

# TIMMINS, THE NEW TOWN OF THE PORCUPINE DISTRICT

In Close Proximity to Some of the Larger Mines, Timmins is a Town of Homes. Adequate Fire Protection Provided With Modern Civic Conveniences.

When the gold mining camp to the south and west of Porcupine Lake began to open up one of the first things to be done was the locating of a townsite, since a town and mining camp have gone hand in hand from time immemorial and always will.

The present location of the thriving Town of Timmins gave every indication of being the choicest spot in Tisdale Township, where the business of the western portion of the Porcupine Camp might be centred, and it has not failed to live up to these early indications.

Some of the mines having done considerable development work before the early part of the year 1912. The Timmins townsite was laid out at that time, and in three years that the town has been in existence the growth and progress that has been made is nothing short of phenomenal.

Timmins is situated a little over 33 miles by rail west from the main line of the Temiskaming and Northern Ontario Railway in the Township of Tisdale, and is about seven miles west of the town known as South Porcupine, located at the south end of Porcupine Lake. The site, which is some square miles in extent, is a high sandy knoll, so that unlike the surrounding country, no great inconvenience is suffered by the spring thaw or during the rainiest days of the summer season, the roads being quite dry a short time after the heaviest rainfall.

The general lay-out of the streets was done in the best manner possible by the Timmins Townsite Company, Limited, and following its incorporation in 1912, at which time the major portion of the lots had been sold, the people started in to make the improvements they thought necessary to meet the demands they knew would, and which has since been made upon the place, to take care of the business that has resulted from the great mining development that has taken place. It was absolutely necessary to do this if the town was to grow as nearly all of the business is drawn from the mines and allied interests, where about 2000 men are employed.

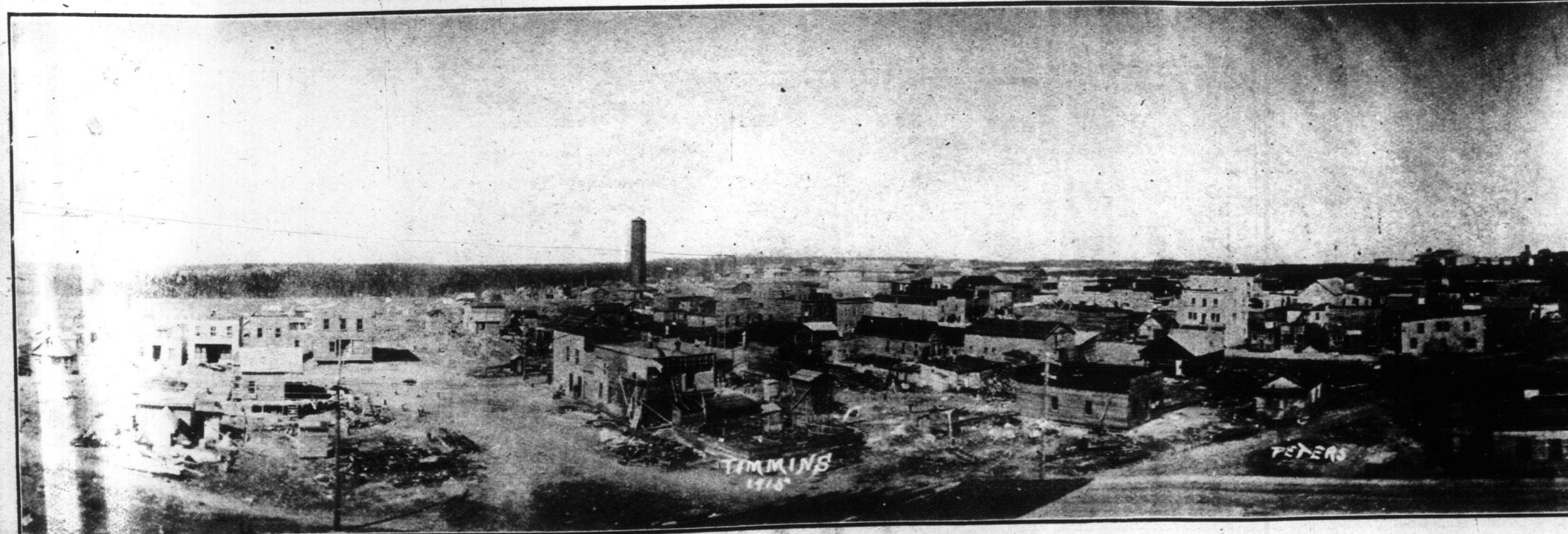
The most notable feature, and one that has cost in the neighborhood of \$100,000, is the first-class water system that has been installed. The water is obtained from the Matagami River, lying about three-quarters of a mile from the west limits of the town, and before any work on the plant was done an inspection of the whole region was made by the provincial board of health for Ontario, which body approved the use of the water from the Matagami in which river there is quiet a rapid current, and together with its distance from the town, makes very remote the possibility of contamination of any kind whatever.

The town service is supplied by an immense standpipe, to which the water is pumped up a slight grade from the intake at the river, but the supply and service mains are so arranged that except in emergencies the water is pumped into the street mains direct at a pressure of about fifty pounds. In this way it is possible to keep a large supply in the standpipe, making available at all times a high pressure for fire purposes.

To supplement this the town is provided with a powerful portable fire engine of the Waterous build, as well as a hose-wagon of the latest design, and these are in charge of a competent engineer who is ready to answer a call at any time, together with a well trained volunteer fire-fighting force. In order to facilitate matters, a system of fire signal boxes has been installed so that the brigade can be called out from almost any part of the town. Hydrants are also provided and in close proximity to these fire-hose boxes are located, and as water mains have been laid on all except the streets opened up of late the town is practically removed from the danger of a large conflagration.



3rd Avenue, Looking East.



View of Timmins From the "Hollinger" Hill.

An abundant supply of electric energy has helped, perhaps more than anything else, to give the Town of Timmins a prosperous appearance, and at the same time has been the means of attracting industries that otherwise could find no place in the town's activities. This electric power, which is supplied by the Northern Ontario Light and Power Company, and is produced at their hydro-electric generating station at Sandy Falls on the Matagami River, furnishes light for all the streets of the town, and all the places of business as well as the residences are wired for and use electric light. It is hardly necessary to say that this excellent lighting and power service adds

operations thru having to work in them daily. At the present time many buildings are being erected, but so far the demand has exceeded the supply, and this is likely to be the case for some time as the population, which is now about 3500 is growing very rapidly.

At the present time there are several new public buildings under way or mooted. The two most notable are the office building being erected by J. W. Reed and the hospital. The Reed building will occupy one of the most prominent corners in the town, having a frontage on the two main streets. It will be two stories high with a floor area 30x78 feet; of steel and tile construction with a Milton



Bird's-Eye View of Timmins From the Water-Tower.

more than anything else in giving Timmins somewhat of a metropolitan appearance when night falls.

Among the other town improvements wide concrete sidewalks take an important place. These have been laid on the main thoroughfares and are of a width worthy of a city. The streets generally are a splendid width and grading has been done preparatory to the putting down of macadamized pavements, which latter work will likely be done before snow flies next winter.

The means of communication with the outside world are par excellence and there is now no such thing as being "buried alive" during the spring thaw or at any other time for that matter, as was the case in some of the mining camps of this northland only a few years ago, and is today even in some sections.

Direct telegraph and long distance telephone service is to be had at all times, not only to the outside world but to all parts of the surrounding territory, including the mines and neighboring towns of South Porcupine and Golden City.

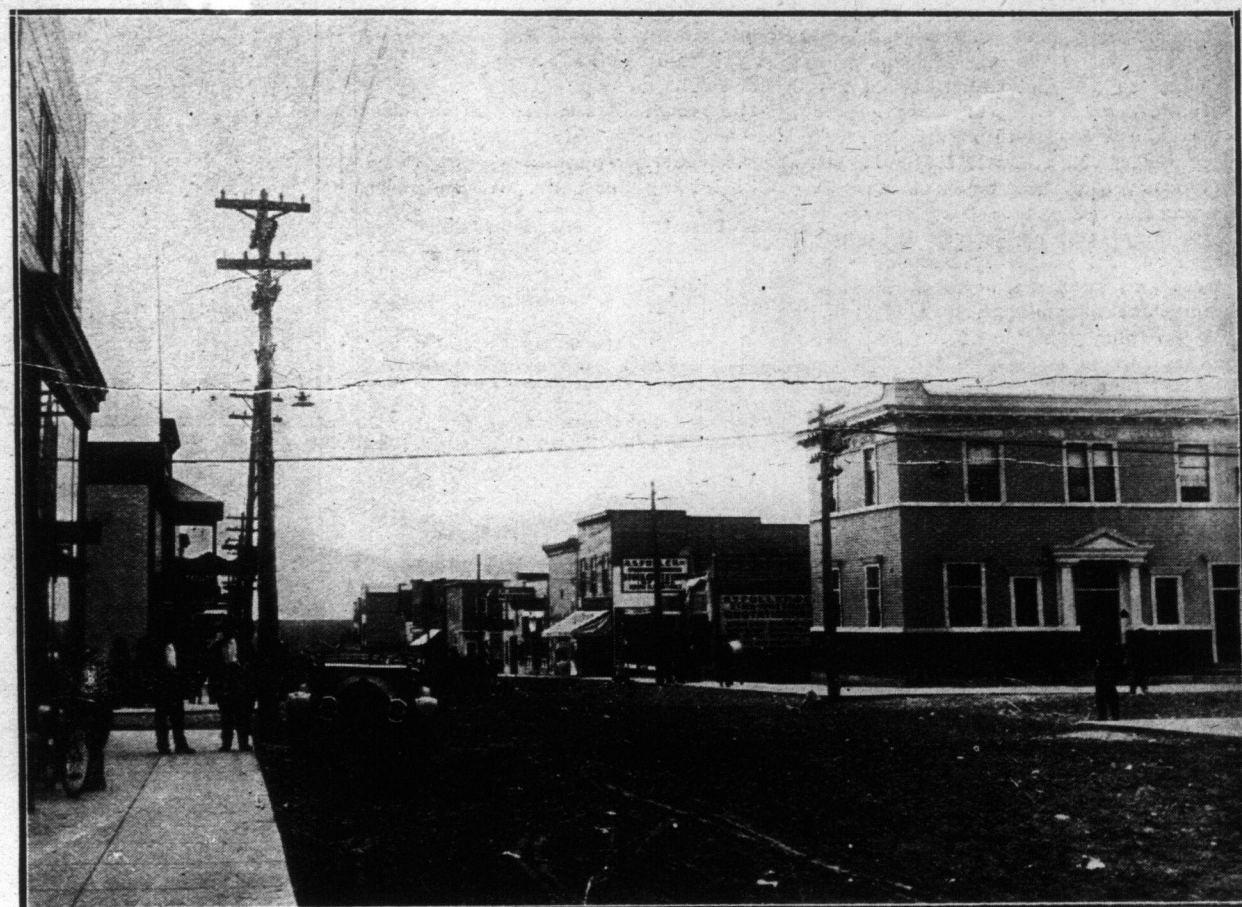
The railway service is such that there is even no suggestion of improvement. The Temiskaming and Northern Ontario Railway run three passenger trains daily to and from Timmins to Porcupine Junction on their main line, stopping at the intervening points of Schumacher, South Porcupine, Porcupine, Three Nations, Keys, Connaught and Kilburn. At all of these places there are either mining or lumbering operations being carried on. At Porcupine Junction direct connection may be made for all points on the main line of the Temiskaming and Northern Ontario Railway from Cochrane to North Bay. Here, also, connection may be made with the thru trains for Ottawa, Montreal and Toronto over the Grand Trunk and Canadian Pacific, and with the putting on of the new transcontinental service connection may also be made with that train for Winnipeg, Toronto, or Montreal.

In connection with transportation facilities the new government road is of interest. This road, which is now nearing completion, will join up all the camps from Golden City on the east and extending thru Timmins will run into the adjoining Township of Mountjoy, where the Ontario Government is opening up land to settlers. Some settlers have already gone in and it will be no great time before there is considerable of a farming community immediately west of the town, where the soil is quite fertile and where good crops of certain kinds may be grown despite the short summer season. This government road has been so run that it will be an easy matter for all the mines to connect up with it by short side roads, and in many cases the mining companies have already built these for their own use and convenience.

The prospective visitor to Timmins need not worry about his personal comforts since his bed and breakfast will be well provided by the host of the "Goldfields" hotel, which is of goodly dimensions. There are spacious and comfortable rooms and the service is of an excellent character. For those who are making Timmins their headquarters for some time, and who do not wish to make the hotel their home, many comfortable rooming and boarding houses have been provided, and the restaurants and quick lunch counters, of which there are a number, are first-class in every way, the meals being at least the equal of those served in city restaurants.

The fine residences in Timmins are particularly noticeable, especially on the hill to the north of the town, where many of the wealthier people have made their homes. These comprise some very pretty bungalows and two storey houses, some being frame while others are of cement and brick. The residential streets, also, have been laid out on the broad plan, and in most cases the homes have been kept a comfortable distance apart. A precaution that might well have been taken by many other mining towns.

The permanent nature of the camp as a mining proposition is evidenced in no better way than by the fact that many of the men employed at the mines have built and own their own homes within the town and today the total assessment is \$800,000. And just here it might be well to point out that if anyone should know the possibilities of the mines it is the men who keep in close touch with



3rd Avenue, Looking West.

pressed brick face on both streets. The cost is estimated at \$10,000 exclusive of the site. With the completion of the building the banking facilities of the town will be increased, the ground floor having been leased to the Canadian Bank of Commerce, who will open a branch here shortly. The second storey of the building will be given over to offices for brokers, etc.

The hospital, of which the concrete foundation has already been put in, has been planned large enough to take care of the town's needs for sometime to come, together with any cases that have to be sent in from the mines. It will be equipped with the most modern medical and surgical appliances so that patients will get treatment the equal of that received anywhere.

A new public school to cost \$8,000 has been planned and will be commenced as soon as the debentures are issued, and a fine Roman Catholic Church, costing in the neighborhood of \$25,000 is being completed. The other churches are Anglican and Presbyterian.



Residence District of Timmins.

The people of Timmins realize that business mixed with pleasure is a wholesome thing, and suitable recreation grounds have been provided as well as a recreation hall and one of the finest indoor skating rinks, having a floor area of 100x210 feet. A race track is just being finished; two baseball clubs, a football club, and three hockey teams are supported as well as two theatres, several pool rooms and bowling alleys.

From a business standpoint Timmins is one of the most prosperous towns in New Ontario today, and with perhaps the exception of a sash and door factory the requirements of the town are met within its own limits. Commercial men in all lines visit Timmins regularly, finding it good ground to work. The Imperial Bank has a branch here, and the Canadian Bank of Commerce is coming. Retail stores of all kinds are well represented, including large clothing, provision and hardware establishments. There are also branches of the larger mining machinery houses. The town has two live stock brokers; a weekly newspaper; two job printing offices and a good drug store, while there are two photograph studios.

Mayor W. H. Wilson and councillors, A. R. Globe, W. E. McCoy, E. LaFlamme, Dr. H. H. Moore, Chas. Dalton and Postmaster H. Peters, are to be congratulated on the excellent progress that has been made in the way of municipal improvements. The business interests have been ably taken care of by the board of trade of which Dayton Ostrosser is president and H. J. Marshall, Chas. Pearce, Saul Leub, J. P. McLaughlin, F. C. H. Simms, Dr. J. P. McInnis, S. Bucovetsky and T. F. King are the executive committee.