

MATACHEWAN DISTRICT TO SURPASS PORCUPINE?

Ottise Gives Promise of Outrivaling Hollinger, and Davidson, With its Enormous Volume of Ankerite, is a Most Impressive Proposition.

Special to The Toronto World. Elk Lake, June 4.—We are here at the terminus of the Elk Lake branch of the C. & N. O. Railway and the entrepot for the Matachewan gold area. The new fields as mapped by the Ontario Bureau of Mines comprise the townships of Powell, Saden and Alma in the district of Timiskaming. The great bend of the Montreal River is made in the township of Saden, the northwesterly township of the group. In Powell, immediately south, the river is running northeasterly, while in Cairn, to the east of Powell, its course is to the southeast.

Fort Matachewan, for many years a post of the Hudson Bay Company, is on the river in the northwestern corner of Cairn. This is the identical river crossed by the railway at Latchford, ten miles south of Cobalt.

The Access to the Region. As the crow flies the new gold fields are only 21 miles northwest of the town from which this letter is written, but by the combined water and land route used in the summer the mines are a good 36 miles away. Motor boats run the route to the Indian Chutes, a distance of 15 miles. Here there is a short portage over a steep hill where a second boat is available for Fox Rapids 12 miles further up the stream. Owing to the very swift water in this section of the journey the fare for one passenger is \$1.50 up and only 75 cents down stream, whereas the charge from Elk Lake to the Indian Chutes is only \$1.00. The greater consumption of gasoline and longer time in breasting the current accounts for the variations in fares.

A Prospector's Cabin. On the Davidson there is a unique dwelling place ready made. Two large pyramidal blocks of ankerite stand up to 12 feet. They come together at the top and all round the bottom, except for a space about six feet wide. This space continues within for a length of about 10 feet, the roof getting lower away from the opening. This opening was closed by vertical timbers, leaving only room for ingress and egress. The result was a complete shelter from the elements. These masses of ankerite, and here Davidson lived while prospecting the camp, were water in the creek near by and all around them. There was nothing except the wild life of the woods and the mighty works of nature, and it is not until the massive limestone mingled with the rusty brown of the iron carbonate, give a touch of the picturesque to the scene, and it may be that here the veteran prospector at first believed that he had secured a house of gold.

Future of Camp. Much more work must be done before we can arrive at a sane and certain conclusion as to the future of the camp. But, so far as appearances now go, it offers a real challenge to Porcupine. We could expect from the Ottise a production fully, if not more than, that of the Hollinger Consolidated. It is fairly safe to say that the ore bodies at present disclosed have a total value of \$10,000,000. The schists, both grey and green, are soft and composed of fine silica with carbonate of lime, magnesite and iron. In Porcupine they often find interbedded with quartz, but as the matrix of gold, a homogeneous body of iron carbonate, is largely an innovation in New Ontario.

Porcupine May Be Surpassed. Among our northern gold regions, Matachewan seems second only to Porcupine. In fact we would hesitate to say that it will not ultimately surpass the older camp. In one sense, however, it can be regarded as a portion of the same auriferous region. Porcupine is 30 miles to the north west, West Shining Tree 25 miles to the south, and Kirkland Lake only 20 miles to the north east. There is porphyry very similar to that in Powell, while the ankerite mine in Deloro is a partial counterpart of the Davidson. It shows schist, both green and grey, as well as ferro-dolomite and porphyry, while its gold is not carried in ordinary veins of quartz, and there is a connection between Powell and West Shining Tree that dikes of diabase with a northwest strike are intrusive in both places.

Other Properties. Northeastward from the Davidson and Ottise there is a very considerable over-burden of the strike of ankerite, auriferous bed and it is difficult to form an opinion as to the extent of the mineralization. The Mining Corporation have begun work on a portion of the same auriferous region. Porcupine is 30 miles to the north west, West Shining Tree 25 miles to the south, and Kirkland Lake only 20 miles to the north east. There is porphyry very similar to that in Powell, while the ankerite mine in Deloro is a partial counterpart of the Davidson. It shows schist, both green and grey, as well as ferro-dolomite and porphyry, while its gold is not carried in ordinary veins of quartz, and there is a connection between Powell and West Shining Tree that dikes of diabase with a northwest strike are intrusive in both places.

Lafriac's Mishance. A few miles up the Montreal River first station of the Davidson Bay fort. For 20 years or more this tract has been in charge of Stephen Lafriac and it is said that in each one of these successive years Stephen has been bringing out specimens of gold ore from the Davidson, now regarded as the greatest prospect in the camp. But no one shared his enthusiasm and now the tide of his long life is ebbing and his discoveries have passed to other hands.

The Davidson Turned Down. In fact, the Davidson has been passed over and passed up the stream again. The enormous masses of ferro-dolomite were usually mistaken for dolomite to pan over and one proposition after another passed on. At length Davidson detected gold in the porphyry and it is now said that he is taking \$1,000,000 for his prospect. Thus, in the irony of fate, one man repeats what another says.

500 Claims Staked. In the Matachewan area about 500 mining claims have been staked, and engaged in what the mining act defines as actual mining operations. The Colorado and Ontario Developing Co. has taken an option on the Ottise, have engaged in the transportation of supplies from Fox Rapids to the mine.

On the 27th ult. the diamond drill started to bore thru the great ore body. There are a number of trenches.

proposition. In fact, in two respects, it surpasses anything we have ever seen, namely, (1) in the enormous volume of ankerite and (2) in the extent to which the ore has been sheared, schist and shattered. But the ankerite is not payable auriferous, nor is the veinless porphyry. We cannot, however, avoid the conclusion that by skillful methods very large bodies of ore can be opened up in the Davidson. The mining problem is, however, not quite simple as it is on the Ottise, and the exploratory work so far does not indicate that the peculiarities of the formation have been mastered.

Visible Gold. There is a very considerable amount of coarse gold to be seen in the porphyry on the Davidson, principally in the veinlets which here and there break its continuity for short distances. Fine gold also shows in the schist on the Ottise, and it is also reported in conglomerata on one property of the Sutherland group adjoining the Davidson, but as a rule the sedimentary rocks, of which there are considerable areas in Powell and Cairn, do not hold auriferous veins.

As for the future of this country, there is never any doubt but that its best days are yet to come. Characteristic of opinion in all parts of this country is that expressed by a mining engineer recently returned from a business trip to the western United States, and who, after reviewing the situation in the silver camp of Cobalt and the gold camps further west, stated to the writer that if such an aggregate of proven mines as exists here were located anywhere in the United States, that even the impending gloom of national trial grimmings by the shadow of a legitimate boom in history.

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BRIGHTER DAYS FOR MINES OF ONTARIO

Great Record of Production of Precious Metals to Be Surpassed.

WEALTH IS ENORMOUS

Hollinger Alone Has More Than Forty Million Dollars in Ore Reserves.

Discussing the fact that the silver and gold output of Cobalt, Porcupine and Kirkland Lake approximates \$75,000 every 24 hours, of which Cobalt produces about \$50,000. The Cobalt Nugget says: "It is a remarkable achievement in face of the fact that the men engaged in the mining of silver and gold could lay no particular claim to exemption under the Military Service Act."

"There may be a few who carelessly and accountlessly classify the mining of silver and gold as non-essential in the time of a crisis. There may be a few who, with equal carelessness, contend that the continued production of these metals is necessary at this time. Dismissing the careless opinions, both for and against, and taking into consideration the opinions of some of the leading statesmen and financiers, it would appear that in the course of such a prolonged struggle the so-called silver bullets are indeed a necessity."

"As for the future of this country, there is never any doubt but that its best days are yet to come. Characteristic of opinion in all parts of this country is that expressed by a mining engineer recently returned from a business trip to the western United States, and who, after reviewing the situation in the silver camp of Cobalt and the gold camps further west, stated to the writer that if such an aggregate of proven mines as exists here were located anywhere in the United States, that even the impending gloom of national trial grimmings by the shadow of a legitimate boom in history."

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WHY SILVER IS QUOTED BELOW DOLLAR MARK

Why is silver quoted at ninety-nine and a half cents only an ounce on the New York market? This question is undoubtedly puzzling many people because dollar silver is supposed to be the price. One dollar is the price but the New York purchaser does not know whether the silver is deliverable at Philadelphia, San Francisco or some other United States mint location, and therefore under paying the half-cent below the dollar. An ounce at New York. If a New York purchaser is informed that his silver is to be delivered at San Francisco it would probably cost 2 cents an ounce to get it there. If a Cobalt bullion shipper receives more than a dollar an ounce, it is quite likely that it is for San Francisco delivery, which would probably bring down the price to 99 cents about the New York quotations.

DAVIDSON IN POWELL PLACED UNDER OPTION

Weldy Young and Robert McKay, K.C., of Toronto Are Interested.

The Davidson property in the Township of Powell, Matachewan gold area, has just been placed under option. Weldy Young and Robert McKay, K.C., of Toronto are interested along with Davidson who staked the claim. This property was last winter by Frank Loring, E.M. on behalf of the interests now controlling the mine. No deal was made, but it is understood that the report was favorable. It is, however, said that the price was raised from \$60,000 to \$1,000,000.

The identity of the present optionees has not been disclosed nor the price or terms. It is believed, however, that the Mining Corporation of Canada are the lucky buyers. This property is not as favorably regarded as the best of the sensational and speculative respondent, who has lately examined both, seems to think that something very big can be found on the Davidson. In the event of the Mining Corporation it will be properly explored.

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ORE RESERVES OF DOME MINES LESS

Stock Appears, However, to Have Discounted Unfavorable Features of Report.

OPHIR IS WEAK SPOT

Cobalt Issue Sells at Lowest of Year — Newray Distinctly Firmer Among Porcupines.

Further light on the annual report of the Dome Mines appears to afford some explanation of the recent dip in the price of the stock, but evidently the recession has well discounted the statement, as Dome sold yesterday at 7.50 on the Standard exchange, as compared with 7.25 the previous day. The market, in general, was quiet and inclined to be irregular. Newray after being conspicuously among the firmer issues, while Ophir was a noticeably soft spot in the Cobalt list, its closing quotation of 3 1/2 being the lowest of the year to date.

According to a New York despatch, the ore reserves of the Dome mine are estimated to be worth roughly \$10,000,000, the average value of the ore in sight being placed at \$5.10 a ton. The showing is a poor one in comparison with that at the end of the fiscal year on March 31, 1917, the estimated ore reserves at that time being given as about 2,500,000 tons, at an average of \$5.25 per ton, a total of \$13,125,000. The cost of mining and milling at that time was estimated at \$2.70 per ton, or \$4,972,500, leaving a favorable balance of \$8,152,500.

An interesting announcement is made by President Delamar in the newly issued report as follows: "Since the shut down of the mill on Dec. 1, 1917, only a limited amount of development work was done, for all the good men obtainable were put to work sinking the main shaft, which had reached a depth of 1200 feet on May 30, and should be completed early in June to the desired depth of 1250 feet, when a lateral drift will be started to the dividing line of the Dome and Dome Extension Mines, where, at a depth of 1150 feet, was cut by diamond wire, which was promising as to size and value."

Operations at the Davidson mine are encouraging, and the stock firming up yesterday at 23. Newray at 21 showed a full recovery from the recent depression. McIntyre was actively traded and receded a point to 1.25 with the closing bid 1.24. A more hopeful view of the immediate future of the Schumacher is being taken on the stock sold yesterday at 16. The new stock sold yesterday as being better placed with the conditions, and the last monthly report is considered one of the best of the year. The report that the mine would close down soon is believed to be in error.

The annual meeting of the Vacuum Oil and Gas Company held in the Lameden building yesterday, the oil situation in western Ontario in light of recent important developments was discussed thoroughly. It was announced that arrangements had been made to start the sinking of a deep well into the Trenton formation on the company's property, which is the same formation as that in which the Union Company recently made a spectacular strike in West Dover and the work will be proceeded with at once.

Among those present at the meeting were Harry Mack, New York, who is one of the directors, and Edward Kohn, New York, who represented New York shareholders.