

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE

### NORTHERN ONTARIO.

#### Porcupine East Lake.

St. Louis financial interests are said to have taken an option on the Porcupine East Lake property. These claims are situated in the Township of Whitney, in the Porcupine district. When prospected a short time ago results obtained were considered very favorable. Diamond drilling will be commenced within a short time for the purpose of proving the properties at depth. A little free gold has been discovered in veins on the surface.

#### Dome.

The big main crosscut of the Dome Mines at the 700-foot level should encounter the large high-grade ore-body indicated by the diamond drills any day now. This body of ore is estimated to be approximately 120 feet in width and to carry values of around \$17 to the ton. Heretofore the Dome ore has averaged less than \$6 to the ton and the importance of the huge body of \$17 ore can hardly be appreciated by the layman. However by the middle of August this ore should be available for mill feed, and its effect on the mill heads and profits of the company will no doubt immediately be felt. With the completion of the crosscut through the orebody, stoping, drifting and winzing operations will be commenced at once and by the end of the current year this body will probably be developed sufficiently to allow of its estimate being included in the ore reserves, which should show a substantial increase both in values and tonnage. It has always been more or less difficult to estimate ore reserves at the Dome, owing to the extremely varied distribution of the values and the occurrence of the ore in large masses entirely without walls. The milling capacity of the Dome has been increased during the past year to 1,500 tons per day, and the mine equipment has been completed and put in operation, with the result that considerable reduction in the cost of handling may now ensue. The underground equipment of the mine is sufficient to produce at a capacity of 3,000 tons per day, so that any future demands on this portion of the plant will be readily met. At the 1,150-ft. depth another large orebody averaging around \$10 to the ton has also been indicated, which is believed to be the downward continuation of the orebody at the 700-ft. level. Whether this proves to be the case or whether this is an entirely new orebody, it will prove of extreme importance to the future of the mine.

Recently the management of the mine increased the wages of their employees to meet the high cost of living, and there is said to be little likelihood of trouble arising from this source for some time to come. While handicapped to a certain extent by the scarcity of labor at the present time, it is said that this condition shows considerable improvement over a month ago, and gradually the number of men on the pay-roll of the company is increasing.

#### McIntyre.

The face of the big main drive at the McIntyre-Porcupine mines at the 1000-ft. level is now within a few feet of the Jupiter line and shows 52 feet of ore. At every level between the 400 and 1000-ft. development work is being prosecuted. This development work is being centralized in such a manner as to permit of the ore being dropped from the upper levels of the mine through passes to the 1000-ft. level where it will be deposited in cars and transported to the main shaft. About 350 men are employed underground at the pro-

perty and over 50 faces in ore are being worked at the present time. With the completion of additions to the crushing equipment of the mill the capacity will be brought up to 600 tons per day. At present 500 tons per day is being treated at a cost of between 80 and 90 cents a ton for milling, which is a record for any Ontario gold mine. In spite of the fact that no effort is being made to regulate the grade of ore going to the mill, most of which is coming from development, the heads are being maintained at about \$10 to the ton. It is estimated that the ore blocked out in the mine averages around \$12.50 to the ton, and when the work becomes more centralized it is anticipated the heads will come nearer to this figure.

Recently the McIntyre gave their men an increase of approximately 50 cents a day in their wages and complete harmony is said to exist between the management and the men. The scarcity of labor has not curtailed production to any great extent at the McIntyre.

#### Hollinger.

The last report of the Hollinger mining company shows a big falling off in the production of the mine owing to the shortage of labor. At the present time about 800 men are on the pay-roll as compared with a desired number of 1,500. The costs per ton were given as \$4.66. When it is considered that Hollinger has frequently milled and mined its ore for a cost of \$3.62 per ton, it will be plainly seen that the labor shortage is cutting no small figure with the company. The average grade of ore treated also shows a considerable falling off. All construction on the new 1,000-ton unit for the mill has been suspended, owing to the fact that it would be impossible to supply it with ore to keep running under the present conditions. The old mill, however, is operating at a reduced rate. The central shaft on the property has been put into use recently and from the time this occurred the men and material have been taken up and down the old shafts while the ore from the mine is being hauled up the new central shaft. This new acquisition to the equipment of the mine has added greatly to the facility with which the handling of the ore is accomplished. According to a statement given out by Mr. N. A. Timmins, president of the company, the mine is in excellent shape, and the plant is operating under the most up-to-date conditions. It is also stated that the ore reserves have been added to considerably since the beginning of the present year. In fact, all that is affecting Hollinger at the present time is the shortage of labor. Recently a minimum wage of \$4.00 was authorized for underground workers, and the men employed at the mine are reported to be well satisfied with the conditions prevailing.

#### Schumacher.

Underground work at the Schumacher mine has been temporarily suspended, owing to the shortage of labor. Construction of the new 140-ton mill is proceeding very satisfactorily at the present time. Within the next six weeks the building will be ready for the installation of the machinery. Providing no delay is experienced in the delivery of the machinery it will not be long before the mill is again working on the higher grade of ore which has been encountered at the lower levels of the mine. In a general way the Schumacher mine is in better condition than ever before, and once operations are again in full swing it should not take long to reflect the improved condition of both the underground workings and the milling equipment which is being installed.