

Minning News.

Good rock miners are scarce. Owing to this efforts are being made to secure a number of Cornish miners to come out direct from the old country.

Lake of the Woods Bull Dog Mine shaft has been sunk to the depth of five feet. It is said that the ore is rather refractory; owing to this the ore will perhaps have to be treated at a distance.

The Whale Mine at Pine Portage will be developed quickly owing to its favorable location, being situated at the head of a canyon and superintended by F. S. Miller, who is largely interested.

Hugh R. Robertson, mining engineer of St. John, N. B., leaves that city shortly to take the practical management of a gold mine in the Lake of the Woods. Mr. Robertson held a similar position in Australia, a few years ago.

Mr. J. G. Moore, an English gentleman who recently made a tour through the North-west, is engaged in delivering lectures in Great Britain having special reference to the gold and other mining interests in the Lake of the Woods and Lake Winnipeg districts.

F. S. Miller, practical manager of the Argyle Mine has been busy getting the machinery to the mine from Deception station on the C. P. R. Mr. Miller is a Cornish man of considerable repute as a miner and formerly held positions at Silver Islet and Madoc mines.

The Keewatin Mining Company, limited, have sent a sample of gold ore to Mr. Wallbridge, London, England. This has been done so as to show an English assay in addition to the American and Canadian already made. Mr. Wallbridge is assayer to the London Museum.

The Huronian Mining Company is the latest development of mining enterprise at Prince Arthur's Landing. The scene of operations is the Jackfish Lake Gold mine. Mr. Peter McKellar is the moving spirit in the enterprise. Another company, to be known as the Laurentian Mining Company of Ontario, is also being formed, and will commence work so soon as they have secured a charter.

Fire in Emerson.

On Sunday morning a fire broke out in Noble & Folli's furniture store in Emerson. It gained considerable headway before being noticed, and so rapid, the flames spread, that it was thought at one time the greater part of the town would fall a victim. Assistance was telegraphed for from Winnipeg and Chief McRobie with his characteristic energy had an engine and men at the station ready to start in twenty minutes, from the receipt of the telegram. Just then another despatch was received stating that the fire had been got under control. The fire is supposed to have been the work of an incendiary. The buildings completely destroyed were: Noble & Folli's furniture store; James Reid's restaurant; F. C. Burnham's loan office and his adjoining block, occupied by the Ontario Bank, and several offices and private apartments. The blocks cost \$20,000; insured for \$12,000: Nobles & Folli had \$1,500 insurance; others in the block were insured to some extent, but the loss will be heavy.

RAT PORTAGE.

Mr. Zimmerman of Keewatin intends erecting a saw mill here this spring.

S. S. Scovil has been recently appointed surveyor to the C. P. R. for the Rat Portage district.

Jacob Hose, hardware dealer is building a new store on the east side of Main st. just below his old stand.

Baker & Co., general store, intend moving into their new premises about the first of March next. It rejoins the old stand.

The saw mill for the Rainy Lake Lumber Co. is fast approaching completion. This mill have the largest capacity of any mill in the North West.

An iron foundry is to be built here, worked by three practical foundry-men. The opening of so many mines on the Lake of the Woods is the reason.

F. McIntyre recently sub-contractor to Langdon Shepard & Co., and T. W. McDermott of Almonte, Ontario are arranging to purchase the Rideout Hotel.

Mr. Wm. Alexander of Winnipeg and several other gentlemen are considering the advisability of starting a private bank in this town. Mr. Alexander has had several consultations respecting same with Mr. Brydon.

Mr. James Thompson is busy blasting rock in the railway cutting to procure stone for the foundation of the saw mill in course of erection for Jarvis & Barridge. Mr. Thompson hails from St. John, N. B. where he built some of the best structure in that city.

Snow and Cold, surveyors are busy surveying a town site at Heenan's Point on the main shore of the Lake of the Woods for Mr. Geo. Heenan. The site will be central for the gold mines. It is only a distance of 2½ miles from the C. P. R. east of Rat Portage and 4½ from Rossland railway station.

Mr. George Short, ship builder recently built the keel of a new tug boat for Jarvis & Barridge. Two more boats are to be built on the stocks to be ready for next spring. The owners are the Winnipeg Lumber Co., and Wm. Gibbons, the contractor. Mr. Short is a ship builder of considerable repute having built a vast number of large sea going vessels at St. John, N. B.

A deputation of Rat Portage gentlemen, including the Mayor, met at the Brunswick Hotel Winnipeg, on Friday evening last to induce Mr. O. T. Stone of St. John, N. B. to open a private bank at Rat Portage. After the matter had been well ventilated, Mr. Stone decided to consider the matter and promised to visit the town in the course of a few days and would give them an answer as early as possible. Mr. Stone had an interest in the management of a private bank at St. John for several years before coming to the North West.

GENERAL ROSSER is in Ottawa with the object, it is said, of effecting an amalgamation between the Winnipeg and Hudson Bay Railway and the Nelson River Railway. The stockholders interested in both lines will meet in a few days to discuss the question.

QU'APPELLE.

A new hotel is about to be started.

Another livery stable has been built since I wrote.

Building operations are being daily carried on and the immigrant shed is fast approaching completion.

During the past two weeks business has been much brisker here partly owing to the fine weather we have had and especially that the trains are running more regular and freight coming in.

One of the greatest advantages we possess here is an abundance of good water. This is more than can be said of the "Capital." Any resident of the latter city that has a snow bank on his lot is said to possess a "bonanza."

Mr. S. H. Caswell has just got in a large supply of groceries &c., and his store contains a fine assortment of goods. It is a pleasure to walk in there and look round and contrast the present time with six months ago. It is only then that one can realize what vast strides this important town has made and the present prospects certainly augur well for the future of Qu'Appelle. Mr. John Gould has also a large variety of goods. Both these gentlemen have been obliged to build additional storehouses during the past week.

KEEWATIN.

Until a new railway station is erected at this place, the station master is transacting his business at the general store of Mr. Clark.

Keewatin is just the location for paper making owing to its great water power, and railway accommodation. Chemicals from England can be brought in by water to Prince Arthur's Landing at very small cost over that paid by Ontario mills.

Mr. Mather of Keewatin and Mr. Duncan McArthur of Winnipeg with several other gentlemen have located a site here on which to erect a paper mill. The foundations are to be taken out early in the spring. The quality to be made will be building and tar paper from poplar wood pulp.

Mr. William Hespeler of Winnipeg and Dr. Morton of Stratford, Ontario, intend erecting a paper and grist mill near the high trestle railway bridge. A flume is now being cut from the Lake of the Woods to the Winnipeg river. This will give a good power with beautiful clear water for pulp and engine use. Dr. Morton is giving up his professional business at Stratford to take the supervision of both mills. It is not yet known what particular grade of paper will be made.

The Keewatin Lumbering and Manufacturing Company are putting in additional machinery of the most improved kind which will increase the capacity of the mill by 20,000 feet of lumber per day. The company is busy making portable houses for prairie use. The houses are constructed with 1½" planks, size 12 ft and 9 ft with 7 foot walls and pitched patent roof. The roof boards are grooved each side of the joint so that the water will run down over the side before going under the slab which covers each joint. Forty-eight bolts are used to each house, which are packed in boxes with wrench for shipment.