

## EASTERN ALGOMA.

ONE OF THE GREAT GOLD AND COPPER FIELDS OF CANADA.—WHAT A VETERAN PROSPECTOR SAYS.

MR. W. J. MILLER, of Thessalon, Algoma, a pretty little village of about 1,000 population, and with waterworks of its own, on the north shore of the North Channel of Lake Huron, is in the city, and has been interviewed by the CANADIAN MINER. Mr. Miller is no novice in mining. Attracted to Eastern Algoma by the lumbering interest and other business enterprises dependent on it, Mr. Miller soon became interested in the mineral riches of the district, which promise probably more for its prosperity than even the great timber properties. Thessalon is at the mouth of the Thessalon river, a long, devious stream of considerable body and many lakes, but which, owing to the rapid plunges the waters make that drain from the height of land between the St. Lawrence basin and that of Hudson Bay, is navigable but for a few miles. It is a prosperous community, its lumbering industry and the rich agricultural country behind it giving it a comparatively steady trade. People in our Silurian and Devonian southern Ontario know comparatively little of the agricultural resources of the north. The belt of distinctly agricultural land lying on Laurentian and Huronian rocks north of Lake Huron, is about 25 miles wide, from north to south, behind Thessalon, and extends for a hundred miles or more between Blind River in the east and a little beyond Sault Ste. Marie in the west. All of this is not arable land, but more than 75 per cent. is. Outcropping from the fertile plains rise masses of the earlier rocks, glacier swept, and therefore easily open to the investigations of the prospector, who, however, must encounter the obstacles that trees and other vegetation oppose to his search for precious metals.

The country is fairly well settled (for a new community) with a population of about 25,000, but could contain, on agriculture alone, that number multiplied several times over. In the woods pine is found, much as elsewhere in the Laurentian region, in patches or interspersed with deciduous trees. Maple, birch, ironwood and oak are common hardwoods; pine, spruce and tamarack, etc., occupy an important place in the forestry of the region. The agriculture of the country will be a great convenience to the mining industry of the district. Wheat, oats, pease and barley are leading crops: pease, especially, thrive well. Indian corn, as a garden crop, does well. Small fruits are, as in the north generally, very abundant. If the vineyards of the warmer south of Ontario are absent, apple orchards are found to be very profitable, and plums thrive fairly well. Tomatoes succeed. Vegetables, generally, yield large returns. Dairying is an important industry. As a result of this agricultural wealth, schools are scattered over the land, and the miner can pursue his avocation amidst the opportunities and comforts of a civilized community. This is no small advantage to him.

Now, over this district and behind it Mr. Miller roamed for many years in quest of minerals, as did numbers of others, when the province gave no attention to its mineral wealth. He says it is very rich in true fissure veins of gold ore, and has a great abundance of copper.

The Ophir mine, in the township of Galbraith, 22 miles north-east of Thessalon, near Thunder River, Mr. Miller was closely connected with at its first discovery and preliminary development. He began its development in 1891. The property was sold to an American company, and developed further, but for some reasons not connected with the quality of the veins, but with

personal differences, the mine lay idle. It is now to begin operations very actively. The leading vein is 12 feet broad, and exposed on the surface for 600 feet. The depth attained is about 100 feet, and a little drifting has been done. Assays are high, and the vein holds its richness and increases it with depth. The wall rock on both sides is a greenish gray diorite, and the vein is well defined. Another vein on the Ophir property is 4 feet wide, between, diorite and quartzite. The mine has a 20 stamp-mill.

A company has been formed at Thessalon for developing other gold veins. The country, where the rock is exposed, shows many of these veins.

Copper is another of the abundant minerals of the district. Amongst the copper leads of note there is a good grey one in the township of Plummer, which is south of Coffin, and west of Gabraith. It is north of the line of the C.P.R. A good government road passes the mine. The vein is 12 feet wide, with  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles of surface showing. At a depth of 33 feet the ore yields 4 per cent. of copper.

In Gould township, 22 miles north of Thessalon, and near a government road, there is a gray copper property, with assays as high as 67 per cent. The ore is richer, but harder than in the Plummer property, just referred to. The vein has been worked most of the winter. A steam drill is used, and a depth of 40 to 50 feet has been attained. There are several other copper prospects known to be good in both Galbraith and Coffin townships.

Mr. Miller says he has lived in Eastern Algoma for 18 years, and could not wish to live in a finer and better country.

## A NEW RAILWAY.

THERE promises to be an epidemic of railway lines in the James Bay region. The Nipissing and James Bay Co. was organized 15 years ago, but has failed to accomplish anything.

Now another project is on foot, and another railroad company is being formed to be known as the Sault Ste. Marie & Hudson Bay Railway.

One of the leading men in the new enterprise is Mr. Charles T. Harvie, while Hon S. H. Blake, is another promoter, and the solicitor as well. Several prominent business men of Toronto are also interested.

The proposed railway will have no direct connection with this city. The southern terminal point of the proposed road is Missanabie, a station at Dog Lake, on the main line of the Canadian Pacific Railway, almost due north of Sault Ste. Marie. The line will be 240 miles long, and will run to Moose Factory, on James Bay. It will be almost parallel to the James Bay Railway and only some 200 miles further west.

A large freight trade in Hudson's Bay fish is expected to yield revenue to the company.—*Star*.

Private advices from London, Eng., say that capitalists are afraid of the big capitalization of companies of British Columbia, and are looking with more favor on the Ontario properties.—*Vancouver Dispatch*.

A despatch from Victoria, B.C., says:—It is said that an excellent quality of coal has been struck at South Vancouver, where boring operations have been in progress for some time. Indications became favorable two or three days before coal was struck, and now every foot of ground within a radius of a mile from the prospect has been bonded.

If you want to make money through gold mines, buy the Canadian Miner. Price 10 cents per number, or \$2 per annum.

## ONTARIO NEWS.

## Lake of the Woods.

A map of the Lake of the Woods, suitable for navigators, is shortly to be issued.

Already there is a scarcity of miners around the Lake, and this, it is thought, may increase the expense of mining.

The Hudson's Bay Co. are to put a 30 foot keel steamer, with beam in proportion, on the Lake of the Woods. The proposed boat will be fitted especially for traffic to and from mining camps.

Rat Portage surveyed property has all been sold, says the *Rat Portage News*, and new town sites will have to be laid out. Tunnel Island property is in demand. There is a real estate boom there; we hope it will not be overdone as it was in Winnipeg and Toronto.

Docks are to be constructed at the foot of Matheson street in Rat Portage, running south-east towards the property of the Rat Portage Lumber Co. It is the intention, says the *Rat Portage News*, to build a large dock suitable for transferring passengers and freight, and thus avoid the present long haul.

From the *Rat Portage News*.

Rat Portagers will soon be able to boast of the handsomest opera house in the north-west. The contractor is rushing the work as rapidly as possible and expects to have it finished in June.

Mr. J. Burley Smith, from the Sultana, where he had been to inspect the work of the diamond drill, informed a *News* reporter, that a very rich lode had been cut at the shore of Sultana Island. Questioned as to what he intended to do now that he had found the lead, replied, that he intended sinking a shaft before the ice breaks up. The vein is enormously rich.

Latest reports from the Master Jack Mine contained in a letter received this week from the local overseer, are exceedingly favorable. The main shaft has now reached a depth of 110 feet and 125 feet of drifting has been done, which removes all doubt as to the continuity of the vein. It will be remembered that this vein has maintained an average width of 6 feet throughout, but it is now found that at the lower depth it is widening out, not abruptly but gradually, giving great promise of developing an extensive ore body or possibly, as in the case of the Sultana, a great deposit of highly auriferous quartz. About 4,000 tons of ore, having an average assay value of \$7 per ton, is now in sight.

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## Around Madoc.

Twenty-five men are employed in getting out ore at the Ledyard mine near Havelock.

A syndicate is trying to buy thousands of acres of mineral lands in Marmora and Lake townships.

Gold has been found in promising quantities in Chandos township, Peterboro county, and it is said a coal deposit has been found near Apsley.

A strike of free gold has been made on location 337, adjoining the Folger Hammond property, in Frontenac county, owned by Sir Richard Cartwright.

The Bannockburn old mill has 15 stamps, old style, we assume. The mill is owned by a Toronto company, of which Mr. John Lamb is the practical head. The company owns the old Richardson mine, or "hill" at El Dorado.

There is no doubt, it is said on trustworthy