

**LARDER LAKE**

It is probable that the wilful misrepresentation of speculators has damaged the Larder Lake district to such an extent that its future will be seriously affected. The columns of Toronto newspapers and of publications all over the country have been freely used for the purpose of selling that which is not. No account was taken, in these iridescent misstatements, of the extreme costliness of transportation and of installation. If we are correctly informed, there is not yet a stamp mill in operation in the camp. Large quantities of machinery are assembled at points near the railroad. But between the delivery of machinery and its actual installation and successful operation a great gulf is fixed.

In any case, the first operating stamp mills in Larder Lake will be of the light prospecting type. The capacity of these mills is small. Very rich ore will be necessary to give any reasonable return on the money invested. But we have reason to believe that Larder Lake's future will depend, not upon "spotty" and uncertain rich ores, but upon the large bodies of low grade gold ore. The small margin of profit on these latter ores will necessitate large and expensive plants. It is not, then, in our opinion at least, highly probable that Larder Lake will become a steadily producing camp until the present conditions of transportation are vastly improved. But another requisite is the elimination of the "boomster" and the "fakir."

**COBALT'S STRIKE**

The strike situation, of which full details have been given in the daily press, is still acute. It has been resolved, apparently, into a trial of strength between the managers and the men. As is always the case, both sides have been guilty of tactical errors. So far, however, as the strike itself is concerned, there was not the slightest excuse for its declaration. The miners' complaint boils down to this, not that they were treated badly; but that it was possible that they might be treated better. The representatives of the men, in the face of recent events in the West, disregarded the machinery provided by the Federal Government and declared the strike when and how they saw fit. In this they should be condemned by all law-abiding citizens.

**BRITISH COLUMBIA'S MINES IN 1906**

The annual report of British Columbia's Provincial Mineralogist, Mr. W. Fleet Robertson, has been issued. It officially confirms the gratifying announcement that the mineral production of that Province for the year 1906 exceeded that of the preceding year by 11.2 per cent. The total value of the production was \$24,980,546. On another page fuller statistics are given.

It will be a matter of surprise to many readers that up to and including the past year the value of coal mined in British Columbia is greater than that of any other mineral. Placer gold comes next and lode gold third.

The report is a credit to the Mines Department of the Province. In Mr. Robertson the people of British Columbia have a capable and energetic servant.

**CORUNDUM AT CRAIGMONT**

By H. E. T. HAULTAIN

The Canada Corundum Company, Limited, at the present time is treating ore only from its Craig mine, situated on Craig Mountain at Craigmont, in the Township of Raglan, in the County of Renfrew, Ontario. Craig Mountain rises to a height of about 400 feet above the valley of the Madawaska River, and on its southern slope conforms to the dip of the foliation of the gneissic rock of which it is formed. Corundum occurs as a constituent of this rock, not uniformly throughout its mass, but scattered through layers interbedded with barren rock. These layers vary in thickness from a few inches to more than 20 feet. The mining operations have been confined entirely to the surface, the deepest workings being open cuts with faces of less than 40 feet. The corundum occurs in crystals irregularly distributed, and of all sizes up to 60 pounds in weight. In general it is of a brown color, varying from almost white to black. Various shades of yellow and pale green are common, red and blue occur rarely. The larger crystals fre-

quently have considerable mica along the parting or separation planes. The chief constituent of the containing rock is sometimes feldspar and sometimes nepheline. This rock has been called syenite, and if we leave its origin in obscurity this will be a good name for it, though it would perhaps be well to modify it to gneissic syenite or syenitic gneiss. Associated with the corundum are found hornblende, mica, garnet, magnetite, iron pyrites, zircon, and other minerals. Small dykes (pegmatitic?) cut irregularly through the gneissic formation, composed chiefly of feldspar, but carrying also quartz and hornblende. There are several small veins, some in contact with the dykes carrying quartz, scapolite, calcite, iron pyrites, molybdenum, apatite and specularite. Outside of these dykes and veins no quartz has been seen in any of the workings.

On the higher and more exposed parts of the hill the rough crystals of corundum stand out firmly from the enclosing feldspar, showing their better weathering