

According to unofficial information, it is learned that interests of Bedford, N.Y., have acquired the property of the Hill Gold Mines, in the Painkiller Lake district, and that the property will be worked under a new name, probably the Beattie Gold Mines.

According to advice just to hand, the Crown Reserve Mining Company has purchased two mining claims in the Larder Lake gold area. The two claims are part of a group of thirteen owned by N. N. Maloof, of Haileybury, and are situated about a little less than half way between the Harris Maxwell, one and a half miles north-east from the Harris-Maxwell and the Kerr-Addison. The claims in question were originally staked by Eli Tripp. Work carried on has uncovered some very promising showings. A highly mineralized porphyry dike which has been uncovered on the two claims just sold, has also been traced over a portion of the group still retained by Maloof.

In the Maple Mountain section of the Elk Lake district a good deal of inconvenience is being caused by the lack of satisfactory transportation facilities. During the past several years a considerable amount of exploration and development work has been done on the White Reserve property and a substantial amount of silver ore has been opened up. This is another district where the government could be of assistance.

Cobalt Strike Situation.

The deadlock in the labor situation at Cobalt continues. After one of the most sincere and unbiased efforts on record, a committee of returned soldiers acting as a neutral body, have failed to find a solution to the labor strike. This committee, after approaching the Cobalt Miners' Union with the suggestion that a ballot be cast on the question of whether or not the men favored a return to work on conditions which existed before the strike was called, which suggestions were rejected, approached the Mine Managers of Cobalt, who granted them a hearing and even went so far as to concede to the request that a system of collective bargaining be agreed upon, and that all employees be taken back without discrimination accordingly as positions should be available. These concessions, presented by the Temiskaming Mine Managers' Association to the Committee of Returned Men, were placed before the workers of Cobalt together with the request that each man, union and non-union, should record his vote as to whether or not he favored the proposition. The matter was placed before the workers without recommendation or otherwise. Regardless of the fact that the workers were asked to vote either for or against the matter of returning to work, or remaining on strike, the executive of the Union ordered the members of that organization to not cast their ballot, under penalty of being expelled from the union. As a consequence of this the ballot taken is scarcely representative of all the workers of Cobalt.

The executive of the Cobalt Miners' Union declare that they recommended to their members that the matter be voted upon, but that the members refused to support the recommendation. This is construed as constituting a lack of confidence in the judgment of the executive.

Owing to the failure of the Returned Soldiers' Committee to find a solution, the strike continues. The situation now is this: The Cobalt Miners' Union oppose the interference of a neutral organization. The Temiskaming Mine Managers' Association refuse to recognize or

deal with the Cobalt Miners' Union. Thus, as a consequence of neutral influence or effort being of no avail, the gulf has broadened.

To the neutral observer, the situation presents every indication of being a more or less tame affair for some considerable time to come, in that with the union defying its members to vote on any proposal put forward by neutral bodies, and the mine managers refusing to recognize the union, there would appear to be no likelihood of a solution being found or even suggested under the present circumstance.

The false impression has gone abroad in badly informed circles that the Returned Soldiers' Committee was endeavoring to break the strike. As far as can be seen, just the opposite has been the case. For instance, in presenting their proposal for the expression of opinion as to whether or not the workers of Cobalt would return to work under a system of collective bargaining, the Committee appears to have refrained entirely from making any recommendations for or against the plan, and presented it as a neutral body, even carrying their neutrality to the point of actually not casting their own ballot on the question, although, as workers in the closed mines and plants, they were legitimately entitled to record their votes. The workers and the business men of Cobalt would appear to be indebted to the Returned Soldiers' Committee for their commendable endeavor to secure an unbiased and representative expression of opinion of all the employees affected in the present labor strike, despite the fact that success has been denied them.

Company Incorporated to Aid Prospecting.

A new company, known as the Prospectors' Development Company, Limited, has been incorporated, which plans the organized development of promising mining properties in Northern Ontario. The company is capitalized at \$2,000,000 divided into \$1 shares. There has been no promotion stock issued, the entire stock remaining in the treasury. The scheme is the first of its kind to be undertaken in this country and may reasonably be expected to enlist a good deal of support. The incorporators are men of good reputation in the mining field, the following gentlemen being identified with the enterprise: John B. Holden, of Toronto, Harry Oakes, president of the Lake Shore Mine; H. H. Johnson, of the Tough-Oakes; Wm. Wright, original owner of the Wright-Hargreaves' mine; Mr. Bain, of Bicknell, Bain, McDonald & Gordon, and others, which gives assurance of integrity.

The plan is to have prospectors register their holdings with the company, and, if the property possesses merit the holders are to be paid a limited amount of stock in the company, which will carry out the necessary assessment work obligations and receive a small percentage in each claim for each instalment of work paid for. It is planned to carry properties through the prospecting stage and make it possible for the prospectors to still be interested in the mines that may result from work done, instead of, as has been usual, the prospector not getting his full measure of reward in cases where he has been the discoverer of large mines.

West Shining Tree District.

A large amount of diamond drill work is to be done in the West Shining Tree district this year. Although Mr. Hore's recent report on the district marked it as one of more or less uncertainty, but presenting considerable possibilities, the feeling exists that there are