The trade conference between Canada and the British West Indies has been arranged to open in Ottawa on May 31st. The subject under discussion will be: (a) Communication, transport and cable; (b) trade relations. The object of the conference would be to enlarge the volume of trade between Canada and the West Indies by an extension of the existing preference. The preferential tariff agreement reached at the conference all 1912 will expire in 1922. At the coming conference all the British West Indies would be represented, including Jamaica, Bermuda, the Bahamas, British Honduraas and Trinidad.

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## Canada's Mining Industry

# United States Buying Silver

Kirkland-Porphry Gold Mines are for Sale.—Geological Survey of Boston Creek District is Proposed.—Annual Report of Peterson Mining Co.

By OUR TORONTO CORRESPONDENT.

the Kirkland Porphyry Gold Mines, which consist of several unpatented mining claims in Teck Township, as well as a lease held on the property of the Orr Gold Mines. It is also learned that the Wettlaufers of Buffalo and the Hamilton B. Wills interests of Toronto, appear likely to arrive at a solution of the difficulties which arose and caused suspension of work on the Orr property, which should mean the early resumption of work on the Orr property.

Harry Oakes, President of the Lake Shore Mines, is stated to have arrived in Paris, having travelled to the capital of France by airplane from London, England. Mr. Oakes is on his way to Monte

A geological survey of the leading properties in the Boston Creek district, with a view to making a study of the geological structure peculiar to the area, is in prospect. It is stated that the work will be undertaken by Alfred R. Whitman. The plan, as at present outlined, is to group the leading properties so as to study the situation on a basis of corelation, and with the co-operations of all the companies involved.

According to preliminary estimates, as announced from Porcupine, by the end of May the gold mines of Ontario will have recorded a total output for the five months beginning with January, somewhat higher than for the corresponding period last year. Mining interests point to the achievement as being exceptionally favorable and one that should go far towards solidifying confidence in the Northern Ontario gold mining industry.

Cobalt advices state that the United States. having found quotations for silver to have declined to around a dollar an ounce, seem now desirous of purchasing a treasury supply of the metal. As a consequence of this the bid price has remained steady during the past several days at a fraction below \$1 an ounce and seems destined to not fall below this figure. A year ago the silver mine operators of Cobalt were exceptionally well satisfied to receive the fixed price of \$1.11/2 an ounce for their product. Now, not only does the price about equal that of last spring, but in addition there is the exchange of around ten per cent extraon sales of silver made in New York.

The annual report of Peterson Lake Silver Cobalt Mining Co. for the year ending April 30 indicates that satisfactory progress has been made.

After a stormy period with internal dissensions, the company settled down to a year of production and active mining and milling operations were carried on. The total receipts were \$92,086, compared with \$20,872 in the previous year, and assets are given as \$2,945,601, as against \$2,494,802. President W. A. Lamport, reporting on the arrangement with the Dominion Reduction Company for the treatment of the large dump of tailings, which has been the subject for litigation, says it is hoped to treat about 10,000 tons monthly, and speaking with reservation expresses the belief that the company would net over \$500,000 from this

During the year the company brought to a suc cessful conclusion a lawsuit in which it was engaged, contracted for the sale of 400,000 shares

Tenders have been called for for the assets of of treasury stock and received from the sales of shares \$36,000. "Our property is in good physical condition," says Mr. Lamport, "out position financially improved, and, with the results in hand, which we are now anticipating, we think we are justified in saying that our expression of optimism for the future prospects of our company is not unwarranted."

> Dewatering of the old workings of the Seneca Superior section has begun, preparatory to carrying on active development work in that section. Engineer C. A. Filteau reports that development work for the year included 206 feet of drifting and 47 feet of cross-cutting.

> Seeding operations on the majority of farms operated by the Department of Indian Affairs in Alberta and Saskatchewan are well under way. Four thousand acres have already been sown in wheat and sixty seeders are now in operation with an objective of 20,000 acres.

> More than 150 settlers personally selected by Canadian Pacific Railway agents in Europe. and comprising Norwegians, Swedes, Belgians, French and Dutch, recently arrived on C.P.O.S. liners and have come through to Calgary. They are one and all well capitalized and are buying farms in Alberta.

> A syndicate of English capitalists has acquired rights on two and a half sections of land about thirty miles north of Calgary and will commence exploitation of the deposits of sodium sulphate as soon as machinery can be installed. The deposits are about four feet deep. The plant will be installed in units costing from \$10,000 to \$15,-000 each with a capacity of 500 tons per month.

Southern Alberta's area under irrigation will be extended by 50,000 acres this summer, when the Canada Land and Irrigation Company begins watering parts of their 500,000 acre tract which contains altogether 200,000 acres of irrigable land. It is expected that the whole of the first 50,000 acre block will be disposed of this summer. This tract lies west of this city.

According to government figures slightly over 90,000,000 bushels of wheat were raised in the province of Saskatchewan last year, of which about 10,000,000 bushels were held off the market for seed and other purposes on the farm. An initial payment of \$172,000,000 was made for this by the Wheat Board, and the wheat farmers stand to receive approximately \$32,000,600 over and above this.

Indians on the Piapot reserves, about twenty miles northeast of Regina, find themselves in the fortunate position of being possessors of \$150.000 in cash as the result of the sale of 24 sections to the Dominion government for soldier settlement.

David Kroker, a Russian farmer in Saskatchewan has imported a pure bred Karakul ram and will experiment in the cultivation of the animal for the production of astrakhan or persian lamb. The importation was made from Mexico and the animal cost \$300.