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Gold in Western Ontario.

The daily papers in our eastern cities are so full of half-page advertisements of Rossland mines, none capitalized, of course, under a million, and of highly inflated correspondence from that seat of excitement, that there is a little danger of our slower-paced eastern mining regions being forgotten in the scramble to "get in on the ground floor" two thousand miles away. British Columbia is not the only gold-producing province in the Dominion as one might suppose. There have been years when steady-going Nova Scotian stamp mills have surpassed it in output. Quebec, too, has gold mines of promise, placers, like most of the producing mines of the west; but perhaps, of all the provinces, Ontario has the widest diffusion of gold, for it has been found here and there from Madoc to the Manitoba boundary, a distance of more than nine hundred miles in a straight line, and in its western portion the locations where gold has been proved to exist number hundreds.

East of Port Arthur, however, gold mining locations are only sporadic, and gold mining of any importance is going on at one point only, the Empress mine near Jackfish Bay, north of Lake Superior. This has really scarcely the right to be called a mine up to the present, since its workings amount to little more than open cuts near the top of a hill rising five or six hundred feet above Jackfish Bay. It is proposed, however, to tunnel into the hill, striking the five veins, which are of a bedded and irregular character, two hundred feet below the summit. Perhaps the most complete and smoothly running ten-stamp mill in the province has been at work there for some time in charge of Mr. W. Peters, and though the ore is low-grade and quite refractory, only 45 or 50 per cent. of the gold being free milling, it is stated that a good profit is now being realized on the ore crushed. Hoisting and pumping plant will be unnecessary for a long time to come, if the twenty feet of quartz available at the surface continue at the level of the proposed tunnel, so that mining expenses will be unusually low.

No gold discoveries of great importance are reported as we advance west until the once famous Huronian mine in Moss township is reached. Here, after the expenditure of a large amount of money on a vein of beautiful and rich ore, the difficulty of access and differences of opinion among the owners caused the mine to shut down when comparatively little work had been done. Dr. Selwyn and others have expressed a very high opinion of this property, and it is probable that under better conditions it will again become a producer, though the ore is refractory, containing a large amount of sulphides and a small quantity of tellurides.

The upper waters of the river Seine afford the next point of interest. Mr. H. B. Proudfoot is developing some properties near Reserve Island on the Seine, including veins of considerable size in the greenish variety of granite sometimes called protogine, but sufficient work has not yet been done to determine the real value of the deposits. Work at this point is hampered by the difficulty of getting in supplies, which during the summer have to be brought in by canoe from Savanne, a distance of nearly sixty miles, at a cost of \$3.00 to \$4.00 per hundredweight.

Farther down the Seine is the Sawbill lake mine, most easily reached from Bonheur station on the C. P. R., which is about thirty miles to the northeast. Here, under the management of Mr. F. S. Wiley, a Hamilton company is developing a most promising vein in protogine gneiss or sheared granite of greenish color. The vein is very distinctly walled, can be followed more than a quarter of a mile, and carries the usual sulphides, iron and copper pyrites and galena, with considerable quantities of free gold. A shaft has been sunk to a depth of 90 ft., where the vein is 6 ft. wide, though it is only 4 ft. wide at the surface. It is intended to sink 200 ft and do some drifting to settle the quantity and character of the ore before putting up a mill, certainly a most wise determination.

Still following the river Seine, the Harold lake mine is reached four miles west of Steep Rock lake. Here several veins have been worked and a great variety of associations can be seen. Protogine granite penetrates green Huronian schist and much decomposed yellowish schist is found close by. Veins of quartz are found in all of these country rocks, but varying greatly in the amount of sulphides and of gold carried. A narrow vein at the shore of Lake Harold has proved the richest, many portions of the quartz being spangled with gold. Only a small amount of sinking has been done, but some hundreds of feet of drifting. A five-stamp mill was put up before much development work had been done, and this has been worked intermittently, producing a considerable amount of gold; one week's work of the mill being said to have yielded a brick worth over \$600.

Forty-five miles west of Harold lake the Seine opens out into Shoal lake, between which and Bad Vermilion lake the whole country has been taken up as gold mining locations. The most important of these are found in an area of granite or protogine stretching northeast and southwest between the two lakes. The first gold discoveries were made in this rock, by the Wiegand Brothers less than three years ago, and since then the region has deservedly attracted great attention. There are numerous well defined fissure veins which can be traced half a mile or more and show no diminution in width or gold contents where they have been sunk upon.

The most important property is, of course, that of the Ontario Gold Mines Co., owned by Michigan and New York gentlemen, and generally known as the Foley mine. Mr. R. A. Demme, of Detroit, is president of the company, and Mr. J. C. Foley manager.

Several promising veins occur on the 192 acres owned by the company, but only one, the Bonanza vein, has been developed to any great extent. Here one shaft has been sunk to a depth of 210 feet, another 113 feet; and 325 feet of drifting have been done, proving that the vein is continuous and averages 32 inches wide. The ore averages \$20.00 per ton free-milling with \$5.00 more in the concentrates. A mill of twenty stamps is now being put up, and is amply justified by the quantity of ore in sight.

A considerable amount of development work is being carried out on the property of the Seine River Gold Mines Co of London, under