

## South Porcupine of Today Settled Into Proper Stride

Extent and Magnitude of This Newest Gold Field Little Known—Six Towns in Distance of Thirty-Three Miles on Branch of T. and N. O. Railway.

Since Northern Ontario became a mining district, following the construction of the Temiskaming and Northern Ontario Railway from North Bay, and the consequent opening up of the now famous silver mines of that section, no name on the map of Ontario has been so significant from a mining point of view as that of Porcupine.

But few people, with the exception of those that are directly connected with the mining industry, know little of the extent and magnitude of this newest gold field of the north. So great has been the activity along

south, and, in fact, all around, the value of which will be proven under development.

Some idea of the wealth found in the camp may be gained from figures showing the production to the end of last year from 1910, during which period \$11,271,511. In bullion was shipped from the various mines. 562,239 tons of ore was treated, giving 578,484 ounces of gold bullion. Last year alone the production totalled \$5,263,229, only nine mines being on the producing list. In the year 1910 only \$35,539. In bullion was produced. At the outbreak of the war the work

for the last half of the year should be considerably increased.

The mines, of course, are the centres of activity in this wonderful northern part of Ontario, but any picture would be incomplete unless it took in the towns of the district. Timmins and Schumacher, the two newest, present perhaps the busiest appearance, but this is due largely to the fact that they were not started in the early days of the prospector, and as a result were not greatly overbuilt during the boom times.

Timmins is a thriving town of about 3500 people, and, aside from the business folk of the town, the population is largely made up of the men employed at the mines, the majority of whom, with their families, will be residents for years to come. The board of trade and council have carried out their municipal work with a view to permanency. The town is laid out on the square plan with wide streets and avenues; cement sidewalks have been laid; electric lights installed, and water service and fire protection that the town may be proud of is provided. Timmins today is the most thriving town of the district, due

## The Mines of Porcupine; Some Facts and Figures

What Has Been Done in the Way of Development on the Various Properties and a Prediction Regarding the Future of the Camp.

In a few years Porcupine will have several of the largest gold mines in the world. One of these will probably be known as the "Hollinger Consolidated." It will have a capitalization of \$10,000,000. A mining area of 575 acres, and annual profits of over \$5,000,000. There are a number of facts which point to the fulfilment of this prediction. The Canadian Mining and Finance Co., Ltd., are general managers of the "Hollinger," and own 51 per cent. of its stock. They also own the entire share capital of the Acme Gold Mines, Ltd. and of the Millerton Gold Mines Ltd.

not an insuperable obstacle, when the Canadian Mining and Finance Co. controls the "Hollinger," and owns absolutely the other properties. It is merely a question of fair terms to the holders of the 244,000 shares of the "Hollinger," now outstanding. To give an inkling of the probable output of gold from Porcupine it is pointed out that developments now indicate that in an area of 15 acres on the "Hollinger" there is at least \$20,000,000 in gold, above 1425 feet. And Mr. Robbins, the general manager, says there is \$100,000,000 above the 675-foot level, in the "Hollinger,"

cost of mining was \$2.59, and the profit, \$1.42 per ton.

The crushing capacity is being constantly increased at the "Hollinger." Last year there were 60 stamps, and the mill treated 208,886 tons of ore, which gave a gross value of \$2,685,354, and profits of \$1,786,679, or \$8.55 per ton. There are now 100 stamps dropping on ore from the "Hollinger" and "Acme." It is probable that the consolidated mines will have 250 in commission, and these should give a gross production of \$10,000,000 per year. The "Hollinger" has been producing \$45,000 per stamp, as against \$17,000 in the Rand.

The last annual report on the "Dome Mines" is up to March 31st, 1915. Ore reserves were then given as \$11,567,858, and operating costs at \$2.06. Development work so far has been within a zone 1500 x 400 feet. When work began in 1910 a portion of this was capped by large masses of quartz with intrusions of schist. A "glory hole," 300 x 250 feet, has been carried down several hundred feet and over 90 per cent. of the material removed was fed to the stamps, returning \$5.70 per ton. This must be all

of the mining area, as the "Hollinger," "Millerton" and "Porcupine Crown" do the west. The latter property is paying 12 per cent. per annum from a single vein carrying \$20 ore. It has only 40 acres, almost half of which is covered with sand. The "North Thompson" adjoining it on the east, is developing favorably and the "Vipond" is rapidly coming into a very strong position. Its veins are increasing in size and value with depth. It is evident that the "McIntyre" is a younger brother of the "Hollinger" and "Acme." It has a portion, at least, of their great vein systems. The same remark applies, tho, in a less degree, to the "Schumacher." On this property a hundred ton mill will soon be in operation.

There are many other properties of promise, not yet under development. The crying need of the camp is more capital. Whenever sufficient money has been wisely spent, results have been very satisfactory. In every case there seems to be a distinct improvement with depth, ore bodies become larger and richer and dividends come within the range of probability. Considering the many adverse influences heretofore met with, progress has been very remarkable, in fact, rapid and substantial than any other gold region of which we have any knowledge.

It has now every facility for economical mining. At the "Hollinger" costs are \$3.50 per ton, while at



Central view in the town of South Porcupine.

prospecting and mining lines that no less than six towns have sprung up within a distance of thirty-three miles since the prospecting first commenced in the winter of 1909. All of these towns: Golden City, Pottsville, Porcupine, South Porcupine, Schumacher and Timmins, are reached by a branch of the Temiskaming and Northern Ontario Railway, which connects with the main line about 450 miles by rail north from Toronto, a little more than

of further prospecting and development was considerably lessened on account of the depression in the money market. Despite this fact, however, extensive improvements and development works have been continued at the producing mines, and others are being rapidly brought into a position where they will be listed among the producers of bullion. The chief cause of the extensions and improvements at the producing mines has been the

fact that more mines are being operated close by than in the immediate neighborhood of the other towns.

The town of Schumacher, with its transient population of about 1500, is still in its infancy, but the future of the place is quite bright, since it is the centre of a mining section that is being actively developed, including the McIntyre Schumacher, and Vipond. Many of the miners will undoubtedly make their homes in this newer town, where there are now quite a number of business interests.

It is unfortunate for South Porcupine that one receives a bad impression of the town when leaving the train. This, however, is caused in the first instance by the location of the station, which is some little distance from the business section of the town, and which, so to speak, only gives an entrance by the back door. The second reason is that the town, like the majority of new mining towns, was greatly overbuilt by speculators in the early boom days, and these, having made their little pile, or lost it, have retired leaving the empty buildings to go to decay.

Upon closer investigation, however, one finds that the town of South Porcupine, which is about central for the whole district, has got into its proper stride and is now what might be termed a steady going home district. Many miners and others engaged in different walks of life make this the place of their habitation, and the business men have settled down to meet the demands of a town of homes, and not those of a transient horde of boomers.

The great conflagration of 1911, in which so many lost their lives, and at the news of which the outside world stood aghast with horror, may have been somewhat of a handicap to South Porcupine, but it did much good. All of the first boom town was wiped out, leaving it possible to reconstruct on more modern lines. Following the fire the layout was improved, and while many boom buildings were put up better buildings were erected, and, generally, the town was improved more than it could have been for years, had not the fire taken place.

Today South Porcupine has two of the finest hotels in the whole north country. Electric lighting, telephone service, and adequate fire protection has been provided; and the business interests have been put on a sound and permanent basis and the consequent opening up of the known valuable gold properties around South Porcupine, together with those at present operating, including the big Dome and Dome Lake, will make South Porcupine one of the big towns of the district.

The later adjoins the "Hollinger" on the west, and the "Acme" on the east. The "Acme" is generally considered to be fully equal to its great neighbor. It has over \$10,000,000 in gold now in sight. The "Millerton" is not so fully developed. Its ore bodies are very large, but not so high in value as those of the "Hollinger" and "Acme." Then under the same ownership are four mining claims beginning on the east side of the "Acme," and running east one mile. These are undeveloped, but are considered very valuable.

When the Timmins Brothers sold all their remaining holdings in Porcupine to Bewick Mowbray & Co., they reserved these four claims because of their central position and proximity to the "Hollinger" and "Acme." On the north is the "Schumacher," and on the south the Porcupine Success Gold Mines, Ltd. and the "Dome Lake" Mine, Co., Ltd., in which E. P. Earle of the Nipissing Mines and D. Lorne McGibbon of the La Rose Consolidated are heavily interested.

After a broad survey of the requirements of their various properties the Canadian Mining and Finance Co. have completed a large modern air compressing and water pumping plant of re-enforced concrete and steel, absolutely fireproof. They are also sinking a six-compartment central working shaft to a depth of 1250 feet, with stations at 425 and 800 feet. From each station cross cuts will be driven to tap the various ore bodies on the different properties, and electric locomotives operating in these cross cuts will collect the ore and deliver it at the central shaft.

The compressors will have a capacity of 13,500 cubic feet of free air per minute, with space for additional units while the mill is designed to crush 2000 tons per day.

The maximum of economy in operation and the minimum of capital expenditure for equipments can be secured by working the properties together, and the only difficulty at present in the way of consolidation is the equitable valuation of the various properties. The "Hollinger" has the most development, the "Acme" comes next. On the "Millerton" little work has been done, and the four claims are only partly prospected. Obviously, however, the apportionment of values between the different properties is

"Acme" and Millerton." But only a fraction of the whole area has as yet been explored, and even if this enormous sum were obtainable every 1000 feet, there would be \$500,000,000 at a depth of 5000 feet.

There is no doubt that these are prospectively very deep mines, while the record of the "Hollinger" is equal to that of any other mine working on unoxidized ore in any known mining region. It is true that the Gold Fields Consolidated in Nevada paid \$7,000,000 in dividends in 1911, but this was due to secondary enrichment. Its ore has now become of much lower grade. The same thing may be said of the once world famous "Mount Morgan" in Queensland, and as to the mines of the Rand, their large outputs are due to the enormous tonnages crushed. Altogether 10,000 stamps are in commission, 25,000,000 tons of ore are treated annually on which the profit is under \$2.40 per ton.

The Homestake in South Dakota has over 1000 stamps dropping. Its dividends last year were \$2,146,225. The ore averaged \$4.01 per ton. The

considered remarkable in view of the fact that all the rock was taken from the surface down on the non-selective system and that less than 10 per cent. was rejected as waste. Ore of much better grade has come in at a vertical depth of 250 feet. The tonnage available is not yet proved but there is every indication of an enormous body of high grade, as well as of low grade ore. At a vertical depth of 320 feet the shoot was found by diamond drill to be 320 feet long by 120 wide. A cross cut since driven shows ore at one point 45 feet wide averaging \$21.43. Another cross cut for 25 feet shows \$19 ore. This cross cut is following a diamond drill hole, which gave \$14.48 over a width of 153 feet. Definite information as to the full width and values here will not be obtainable until cross cutting is finished, but there is no doubt that the ore shoot now being developed is by far the richest ore body ever struck in the northern country. It is probable that within a year there will be over \$50,000,000 in gold ore blocked out in the "Big Dome."

The 80-stamp mill at this property is the most complete on the continent. Plans are now under way for a great increase in its capacity and it is certain that the "Dome Mines" will have an enviable record as one of the great producers of the camp. It represents the eastern extremity

of the "Dome Mines" they have during the past year been reduced from \$4.19 to 2.98 per ton. Further reductions are looked for at both properties. The country rock is soft, much broken up and easily mined, while the ore bodies are large. Besides adequate transportation and cheap power tend to a minimum in all outlays whether for mining or milling. And, above all, the camp is permanent and will, in the end, necessarily attract very large capital. Dr. Malcolin Maclaren, the greatest of the modern writers on gold, says that its two principal sources are granites and andesites. The latter were found mainly in the Andean and Rocky Mountain chains, and in them the primary gold is generally of low grade and cannot be worked without some very local enrichment. "Bonanzas" do occur, but most of these have already been exhausted. At Porcupine, on the other hand, practically all the gold is primary and is now evenly distributed just as it was derived from the granite magma. There are no sudden changes in quantity but below the zone of surface disturbance there seems to be a material increase in values. This is well illustrated at the "Dome," "McIntyre" and other mines. Porcupine is rapidly acquiring a strong status in the mining world, and there is likely to be a very pronounced movement of capital even before the end of the war.



Hotel Connaught, South Porcupine.

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The principal mines of the district, and those being most actively operated, lie between South Porcupine on the east and Timmins on the west, in Tisdale Township, being divided into two districts, each district making one of the towns its headquarters. Naturally the whole district has been thoroughly prospected, and there are properties lying to the north and

increased demand for gold, so that this year, unless something unforeseen should occur, the output figures will be much higher than any yet shown.

This is already evidenced by the reports for the first six months of the year, which show a marked increase over the same period last year, or even the last six months of 1914, and with other mines just about ready to be put on the producing list and production

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