RAT PORTAGE.

The raceway for the new paper mill is nearly completed.

Mr. John Short will lay a 75 foot keel for Frank Gardner's new tug in a few days.

Mr. A. H. Vaughan, D. L. S., is busy surveying Indian reserves at Wabigoon and Lac Seul.

Peter KcKellar is here forwarding machinery to the Jackfish Lake mine, cast of this place.

Mr. Bayne, D. L. S., arrived here lately from Lac Seul, where he has surveyed a large timber limit for eastern lumbermen.

There will be 400 men employed in connection with the two large saw-mills now approaching completion at this point.

The Ridcout House is still retaining its popularity, and accommodating the large number of strangers arriving.

A few experienced miners are wanted badly here. Good wages are offered for such by all the companies.

Rideout & Williams are negotiating with a company for the purpose of opening up the Pittsburg, Two Star and Whitefeather claims.

Hennessy & Moore are negotiating with New York capitalists for the development of the Sultana mine.

Prospecting and development work is being pushed rapidly out at the mining camps, and the prospects are brightening every day.

Nearly all the mines are running on the eighthour shift plan, thus utilizing all available time.

Real estate in the shape of building lots is in brisk demand. There are no houses to let in the town. Prices are advancing steadily.

The planking of Hugh Sutherland's tug will be finished this week. This tug has an eightyfive foot keel.

The new eleven-stall engine-house is completed. Lumber for 500 feet of coal sheds will be brought from Whitemouth on account of the scarcity of lumber here. Work at the machine shops will begin shortly.

Charles Moore, agent, is advertising for 60 carpenters to go to British Columbia. Wages offered, \$3.50 per diem. Carpenters are in good demand and command that figure here.

R. J. Short's mammoth saw-mill will be located near the paper mill and grist-mill. The boomage attached at that point is the safest on the lake.

Hotel and stable accommodation is very scarce. Tents will be required at an early date as there is not lumber enough on hand to supply the demand for building purposes before the mills get to work.

J. T. Nagle is exhibiting some very fine specimens taken from the Keewatin mine 36 feet from the surface and 40 feet above water level. Mr. Nagle has severed his connection with the Keewatin, and will probably take charge of auother of the mines which has been offered to him.

Snow & Codd are making a survey for Winnipeg parties of a mining location said to be very rich in the precious metals. Specimens from new finds are being brought in daily. Nearly all show gold in paying quantities.

Business is lively at present as several parties are arriving from different points making arangements to open different stores.

Capt. Brereton is to be appointed by the Manitoba authorities police commissioner at this point. The citizens feel as though this is a move in the right direction.

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