., Toronto Div., is in Montreal this week in connection with his new duties.

Mr. Thos. R. Warren, who has been at his home here for several weeks, returned to Ottawa on Tuesday where he will assist in painting and decorating a large number of new houses.

Miss Genevieve Shannon has been confined to her home for the past couple of weeks through illness and her cousin, Miss Rose Devine, is taking her place in the Post Office.

Mr. Joe McFarlane is in Kingston undergoing medical treatment for the removal of fragments of shrapnel, which lodged in his body when he was wounded while overseas.

Mr. Robt. Scott had a very serious accident at Deloro last Saturday evening. He was operating a machine when his coat caught in some way, drawing him down so that his face was against the stone. His face was badly cut. Fortunately he was able to stop the machine, or the result might have been fatal.—Marmora Herald.

Several Markets for Export Crop

France and Belgium Want Credits. However—Dispute With Greece.

LONDON, March 15.—The last bushel of the 1919 export surplus of Canadian wheat was sold some months ago. If Canada is prepared to give credit most of the 1920 wheat crop may be considered already disposed of, although the first blade has not even sprouted from the ground. The effect of the reopening of trade with Russia has already been discounted as far as her available wheat supplies are concerned. Conditions are so unsettled and the transport system so bad that Russian grain will not be a serious competitor with the Canadian crop this year. It is simply afforded by the fact that the French, Belgian and Greek Governments, which, with the British Government, took most of last year's crop, are all in the market for the 1920 supplies. Belgium and France, however, are asking for a credit. This Canada has refused to give for wheat in the past, but it remains to be seen whether the Dominion can maintain this attitude this year. The Greek Government will probably continue to pay cash, as they have been doing. Rumours will grow all her own wheat this year, but the British Government will be in the market again.

It now appears certain that the dispute between the Canadian trade commission and the Greek Govern-

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THE ADRIATIC DISPUTE

Written for The Ontario by Chas. M. Bice, Lawyer, Denver, Colorado.

The Adriatic dispute has gone through so many phases that one reads of it now with a sort of bewilderment which fails to grasp its salient features.

In brief, the history of the case is this: When Italy entered the war in April 1915, France, Russia and Great Britain made her a pact by which in the event of victory, she was to add to her domain what was their territory of the dual monarchy (Austria) lying west of a line that began near Travis, on the north, and ran south to the outskirts of Fiume. This included the whole of the Isonzo valley region and the Istrian peninsula. Further, Italy was to have the islands of Cherso, Lussin, Pago, and adjacent islands of Lissa, Lesina, Curzola, Lagosta, Meloda and Pelagossa. A considerable area of continental Dalmatia was to be given to her also, including the seaport towns of Zara and Sebenico. She was to have sovereignty in Aolona and control of Albania in its foreign relations.

The making of this treaty meant a steady prediction upon the continued existence of Austria. The liberation of the Yugoslavs was not at that time contemplated.

In July, 1917, however, the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes held a delegate conference at Corfu and declared a union of the three peoples, claiming all territory compactly inhabited by them "without mutilation or attainment to the vital interests of the community."

Out of this came great conferences between representatives of the Yugoslavs and the Italians, leading to what is known as the "past of Rome," in which it was agreed that the differences between the two peoples should be amicably settled upon the basis of nationality and the right of peoples to decide their own destiny.

Italy's sweeping victory over the dual monarchy inclined her statesmen to interpret this pact with an Italian accent on its terms when the peace conference met. They reverted to the treaty of London, and added a demand for Fiume. When the Yugoslavs asked for arbitration, Italy refused.

In April, 1919, President Wilson presented his counter proposal to Italy, drawing what is now known as the "Wilson line." This line followed

ed fairly closely the London line in its upper third, but in its lower two-thirds swung westward from it some ten to twenty miles, thus reducing the amount of territory to be granted Italy, and including Volosca and a strip of the southeastern coast of the Istrian peninsula within the Yugoslav domain. It, of course, gave Fiume to the latter, as well as the whole of Dalmatia, Lissa and Aolona were allotted to Italy.

There followed a series of attempted compromises. On May 29th it was announced that "Cavour Orlando had accepted—on behalf of Italy a proposal, approved by President Wilson, by which Fiume, without Sussak, but with territory to the west reaching the Italian frontier, would be constituted an independent state to be controlled by the League of Nations. Italy was to abandon her claim to the Dalmatian hinterland, but to be given Zara and Sebenico in full sovereignty, with the islands of Cherso, Lussin, Lissa and Pelagossa. Further, she was to have a mandate for Albania.

But this plan of settlement was rejected by the Yugoslavs. Then entered D'Annunzio to further complicate the situation. He seized Fiume, where, against the will of a majority of the people, he still stands. Affairs drifted, the powers awaiting some action on the part of Italy which would remove D'Annunzio as an embarrassment. Italy found the situation too delicate to handle with force.

Negotiations were resumed in October, resulting in the proposal for settlement made by the allied premiers in January. This provides for a small, autonomous Fiume—a free city—but gives western Istria and Volosca, as far as the outskirts of Fiume to the Italians. The Yugoslavs got Sussak, while the port and rail terminals of Fiume and the port of Barosa, a part of Sussak, are to be administered by the League of Nations. Italy gets the islands of Lussin, Lissa and Pelagossa. The islands left to the Yugoslavs are to be demilitarized. The Yugoslavs rejected this compromise. The allied premiers then notified them that they would be compelled to enforce the treaty of London. At this point Pres. Wilson again interposed and the end is not yet.

In their night clothes when a fire broke out in the kitchen of their tenement.

H. S. Johnston, Calgary, has accepted a position as hydraulic engineer of the Nova Scotia Power Commission in Halifax.

Kincardine's G.W.V.A. will ask the City Council for a grant towards the erection of a monument to the fallen soldiers of the district.

It is reported in Berlin that Polish soldiers have smuggled many rifles into Poland, and are endeavoring to arrange an outbreak in the rear of the Polish army.

The Yukon Legislature will be opened on April 7.

Canadian Warrior, the Canadian Merchant Marine steamer, bound for a West Indian port, was compelled to land at Yarmouth owing to engine trouble.

The Furus liner Maplemore will tow the disabled U. S. steamer Lake Hillbroke into Halifax harbor.

George Brando, his wife and seven children, of Halifax, N.S., escaped

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