

*The Address—Mrs. Shipley*

staking was in 1906, and was part of the claims now known as Kerr-Addison Gold Mines Limited. About this time the railroad being built by the province of Ontario as a farming development railway reached Cobalt, where almost pure silver was blasted from the rock cuts for the rail line. This fabulous find attracted prospectors from all over the continent. From Cobalt the prospectors spread north. Travel was still very difficult, chiefly by canoe and portage, but by 1909 the Porcupine camp was discovered and the Kirkland Lake camp was discovered in 1911.

In Timiskaming it has been our misfortune that no great base metal mines have yet been brought into production. To the east, about 25 miles away in northern Quebec, there are the great copper mines of Noranda and others, and to the west there are the fabulous nickel mines at Sudbury. We do produce cobalt which was invaluable to the Canadian and United States governments during the war but for which we now have to find or develop a commercial market. We produce a little copper, silver and certain other metals that are by-products, but our chief production is gold.

To have a gold mine used to be the equivalent of sitting on top of the world, but today with controls and a set price it is not the unalloyed joy of old. Without the help given under the Emergency Gold Mining Assistance Act many of our gold mines would be forced to close, thereby creating mass unemployment. If such should happen, properties in most gold mining communities would be valueless. The millions invested in schools and public utilities would be worthless, as in most cases we have relatively no secondary industry. We have tried and are still trying to attract industry, but it is very difficult to persuade them to locate in other than the congestion of big centres. Regardless of the price of gold or the assistance given, mining is a depleting industry. Therefore it is inevitable that a day will arrive when there is no more ore. Now is the time when action should be taken.

Perhaps it will be necessary to offer special inducements to industry, such as special freight rates or reduced hydro rates or both. This is obviously beyond the capabilities of the municipalities concerned, and in any event is a provincial or, if necessary, even a national matter. In the case of northern Ontario it should not be too difficult, as the province not only owns the hydro but the railroad as well.

We have modern towns with excellent schools, many churches, good roads, air and rail transportation and recreational facilities

available to us that others spend hundreds of dollars to come and enjoy. The trans-Canada highway goes right through the centre of Timiskaming and thanks to this government, with some help from the province, so will the trans-Canada pipe line. We have some available housing and enjoy moderate rentals, but above all we have the finest, friendliest people in the world. In the north you are not judged on who your parents were, their success or the lack of it, or on where you came from or what language you happen to speak at the moment. You are judged simply on what you are. If you want to work and become a leading citizen you have exactly the same chance as the next fellow.

Much has been written of the great fortunes that have been made from gold mines but very little of the heartbreaks and losses. Of all the claims staked, but a very small fraction of 1 per cent ever become profitable undertakings. As the Kerr-Addison gold mine is in my riding and was one of the very first group of claims staked in northern Ontario, I am going to give a very brief outline of its history. In 1906, when the claims were first staked, we must bear in mind that there were no roads, no railway and no electricity; but by 1907 or 1908 a shaft had been sunk, a steam-operated mill built and some gold produced. I do not even know the names of those involved nor the name under which the mine operated at that time, but I do know that the gold produced was part of the gold used in minting the first gold coins in Canada.

The company failed to find enough gold to carry on, closed the mine and lost their entire investment. No one seems to know how many times the claims changed hands, how much money and time were spent in exploration or how many heartbreaks ensued. During the period of 1919 to 1922, another group gathered together enough money to sink a second shaft. They went down 300 feet and had to quit. Ironically the bottom of the shaft stopped immediately over one of the best ore bodies in operation today. Eventually a new company was formed, shafts were sunk, a modern mill was built and today Kerr-Addison Gold Mines Limited processes by far the greatest tonnage of ore and is the second largest producer of gold in the western hemisphere.

This sounds like a success story and indeed it is, if we forget all about those who fell by the wayside. Prior to the Kerr-Addison success, hundreds of thousands of dollars were spent on this prospect. Prospector after prospector, and others willing to risk their savings, put everything they had into trying to develop a profitable mine but all was lost.