

NEWS OF THE MINES.

ONTARIO NEWS.

Lake of The Woods.

(Special Correspondence from Rat Portage.)

Mr. W. A. Laycock left on the 6th inst. with a gang of men to commence operations on the Golden Gate mine. As soon as he has his camps up, he will put on a larger force and will push the work for all it is worth.

The first shipment of ore from the famous Mascot mine, arrived at the local reduction works yesterday (May 7th), and will be run through as soon as everything is in readiness. The samples from this mine brought in from time to time have been very rich, and great results are expected from the run.

Mr. Harry Dixon, who is sinking a shaft on his property on West Hawk Lake, was in town this week, and reports everything in that district as looking very favorable.

Navigation is now open all over, and boats have already been out to Gold Hill and Shoal Lake, and to-day the steamer leaves for Fort Francis. The water is very high just now and the boats are able to go up Ash Rapids.

The opera house is now nearly completed and is really a magnificent structure, and can hold its own with many of those in the eastern cities.

May 8, 1897.

—G. A. P.

A new dock is being built at the Hay Island mine.

Burley Smith has gone to the Yum Yum mine with a diamond drill.

The shaft on the Regina mine is down 260 feet and looks better than ever before.

The Colcleugh Gold Mining Company have had thirty-five tons of ore brought in to Rat Portage from La Mascotte mine to be run through the reduction works.

The shaft in the Olive mine is down eighty feet and the vein is widening. The stamp mill is being completed. Mr. Richards, State Mineralogist of Colorado, it is said, is commissioned to buy Lake of the Woods properties for American capitalists.

W. A. Martel & Sons have published a photograph map of the Lake of the Woods which should prove especially useful to prospectors, as it can easily be carried in the pocket. By the aid of a mineral glass every mark and number is distinctly seen.

A correspondent of the *Winnipeg Free Press* quotes Mr. Silas Griffis as saying that the proposed change in the mining law of British Columbia whereby only British subjects are permitted to acquire mining interests in the province is bound to drive a lot of American capital into the Lake of the Woods district.

The Rat Portage correspondent of the *Winnipeg Free Press* says:—"A rich discovery has occurred on one of the Bullion properties on Shoal Lake. The specimens shown from them are very similar to the Mikado ore, and show any amount of gold in sight. Mr. R. Rodgers left on Saturday for the east, carrying with him several lots of samples of rock which are likely to cause a sensation in that direction."

The Rat Portage *Miner* says:—"The tunnel at La Mascotte mine is now in ninety feet and has cut a vein over twelve feet in width, and although the ore does not show free gold, as it did in the shaft nearer the

surface, samples brought in pan gold freely, and the directors are very enthusiastic over the showing of the property. A number of miners are to be added to the force now at work and sinking on the shaft will be resumed at once."

Up to the present the Princess has been using the commodious camp of the El Diver, which mine was shut down during the winter, but is now starting up again. It was also desirable to get nearer to the work, so that the new Princess camp is situated on the Black Sturgeon Lake. Mr. Collins says that the vein on the Princess is widening out as they get down into it, and the ore is getting richer, and Mr. Deacon, P.L.S., who saw it the other day, says the ore is some of the finest he has come across.

The *Edmonton Bulletin* tells of a queer way of getting to the Lake of the Woods gold fields. It says:—"Jas. Mowat and his father Thomas Mowat and son, all of Lac St. Anne, leave to-day on an overland trip of 1,200 miles, for Winnipeg and Rat Portage. They go by way of Fort Saskatchewan and Beaver Hills, to Duck Lake and through the Touchwood hills. From there they go to Fort Ellis in the Qu'Appelle valley and thence on to Portage la Prairie and Winnipeg, which city they expect to reach in about a month. Their outfit will consist of two wagons, a buckboard and twenty-five horses, and their actual destination is the gold fields of Rat Portage."

Mr. Chas. J. Hollands of Fort Francis, writes to the *News* concerning a party of prospectors who he believes lost their lives by starvation on one of the islands of Rainy Lake last summer or fall. He reproduces the statement made by Albert Isherwood, the discoverer of the outfit of the prospectors, as follows:—"On the 15th of April inst., I was prospecting in Swell Bay, in company with my brother and brother-in-law, on the north shore of the bay. I found a large birch bark canoe, turned bottom up, at about high water mark. I also found in the vicinity of the canoe a pair of oars, a sail, a tent, a double-barrel B. L. gun, the stock of which had been broken, and repaired with a plate of copper. The gun was loaded in both barrels; one shell with shot, the other with ball. The canoe was fitted with an inch keel, and a rudder. I also found three small bottles, one containing medicine with a label, "Canniff & Johnson, Rat Portage": the others contained sweet oil and castor oil respectively. There was a complete outfit of grey granite dishes, besides provisions and many small articles that go to make up a prospector's outfit. The tent and sail were rotten, and tore very easily, but the condition of the gun and axe would indicate that the articles had not been there much longer than last summer."

The directors of the Rat Portage Mining Exchange, at a meeting held last week, passed a resolution protesting against any duty being placed on mining machinery. They took the ground that the re-imposition of the duty would do great injury to the work of development.

The Rat Portage *News* says:—"Mr. Neil Campbell, manager of the Ontario Prospectors Mining and Development Co., who have some rich locations near Andrew Bay, has brought back with him from that locality some beautiful specimens in which free gold can be seen as if peppered in the quartz and assaying from \$150 to \$800 to the ton. The veins, for there are a number of them, average from two to four feet wide on the surface and extend for over half a mile. Active

work is being done on the property and a shaft is already down twelve feet. Necessary machinery will shortly be put up.

**

Wabigoon and Manitou.

Wabigoon hotels and houses are crowded.

Prospectors are going into the Lake Minnetakie country.

A. Whyte, physician and assayer, is opening an assay office at Wabigoon.

Two prospectors, Cecil Crichton, of Toronto and J. O. Johnston, a former purser on the upper lakes, were drowned the other day in Wee Sandy Lake, five miles from Wabigoon, through the upsetting of a canoe.

The *Winnipeg Free Press* correspondent at Wabigoon says:—"Mr. W. Barrett Lennox made his first trip with the steamer Widgeon to the Manitou on the 6th inst., and is now making regular daily trips, leaving here on arrival of the east train at 6.30 a.m. and returning at 3 p.m. Mr. Lennard is prepared to make excursion trips afternoon and evenings."

Mr. Johnston expects to have his new boat ready for her trial trip in a few days. A Fort William steamboat company are also constructing flat-bottom stern wheel boats, which they intend to put on Lakes Wabigoon and Manitou, for the carrying of passengers and freight and will no doubt get their share of the business from this point.

Although \$8,000 was appropriated by the legislature at its recent session for the building and improvement of roads to the south, between Lakes Wabigoon and Manitou, and the construction of a dam at the south end of Big Manitou, to make navigation possible on these lakes, nothing has yet been done, and work has to be stopped on the mines, owing to the inability to get heavy machinery over the roads in their present state.

**

Rainy River District.

The *Duluth Herald* gives the particulars of a mining deal by which W. E. Seelye of Brainard sold a property recently in the Bad Vermilion lake country to a syndicate for \$21,000, practically in cash. The property sold is considered a valuable one, and a couple of years ago Seelye, who has been prospecting with the late S. G. Gilman, and his brother Jno. Gilman, discovered it. He bought the interest of the Gilman boys for \$2,500.

The Rainy River Lake *Journal* says:—"It is said 150 men are at Crane Lake awaiting the arrival of the Rainy Lake boats. The boom is surely on here, and the same may be said of the condition of things all over these immense gold fields. One indication of the excitement of the day is shown in the fact that property is rapidly changing hands. Reports reach us of properties that are unsurveyed with only the prospector's reports and samples being taken at figures ranging from \$250 to \$5,000 and in one case for \$10,000. One good feature about the transactions is the readiness of the sellers to retain an interest in the property and to use the purchase money in development. Locations with some development work are bringing from \$4,000 to \$25,000, and a few exceptionally fine pieces have brought higher figures. The region can no longer be considered an experiment. Contact veins are now proved to a depth of over 400 feet in the district and fissure veins to 300 feet. The milling of the ore in every case has