

The Davis Dry Dock Co., Kingston, Ont., has closed a contract with C. Lewis, Keewatin, Ont., to build the framework of a 70-foot passenger steamboat, all ready to set up at Keewatin.

It is announced that Mr. Petersen, of the firm of Petersen, Tait & Co., the firm which secured the contract for a fast Atlantic line from the Canadian Government, contemplates establishing a through steamship service for the carriage of grain from Lake Superior to England as soon as the deepening of the St. Lawrence canals to 14 feet of clear draught is completed.

A delegation of about twenty of the most prominent owners of lake vessels on the Great Lakes went to Washington recently, accompanied by H. D. Goulder, the attorney for the Lake Carriers' Association. Their object being to induce the United States Congress to take steps toward the formation, with Canada, of an international commission which should have charge of all matters affecting the water levels of the lakes. The reasons why they are active in the matter at this time are the completion of the Chicago Drainage Canal, the construction of the "Soo" power canal, and the proposed building of a dam in Niagara.

The plans for the improvements in the Red River, about fifteen miles from Winnipeg, call for a dam across the Red River 800 feet in length, a canal 1,900 feet in length, one set of locks 215 feet in length, and dredging in the river for a distance of some 400 feet. The lock will be 215 feet long, 45 feet broad and the solid concrete will be 38 feet deep, giving the locks a high water depth of 30 feet, while at low water the depth will be 11 feet. The gates of the lock will be of steel. The approach to the locks will be by a canal from a point on the west bank of the river, a distance of 1,500 feet. The canal will be 100 feet wide, and have a depth of 11 feet. The distance to the canal from the river will be of partly wooden crib work, filled in with stone and will be 290 feet in length. The canal extends 400 feet north of the lock to the river, which will be dredged to a depth of nine feet for about 100 yards. The dam to regulate the river will extend from the east side of the locks 800 feet, to a point on the east bank of the Red River. It will be of concrete, granite faced, 32 feet at the base and 18 feet 5 inches at the top. The dam is provided with seven piers and two abutments, and also with sluice gates. The piers and abutments can be used as the base of a service bridge and from this could be worked a system of shutters and movable frames, by which the height of the dam could be increased 12½ feet. The bridge and shutters, however, will form a separate contract.

Mining Matters.

Alex. Dick, mining engineer, of Halifax, N.S., has moved to Toronto.

A valuable copper mine has been discovered at Mill Brook, Pictou county, N.S.

The Cordova Exploration Company's gold mine in Belmont, Ont., is also producing largely.

The proposed mill to be erected at Goldenville, N.S., to handle the quartz from the Palmerston, Mayflower and other properties, it is stated will be 100 stamps.

The Atlas Arsenic Company has been incorporated to do business in Belleville, Ont., with a capital stock of \$750,000. The directors reside in Ohio.

The Canadian Gold Fields Company's mill at Deloro, Ont., is said to be turning out three tons of arsenic daily. The gold product is over \$300 per day.

The annual meeting of the Canadian Mining Institute is to be held in Montreal on the 7th, 8th and 9th inst. The annual dinner will be at the Windsor Hotel on Friday evening, the 9th March.

A. McElwee, L. A. May, J. R. McDonald, H. G. Catlin, New York; M. Lodge and W. B. Chandler, Moncton, N.B., are applying for incorporation as the New Brunswick Cannel Coal Co., Ltd.; capital, \$1,000,000.

An estimate made shows that there are close on a hundred companies employing over 2,000 men, engaged in development and mining work in the Lake of the Woods, Seine river and Manitou districts.

J. C. Calhoun, W. S. Logan, J. E. Calhoun, C. S. Daley, New York, and H. F. Puddington, St. John, N.B., are being incorporated as the Provincial Coal Co., Ltd.; capital, \$1,000,000; chief place of business, Moncton, N.B.

M. J. Galvin, Buffalo, N.Y., manager of a blast furnace at Charlotte, N.Y., making foundry pig for magnetic iron ores of good quality which could be conveniently shipped from Belleville or Trenton, Ont., has recently made a search in central Ontario.

A decision of great importance to Quebec mine owners has been given by the Quebec Government regarding the exemptions from taxation of mining property. In 1890 exemption was granted the mines for ten years, and now an extension of the exemption for another ten years has been granted.

Iron ore yielding 64 per cent. of iron, and 7 per cent. of sulphur has been found near Ten-Mile Creek, some 22 miles up the bay shore from St. John, N.B. A lease, covering five square miles, has been taken by W. E. Skillen, St. Martin's, N.B., and he proposes to do development work.

Charles Howard, in behalf of himself and other stockholders of the Vermillion Mining Company, of Ontario, is suing the Canadian Copper Company, the Anglo-American Company, Stevenson Burke, C. W. Bingham, Henry McIntosh, Chas. Baird and J. B. Wright, executors of the Cornell estate, and all stockholders of the Canadian Copper Company, for \$1,350,000 damages.

At the annual general meeting of the shareholders of the Cumberland Railway & Coal Company the annual reports of the company were presented by the secretary, H. R. Drummond, which were found highly satisfactory to the shareholders. The election of officers for the ensuing year resulted as follows: President, R. Cowans; vice-president, the Hon. G. A. Drummond; general manager, R. J. Cowans; secretary, H. R. Drummond.

Toronto and Nova Scotia capital has taken up the stock, \$750,000, of the Port Hood Coal Company, and bonds to the amount of \$750,000 have also, it is said, been issued. The company has the assurance of their engineers that the coal, amounting to 160,000,000 tons, is as good as the Sydney coal for steam. Work will begin in the early spring, and shipping will be made from Port Hood, 100 miles nearer the St. Lawrence ports than Sydney.

K. Ludloff, a German geologist, who, since last summer, has been living in Cariboo, B.C., in the interests of Russians who wish to replant the fir forest in Litoria, from British Columbia cones, has made a discovery of great importance. Herr Ludloff is in the camp on Woodpecker Island, in the Fraser River, a considerable distance above Quesnelle, where he has been collecting seeds. While doing so he is said to have discovered extensive deposits of gold-bearing conglomerate, intersected by veins of quartz, bearing gold and iron pyrites, similar to the gold in the Transvaal. He has also found deposits of red hematite, bearing free gold. This find is in the upper Fraser valley, about twenty or thirty miles south of Fort George. The formation is Archaean.

The Bureau of Mines has commissioned Prof. Courtney de Kalb, of the Kingston School of Mines, to prepare an exhaustive report on the salt industry in Ontario. The report gives a detailed account of the extent of the salt beds, present output, purity of brine and the various grades of commercial salt put on the market, methods of working and refining, with suggested measures for the further extension of the uses of the raw material in the manufacture of soda, soda ash and salts, soaps, etc., for home consumption. A detailed report on the peat industry in Ontario will be issued shortly by the Bureau of Mines, giving an account of the extent of the numerous available peat beds, analyses of raw and manufactured peat as made into briquettes by the Dickson compression patent, with the probable value of peat as a fuel for domestic and commercial purposes. This report will be of great interest to people in the coal and wood trade.