

CORRESPONDENCE.

Rand Machinery in the West.

The Editor:

Sir:—As a reader of your paper and as one interested in the development of the mining industry in Canada, I have read with a great deal of pleasure the very comprehensive article from the pen of your Rossland correspondent in the July issue.

I refer to the article describing the Trail Creek district, its formation, its different mines and its mining machinery. It interested me very much because being interested in and President of the Canadian Rand Drill Co., we have been doing much business in that locality. The impression, however, that would be made on one reading this article, would be that all of the plants in the district have been supplied by one manufacturing company, while this is most certainly not the case.

Your correspondent was evidently only partly advised regarding the machinery and I think it only fair to the company that I represent, that people interested in this matter should know what the facts are.

The Canadian Rand Drill Co. has been established in Canada about seven years, and have done their share towards developing the mining industries, in the way of furnishing mining machinery to all parts of the Dominion where the mining of iron, coal or precious metals is carried on and in the mining districts of British Columbia, described by your correspondent, we have furnished the following mines with air compressors and drills:

War Eagle Mine, a 20-drill air compressor, which is shown in the photograph on page 161 of your July issue.

The Le Roi Mine, a 16" x 24" air compressor has been in operation two or three years, and we are now building them a duplex, compound, Corliss engine air compressor, with a capacity of 40 drills.

Cliff mine—12 x 18 in. compressor, with the complement of drills.

O. K. mine.

Poorman mine.

Lucky Jim mine.

White Bear mine.

The Hall mine.

Pilot Bay mine.

Centre Star mine.

We are also building a plant for the Georgia mine, Byron White Co., Commander Co. mine, also Crown Point Co. mine.

Aside from these mines, the Columbia and Kootenay are using the Canadian Rand drills.

All of the mines mentioned above do not yet use compressors, but when the orders are filled which we now have on our books we will have 12 or 14 air compressors in that field.

We give great attention to our designs, and take a personal pride in our business, outside of the money-making feature, and I write this letter simply that the Canadian Rand Drill Co. may receive the credit due them, and to have the facts appear just as they exist.

Yours very truly,

J. F. LEWIS, President.

CHICAGO, 10th Sept., 1896.

ONTARIO MINING INSTITUTE.

Holds a Successful Meeting at Rat Portage—Numerous Resolutions Affecting the Mineral Industry Adopted.

Pursuant to its plan of holding local meetings of mining men at various points in the province, the Ontario Mining Institute held a meeting at Rat Portage on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, 8th and 10th September. It was originally intended to convene on the 1st September, but at the request of the C. P. R. who held out prospects of a material reduction in the rates of transportation, the meeting was postponed for a week. This proved an unfortunate circumstance inasmuch as many of the members from the East who had arranged to be present were unable to get away for the later date. The meetings, nevertheless, were highly successful, both as regards attendance and in the amount and character of the business transacted. The opening session was held in the large Board Room of the Bullion Mining Co. kindly placed at the disposal of the Institute, Mayor Barnes presiding. The room was crowded and many were unable to obtain admittance.

MAYOR BARNES in opening the proceedings welcomed the Institute to Rat Portage, and in passing dwelt upon the importance of the gold mines of the Lake of the Woods and the benefit that such a meeting would confer in extending knowledge of the resources of their district and in giving prominence to the requirements of the gold mining industry.

MR. B. T. A. BELL, the secretary, briefly reviewed the work of the Institute and the sister societies in Nova Scotia and Quebec. Among the subjects for discussion at this meeting was that relating to the cost of explosives and the duty on mining machinery. Many of the members were of opinion that the time was opportune for an effort to have these necessities of the miner placed on the free list. For instance, one of the largest operators in Canada, the Canadian Copper Co., had written as follows:—

"With reference to subject 'A' of the duty of high explosives, we would say that we heartily concur in the suggestion of having the duty abolished. We are large users of explosives and we know that its abolishment would be a very material aid, to not only this locality, but to all other mining districts in Ontario. We trust that the efforts of the Institute on this question will be supplemented by all interested parties, with the result that the Dominion House will be persuaded that the country will benefit by the free entry of high explosives."

Personally he was averse to any interference with the duty on these commodities. The law relating to mining machinery was, he was in a position to know, being interpreted with the greatest liberality by the Department of Customs and their mineral operators had no difficulty in getting in duty free such mining and smelting machinery as was not manufactured in the country. Some protection ought to be given to manufacturers like the Ingersoll and Rand Drill companies, the Truro Foundry Company and other establishments which manufacture in Canada certain lines of mining machinery of a quality quite equal to the same machinery manufactured in other

countries. With respect to the duty on explosives he was extremely doubtful whether the miner would in reality be benefitted by any change of the law. While quite in sympathy with any movement which would reduce the cost of their explosives—say to a price equivalent to that at which the same grade of explosives was sold in the United States—he believed that an agreement existed between the manufacturers on both sides of the line and that if the duty was removed a large establishment like the Hamilton Powder Co. would close its works and simply sell foreign explosives at as high a price as formerly. However, these were matters for the mining men of the country to decide and the Institute would take action on any suggestions they had to make.

A matter of importance was the necessity of immediate publication by the Provincial and Dominion Governments of all the data in their possession respecting the mineral districts of their province. Dr. Coleman, the provincial geologist, who they were pleased to see present at the meeting, had spent two summers in the gold fields of the Lake of the Woods, Manitou and Rainy River districts, which were now being developed and which were exciting interest among capitalists. He thought it eminently desirable that the report of Dr. Coleman's investigations should be published immediately and distributed in pamphlet form separate and distinct from the annual report of the Bureau of Mines. In this way those people who are being interested in these regions would have a useful and authentic report for immediate reference which could not fail to be of service in promoting the development of the district. He concluded by referring to the interest being taken by the people of Ontario in mining speculations beyond their own province. Many of the schemes being put before them were "wild-cat" and should be avoided. British Columbia which absorbed so much interest at present was not altogether an Eldorado. All is not gold that glitters—much of it, particularly from the Trail Creek camp was, he was sorry to say, not even gilt. The people of Ontario had a great gold field at their own door easy of access and convenient for personal examination. The ores were free milling, the cost of fuel, labor and supplies comparatively small. That the deposits were permanent might be inferred from their geological structure and from the success of the "Sultana" and other workings carried on to depth. He predicted a great development for the Lake of the Woods when the value of its gold deposits were fully realized.

DR. A. P. COLEMAN then addressed the meeting giving a graphic description of his travels in the Manitou, Rainy River and Lake of the Woods. He had, he said, covered a large extent of country and had seen a series of rich gold bearing veins in a geological formation that up to the present had not been thought to belong to the gold bearing rocks. At Mr. Proudfoot's properties he had found gold bearing veins in the gneiss. At the now pretty well known Saw Bill Lake mine he found a shaft down fifty feet in a vein six feet wide. He had also stopped at the Harold Lake mine and at other discoveries in the interior. At the far down Seine river where a very keen interest is centered just now, he had seen many rich veins. He had arrived at the Foley mine just as Mr. Foley himself had arrived there. Very sensible work has been done at that mine, and it had proved that they had a rich property. Good work was also being done on the Ferguson, which had proved to be exceedingly rich. At the Lucky Coon a considerable amount of work had been done, and after being suspended for a time is again being resumed. It was very strange that, although the first mine discovered in the Rainy Lake region was on the American side, the gold belt is nearly all in Canada. Two years ago he had been present at the founding of Rainy Lake City, and this summer when he visited that place he again found the Little American mine running after a lengthy suspension. He then came on to Fort Frances, where he did not delay, but started up the Manitou. There he found a series of rich veins, some having very brilliant specimens. At the Haycock mine he found a little prospecting five stamp mill pounding out the gold. On the Manitou he also met Messrs. Gass, Leuillier, Landon, Leahy and others; some in pretty good comfortable camps and others in poor ones. The veins of the Manitou were small, but exceedingly rich. The only doubt respecting them was as to quantity; their richness had been proved. From there he had travelled across the country and was five days without seeing a white man until he reached White Fish Bay. One of the most cheerful sights he ever saw were the whitewashed camps of the Regina mine. The puff of the steamboat at that mine was a pleasure he had not witnessed for some time, for there are no steamboats on the Manitou lake. After that we felt we were in civilization again. At the Regina active mining and milling was in progress. From there we started northwards to Rat Portage where we enjoyed the hospitalities of the house next door (meaning the Hilliard house.) From there we set out to see more of the neighboring region. South of Rossland we found some very promising looking things, and on south to the Gold Hill mine, where we found the stamp mill pounding away. He also made a visit to the Mikado, where active mining was in progress, and when he returned again to Rat Portage he was delighted to hear the reduction works pounding out Mikado ore. Finally, last but by no means least, he visited the Sultana mine. One and all, we take a peculiar pleasure in the Sultana. So long as it keeps on pounding out the gold bricks, so long will the Lake of the Woods gold fields be kept before the public. He was delighted to find his old friend, Mr. J. F. Caldwell, on the high road to prosperity.

The gold bearing country covered a territory two hundred miles long by about one hundred miles across. In all that region there are no wide gaps in which there is no gold. There are gold belts every ten or fifteen miles. This was an extent of country not to be found anywhere in which the gold was so generally diffused. Secondly, the majority of the best mines are found very close to the contact of the granite or gneiss with the Huronian, generally in the green rocks locality known as the Keewatin. Your town or rather Keewatin, has the honour of giving these rocks a geological name. The gold ores are contained mainly in lenticular or bedded veins. Near Little Turtle lake are some very rich bedded veins. True fissure veins occur in the granite or gneiss. The country rock of the Sultana is really a dragged out gneiss. The Regina and the Mikado are contact veins.

In conclusion Dr. Coleman thought a Government customs mill would be of great service to the district in aiding prospectors and small operators in determining the value of their claims. If prudent, business-like methods were pursued in the management of their mines he could safely forecast a great future for mining in this region.

GENERAL WILKINSON (Regina Mine) endorsed the plea for free explosives and mining machinery. His experience of Canadian machinery had not been satisfactory. He thought it scandalous that large blocks of public lands should be locked up in the hands of speculators. The explorer should be encouraged. Referring to Dr. Coleman's remarks respecting the permanency of these veins, he was confident that gold in workable quantity would be found at great depth, and suggested that deep mining should be encouraged by the Government, either in the form of a bonus or in other ways. Other countries had adopted this plan with great success. On Monday they had celebrated at the Regina the first anniversary of the dropping of their stamps. Their main shaft was now down 176 feet, having been sunk 16 feet in August. The tunnel had been run 214 feet; the first level south, 133 feet; the second level south, 152 feet. He had thought it unwise to run either the first or second levels north under the lake, as a break in the formation might be found and let in the water. He was confident that deep mining would pay in the Lake of the Woods.

MR. N. C. WESTERFIELD, St. Paul, Minn., advocated the adoption of a Joint Stock Companies Act, which would permit the issuance of a charter quickly and