

THE CANADIAN MINING JOURNAL

VOL. XXXV.

TORONTO, April 1, 1914.

No. 7

The Canadian Mining Journal

With which is incorporated the
"CANADIAN MINING REVIEW"

Devoted to Mining, Metallurgy and Allied Industries in Canada.

Published fortnightly by the

MINES PUBLISHING CO., LIMITED

Head Office - - - 2nd Floor, 44 and 46 Lombard St., Toronto
Branch Office - - - - - 600 Read Bldg., Montreal.
London Office - - - - - Walter R. Skinner, 11-12 Clement's Lane
London, E.C.

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SUBSCRIPTIONS—Payable in advance, \$2.00 a year of 24 numbers, including postage in Canada. In all other countries, including postage, \$3.00 a year.

Advertising copy should reach the Toronto Office, by the 8th, for issues of the 15th of each month, and by the 23rd for the issues of the first of the following month. If proof is required, the copy should be sent so that the accepted proof will reach the Toronto Office by the above dates.

CIRCULATION.

"Entered as second-class matter April 23rd, 1908, at the post office at Buffalo, N.Y., under the Act of Congress of March 3rd, 1879."

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GOLD DEPOSITS OF NORTHERN ONTARIO

In this issue we reprint from the transactions of the Institution of Mining and Metallurgy extracts from a paper by Mr. J. B. Tyrrell, entitled "The Occurrence of Gold in Ontario." With his paper are presented extracts from the discussion by Dr. J. M. Bell, Mr. A. G. Burrows, and Mr. S. J. Lett.

In view of the fact that Ontario has suddenly become a large producer of gold we may expect that much will be learned in the next few years concerning the nature of Ontario gold deposits. There are already in the literature many brief descriptions of deposits; but the recorded observations have, in many cases, not been satisfactory on account of the small amount of accurate information available. The development of profitable deposits which has been recently begun is being accompanied by systematic study which has not formerly been possible. In a few years it should be possible to write a reasonably thorough description of the Porcupine and Kirkland Lake deposits.

In the meantime, however, those who are interested in the development of the deposits can make good use of the information which has already been gathered by the many mining men who have visited the districts. The Ontario Bureau of Mines has published geological maps and reports which have been of much service. The work of Mr. A. G. Burrows, who has spent several seasons in the district for the Bureau, has been frequently favorably commented upon by those who have had to puzzle over the ores and rocks. Aside from the Government and mining company reports, however, there has been little of the vast amount of information gathered placed on record. Each investigator who has gone into the district with his eyes open has found many reasons for concluding that there is very little yet known concerning the deposits. Each learns a little; but hesitates to risk exposure of what he has learned.

In his paper Mr. Tyrrell has broken the ice. He has drawn some conclusions from his observations and stated them. Dr. J. M. Bell says politely that Mr. Tyrrell is wrong in asserting that the Kirkland Lake deposits are typical of Ontario gold deposits, and proceeds to prove it. Mr. Tyrrell replies that Dr. Bell is mistaken, and presents some information to substantiate his statements. Mr. Burrows gives some information from which one might conclude that his views and Mr. Tyrrell's concerning the relative age of the conglomerate and porphyry in the Kirkland Lake district are diametrically opposite.

It may seem surprising that such difference of opinion exists among those who have had frequent oppor-