

show any free gold, nevertheless yields over twenty dollars to the ton. These veins, in some instances, can be traced for a distance of a mile or more. There are also instances where veins are showing a width of thirty feet with an assay value of ten dollars, and he can quote instances where even this can be exceeded in large deposits. The only thing wanted in this district, Mr. Ahn declares, is systematic development, and he is fully satisfied that at a depth of 500 to 1,000 feet, these veins will be found to be continuous, and, judging from the work already done, an improvement in value over surface indications.

It appears that the average product for the best gold fields throughout the world is about \$12 a ton, whereas, here, the few mills that have so far been put in operation, have been giving returns of nearly double that amount. For instance the Sultana output, he says, averages \$3,500 per week, and as their stamp mill is not capable of treating more than twenty tons a day, this shows a return of over \$28 a ton. This may be taken as a fair average of this gold field, and for an exceptionally rich return, we might instance the Golden Gate mine, which has so far produced \$60 per ton for ore milled.

Mr. Ahn says that he has always avoided anything that would have a tendency to boom the district. Indeed, the writer found that it was the general feeling of the residents of Rat Portage that a boom was a thing to be avoided, if possible. They appear to be quite confident that they have a very good thing, and are anxious to get hold of as much of it as they can, before values of property go up to big prices. Nevertheless, everyone will welcome the investment of capital upon the work of development, and as this has already begun to come into the district in considerable quantities, it is pretty certain that, in a very short time, Rat Portage will become a really large town, and it is probable that the residents will find it difficult to avoid something in the nature of a boom, though probably a healthy one.

With regard to the Reduction Works of which Mr. Ahn has been the manager, he says that they were established for the purpose of treating ores on a customs basis; and they will, if requirements demand it, be increased to any capacity necessary. It is, moreover, the intention of the company to add to the present works a complete system of chlorination, so that all ores can be treated to a finish; that is to say, not only will the free gold be taken out, but also the concentrates will be afterwards chemically treated, and, by this means, the whole of the assay value of the ore

will be obtained. The mill is now capable of treating 45 tons a day. It was run for some time last fall to test its capabilities, and what work was done, showed that all the gold, and also silver, obtainable by a free milling process was secured. The mill was open at any time to anyone who had ore under treatment, so that everyone had an opportunity of witnessing the process, and of fully satisfying themselves that they were getting all that could be obtained from the ores.

Speaking of the immediate prospect for development in the district, Mr. Ahn said that one of the richest and most experienced mining companies in Europe have given him instructions to secure them a number of properties here, with the view of commencing operations on a large scale, and the company will put in several million dollars of capital, as soon as the work requires it. Mr. Ahn is manager of the Golden Gate Mining company; and he says that he has a large number of enquiries from different monetary centres in Europe for properties in this district.

Up to the present, there are six English companies already here, namely, the Dominion Gold Mining and Reduction company, the Regina Gold Mining company, the Mines Contract

secured properties; and are preparing to operate at different portions of the Belt. As regards the Golden Gate company, Mr. Ahn says that it is principally a Montreal enterprise.

Speaking of gold mining generally, Mr. Ahn points out that the general impression that it is something of a gamble is a very mistaken one, when it is carried on as a legitimate industry in the way that it is mostly done at present. He draws attention to the fact that there is no more money lost at it than in business, and that it has very much greater possibilities of making huge profits. There is always the great advantage about it that there can be no fluctuation in price, and that there is no possibility of over-production. Mining to-day is, in fact, a legitimate business, and there is no longer the element of rash speculation about it that there used to be. Moreover, the improved systems of treating ore make it possible, to-day, to profitably treat ores that even so recently as ten years ago, were passed by as useless and unprofitable.

Finally, Mr. Ahn admits that after an experience of many years in several of the great gold fields of the world he is thoroughly satisfied with this Lake of the Woods district. He has every confidence in it, and intends to



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company, a company represented by Mr. Ferguson, besides two other companies in the Rainy river district. There is also a French company preparing to start operations, and a wealthy Belgian syndicate is carrying on negotiations for the purchase of a large block of property. Besides these from the other side of the Atlantic, there might be fully half a dozen American companies, who have

remain with it, in the hope that within five years it will have become one of the largest mining camps in the world.

We have Mr. Ahn's permission to state that if these remarks should arouse the interest of any readers at a distance, he will be pleased to give them any further information they may require.