

front and the mill has been constructed on the side of the bank, with a view to the saving of labor and the necessity of twice handling the ore, which should result in great economy in treatment.

Enormous quantities of timber exist on the main land and islands surrounding the mine suitable for fuel, and all mining requirements.

The water of the lake is pure, clear, soft and wholesome, and abounds with fish.

Labor is easily procured at reasonable prices, and provisions are good and cheap.

The company's steamboat conveys all stores and supplies, etc., direct from the C. P. R. siding at Rat Portage, to the wharf in front of the mill.

The mill was completed in September last, and since then considerable additions have been made in the form of workmen's houses, forge, assay offices, stables, etc., and in a few weeks time the mill will be perfectly equipped in every minute particular. The financial position of the company may be considered very satisfactory considering the amount of work that has been done underground, and the buildings, machinery and plant of all sorts that are now approaching completion and are all paid for.

The total debt of the company consists of first mortgage debenture bonds amounting to sixteen thousand pounds (£16,000) and a temporary loan which will possibly be covered by the proceeds of the call of sixpence per share due the 12th of June.

It must be understood that until the mine has been fairly developed by the deepening of the shaft and extending the levels the stamps cannot be fully employed on profitable stone. At present nearly all the material that is brought to the stamps is obtained from this development work and is largely composed of barren country rock. Still it is a fact that this mixed stone has never yet yielded less than about one-third of an ounce of gold to the ton from the amalgam plates, exclusive of that which will be recovered from the concentrates. And it has for weeks together averaged over one half ounce to the ton. It is therefore confidently expected that when pure quartz only is passed through the mill the yield will be very largely increased.

Owing to the difficulty of obtaining sufficient quartz to supply the mill, as above explained and to various delays and petty accidents incidental to the starting of a new mine, in a new mining district, the stamps have been only worked intermittently.

Up to the end of the first quarter of this year the mill had crushed about eighteen hundred tons of mix-

ed material from which eight hundred and seventy ounces of bar gold has been obtained.

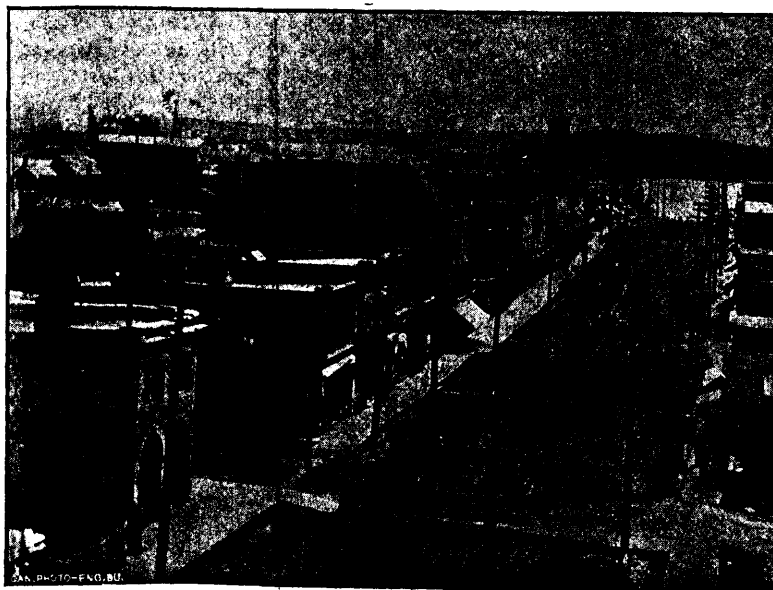
The mill is now working steadily and yielding a bar of gold every fortnight.

The Regina mine is situated in one of the most picturesque and beautiful portions of the Lake of the Woods, known as Whitefish Bay. The water in that part of the lake is clearer and freer from weeds than farther north. The opinion is gaining ground that this will soon become a favorite fishing resort, as black bass, whitefish, pickerel, trout, masacalonge, sturgeon and many other kinds of fish are now known to abound within a few miles of this bay. It is certain that many of them would afford good sport to the rod fisher. The climate here, as in other parts of the district, is extremely healthy, and the scenery is about the finest on the lake.

The Scramble Mine

This mine is situated about five miles east of the town of Rat Portage, and about half a mile north of the Canadian Pacific railway line. It is easily accessible by the government road from Rat Portage, and it is notable for the fact that it is probably one of the only gold mines in the world

surface of the vein. In every place where the vein is stripped, both east and west of the shaft, it measures about thirty-five feet, the narrowest part of the vein being at the point where the shaft is sunk, and here it is twenty-five feet wide. This spot was chosen for the sinking of the shaft because it is the best place for putting up a mill. Several assays of the ore have been made; but Mr. Halstead, who has been operating the mine, was satisfied to rely upon the results of his own panning, which he did carefully at every foot during development. These results were invariably good, and his most sanguine expectations were more than realized, for considering the great width of the seam, and the enormous body of ore which is generally of a low grade when in such quantities, it panned out most satisfactorily. After he drove the cross-cut from wall to wall he never once failed in getting a show of gold in panning. Mr. Halstead expected in such a body of ore a low grade proposition, and he was agreeably surprised to find that beyond the fact of the general body of the ore panning out well, he came across certain very rich pockets. For instance, at a point in the shaft about twelve feet below the surface, and above which the ore had panned poorest of any place, he struck a shoot or



PART OF MAIN STREET, RAT PORTAGE.

which may be reached in the present popular style of travel by bicycle.

The development that has so far been done on the property consists of a shaft which has been sunk to a depth of fifty-four feet, and a cross-cut from wall to wall at fifty feet level, where the vein is twenty-seven feet wide. Before sinking the shaft, surface stripping was done at points for many hundreds of feet along the

pocket of ore which was enormously rich. It is impossible yet to say whether this is a pocket or a shoot, but whichever it is, the ore therein yields from \$200 to over \$700 to the ton. Similar rich spots have been found on the surface both east and west of the shaft.

Mr. Halstead's prime object in carrying on these preliminary developments was to ascertain the width of the