

## ONTARIO'S GOLD FIELDS.

### THE RICHEST IN THE WORLD.

What Mr. R. H. Ahn says.—The Wonderful Wealth of the Lake of the Woods Country.—A Dividend of Fifty per cent. for the Golden Gate Co.  
—North-west Ontario will Astonish the World.

MR. ROBERT H. AHN, of Rat Portage, who has played a very prominent part in the development of Ontario's mineral wealth for several years, is in the city. Mr. Ahn's experience in mining has been extensive, covering as it does a large part of his life since manhood was reached, and embracing years of experience in Australia and California.

THE CANADIAN MINER interviewed Mr. Ahn at the office, in the Canada Life Building, of the Golden Gate Mining and Development Company, of which company he is manager, and learned much of interest in regard to the great developments and immense mineral riches of North-western Ontario. We give the substance of Mr. Ahn's replies to interrogations. Besides being manager of this company he is manager of the Rat Portage Reduction Works, and of several of the leading mines in the Lake of the Woods district and of the development work proceeding on a large number of prospects.

In regard to several of the more important mines of the Lake of the Woods country, Mr. Ahn furnished the following information.

#### THE GREAT MINES.

The Cornucopia he had recently sold to an English Company, known as the Anglian Mining and Finance Company, for \$100,000, of which \$20,000 was cash down. Mr. Ahn is to continue in the management of this mine. The Cornucopia was purchased only six or eight weeks ago, but already the main shaft is down 75 feet, a lot of the machinery is on the spot, and a run of 24 tons of ore taken from the shaft has been put through the stamp mill. The result of this run is highly satisfactory; in fact, it gives the heaviest showing to the ton ever known in Canada. Already, also, several other shafts have been sunk, and all, including the main shaft, are to be sunk as quickly as possible to a depth of between 300 and 400 feet. An Ingersoll compressor plant, a 20-stamp mill of Fraser & Chalmers' make, a hoisting plant, and all other machinery for a complete outfit will be added early in the spring.

Work on the Mikado property is being pushed rapidly, and a complete plant will shortly be erected. The mine is owned by an English company, the Mikado Gold Mine Company, which is acquiring a large number of other mining properties in the district.

#### A 50 PER CENT. DIVIDEND.

The Golden Gate Mining and Development Company, of which Mr. Ahn is manager, is now in a position to declare a dividend of 50 per cent. This is on one year's business and preserves the capital intact.

#### THE GOLDEN GATE MINE.

This mine has just been disposed of to an English syndicate, through negotiations carried on by Mr. Ahn. The shaft on it is down to a depth of 45 feet, and the purchasers intend work to be pushed at once under the management of Mr. Laycock, an English gentleman, who inspected the mine for the purchasers. They have too, bought the Standard Mine on Echo Bay, and also a property in the Manitou district. The three properties are to be worked at the earliest possible date.

Sir Roderick Cameron has visited the district and has purchased two properties which have been developed under the supervision of Mr. Ahn. Mill runs have been made from these properties with very satisfactory results.

#### THE RAT PORTAGE REDUCTION WORKS.

The Reduction Works, of which Mr. Ahn is the manager, are doing a large business, and have proved of considerable value to the Lake of the Woods mines. Seven mines have been sending their ores here for reduction. The mill has 20 stamps, and in the spring the works will be completed by the addition of a chlorination plant, a cyanide plant and a plant for treating concentrates by the electric process. Parties sending their ores to these works can rely on it getting thorough and satisfactory treatment. A mine sending in ore can send its own amalgamator to superintend the entire treatment of its ore, in fact may have the management of the mill for the time, or may leave it to the management of the Works. The charge for reduction of ores is \$5 per ton for quantities of less than 100 tons, and \$4 for quantities in excess of that number of tons. The work done is so thorough as to allow of the extraction of all free milling gold, and the production of the gold brick-ready for deposit in the bank. The ores treated at the mill have a remnant varying in different cases of from 1 to 3 per cent. of concentrates, which will, when treated, yield \$30 to \$50 per ton.

#### MANY SALES IN LONDON.

During the past twelve months Mr. Ahn has succeeded in selling no less than 60 mines and mining properties in this district, and most of them in London, England. Most of these sales in England have been made to four companies and from all of them Mr. Ahn has received instructions to begin development work on a large scale, as early as possible. Mr. Ahn has now under his charge half a dozen mining camps and on his return to Rat Portage within a few days will form and take charge of half a dozen more.

#### MORE ABOUT THE MINES.

The Gold Hill and Black Jack mines, both under Mr. Ahn's management, have each 2 shafts and these are carried down to a depth of 250 feet. The ore is very satisfactory. The Regina mine has turned out well and struck very rich ore. It is 200 feet deep. The Scramble mine is fairly developed and it is probable that an extensive plant will be erected there this summer. The adjoining property which is owned by the Gold Explorers' Co. of Canada, a London, Eng. company, which owns 20 properties in the district, is getting on well in development. The company is also beginning to develop several of its other prospects. All over the district many new camps are being started.

#### A CROWDED MINING CENTRE.

Of course, all this activity means much for Rat Portage. The town now has a population of 4,500. There is not a house to let in the town and scarcely a room at either house or hotel. When spring opens and with it the rush into the district of prospectors, mining men and others attracted by the extraordinary riches of the country, tents will be resorted to to accommodate the crowd, though no doubt shanties and other hastily constructed frame buildings will be run up.

#### CHARACTER OF THE MINES.

A general characteristic of the veins and beds of ore in the district is their increasing in width and richness as depth is attained. This is not always the case; sometimes on sinking a shaft the ore becomes poorer for a distance of a score or so of feet and then becomes as rich as or richer than before, but the rule is: the deeper down the better the vein. Asked as to the nature of the veins—whether bedded or fissure veins, Mr. Ahn said he thought that the numbers of each were about equal.

As to feathers, or stringers, which occurred with

both bedded and fissure veins. They were mined by some people, but being only fractures leading to the true veins they petered out very often or became twisted and unworkable.

In answer to an inquiry in regard to an item in one of the papers stating that in one mine on the Lake of the Woods gold is found in considerable quantities in the rock for 50 feet from the side of a vein, Mr. Ahn said that in the Standard mine a fahlband is so rich in gold that he has been working it.

Rich mines in the district occur in many different ways. The best generally are contact veins or veins not far from granite. The Mikado, Sultana and Regina veins are contact veins.

#### A WIDE GOLD REGION.

In speaking of the extent of the gold regions around the Lake of the Woods, Mr. Ahn said that it extends much further than had been thought a short time ago. It reaches into Manitoba on the west, and prospectors had there found promising surface indications. To the north it reached at least 60 to 70 miles.

#### THE MANITOU AND SEINE DISTRICTS.

Mr. Ahn visited the Manitou and Seine River districts last summer. In richness these districts are about like the Lake of the Woods country, and he had bought properties there. In the new Manitou fields, several camps are being started and Manitou ore is being treated at the Rat Portage Reduction Works.

Referring to the Seine country, Mr. Ahn said, he thought very highly of the Foley property. It ought to be a well paying mine and it is managed very carefully and judiciously. The Saw Bill, Lake Harold and Hawk Bay mines are excellent properties, and also the Ferguson. The Lucky Coon is a good property, but is lying idle owing to a difficulty between the owners.

#### THE RICHEST GOLD FIELDS ON EARTH.

In answer to inquiries regarding the richness in gold of North-western Ontario compared with other parts of the globe, and the degree of development attained, as compared with British Columbia, Mr. Ahn said he thought North-western Ontario the richest gold mining country in the world. Neither in Australia nor South Africa had he seen anything to equal it, and he thought British Columbia inferior to it also. "Before a year is over

#### WE WILL ASTONISH THE WORLD.

"London capitalists are investing in Ontario mines more and more, and the London papers are now beginning to talk about our new fields. With what will be done in mining beforelong, you will find that the Seine and Lake of the Woods will rival Rossland in general fame.

"As to development, British Columbia yet leads. In development it is two years ahead of us. But by the end of this year we will have caught up, and I think will soon show larger shipments than that Province."

#### NORTH-WEST COAL.

IT IS SAID TO BEAT OUT ALL COMPETITORS.

FROM the official report on the efficiency of various coals used by United States warships from 1893 to 1895, inclusive, prepared by the Bureau of Equipment, Washington, it appears that our Canadian bituminous coal, the product of the Canmore mines, in the North-west, led all others in point of percentage of fixed carbons, 86.367, and also in the small quantity of ashes left after combustion. In the boiler tests of coal at New York and Navy Island navy yards the Canmore also led all competitors.