

MINING POSSIBILITIES ALONG CANADIAN NORTHERN RAILWAY, WEST SHINING TREE TO NIPIGON.

By Cyril T. Young.

The formations enclosing the rich Porcupine belt unquestionably extend west across our line at Groundhog River and Foleyet divisional point, and so far as our exploration goes, continues west and quite probably is the same gold formation as outcrops at Hobon on the C.P.R. north of Michipicoten Harbor.

Large quartz bodies occur in formations identical with Porcupine, but there has been no development so far to discover where the rich areas occur. Schist formations outcrop along the line between Tionaga and Foleyet—a distance of approximately twenty-five miles. This is the extension westward of the Porcupine gold belt which has been definitely traced through. On this belt the Cripple Creek area between the C.N.R. and Porcupine is located. On this belt prospectors have secured assays of from \$6 to \$30 per ton on good veins, but little or no work has as yet been performed, and for the greater part it was winter staking. The gold belt through here lies immediately south of a magnetite iron range which is exposed by stripping and tested by diamond drilling on the Groundhog river one mile north of the railway bridge. Further east, in the vicinity of Deerfoot lake, this iron belt is associated with a nickel-bearing formation referred to later.

A mining engineer who looked at a prospect west of Aquesqui Lake states that conglomerates such as we find at the Dome in Munro township, at Kirkland lake and elsewhere, occur on this belt. This formation occurs in all the prominent producing districts in Temiskaming and is considerably different from the silver-bearing conglomerate at Cobalt.

Between the railway track and the northeast arm of Lake Matagama, a promising schist belt, carrying large bodies of quartz on which some staking and work was formerly accomplished is well worthy of exploration.

West of the Groundhog river, in the vicinity of Slate Rock lake, quartz veins occur. Some of these occur in the rock cuts, and all of them are open to prospecting at the present time as the property staked was not recorded.

This gold-belt continues west across the big lake back of Foleyet and outcrops here and there across the Trout and Chapleau rivers, continuing west across the Algoma Central to Hobon on the C.P.R. line and Michipicoten Harbor.

The continuation of the West Shining Tree gold belt is also well worthy of exploration. The easiest method of reaching this belt, is from Gogama Station by canoe southward ten miles on Misnisiwaga lake, where quartz showings are visible at the foot of the high trestle at the southerly end of the lake and in the rock cuts to the westward. On the westward extension of this belt at construction mileage 109 where the Macaming river crosses the steel and the canoe route is on ahead up the river through Macaming lake and Massmakanda lake (two short portages) and then southward to Schist lake. This section has not received the attention of mining men and prospectors, but stakers have been through it and my men say it is very promising.

West Shining Tree camp is already well known and several groups of properties in McMurchy township give every evidence of becoming mines, and are recently in the hands of more progressive mining men.

Quartz and schist occur at a number of places to the westward, and a schist belt crosses Kabinagagami lake

at the outlet of the river of the same name. This is reached from Oba, the junction of the Canadian Northern and Algoma Central. The canoe route has two short portages.

Quartz showings on the same belt again occur further westward up the branches of the Shekak river, and were reported to me as occurring again on the same belt still further westward. No exploration work has been done at any of the points or through the intervening miles of country, but these places were noted by our land and timber cruisers when travelling across the country.

Between Long lake (Longuelac) and Jellicoe, which is on the border of the Nipigon Forest Reserve, especially in the vicinity of Langmuir and Keemle, a schist formation occurs which is worthy of exploration. This is an extension of the same belt as Kowkash and Tashota occur in further north on the Transcontinental. This section is well worthy of exploration, especially north of our line between Octopus and Jellicoe.

A Mr. Barron, reporting for the Ontario Government for many years on Northern Ontario Exploration, a most capable and efficient mining engineer, gives an interesting report on the Ground Hog section:

"I met with lead and copper ores on the northwest side of the eastern arm of Lake Matagama, in the vicinity of Flying Post. The quantity of ore in the veins, where exposed, is not such as would justify, in my opinion, expensive mining operations, but sufficient taken in connection with the size and general character of the veins to warrant careful exploration, in the reasonable expectation that larger deposits of these useful and valuable metals may be discovered. It is said that one of the parties engaged on the survey for the Canadian Pacific Railway, discovered silver ore in the neighborhood of Flying Post. I think it likely, however, that the ore thus found was 'lead ore' rather than silver. Galena, the most common ore of lead, almost invariably contains more or less silver, sometimes in quantities barely sufficient to pay for extraction, and at others so rich as to entitle the ore to be classed as 'silver-lead.' The formation in which these veins occur belongs to the Huronian system."

That native silver was found by the C.P.R. surveyors is a fact that came within the writer's knowledge years ago. The men who found it have since been in the Yukon and never returned east. This old survey line of the C.P.R. can be picked up in places north of our line at points between Mount Horden (north of Agate on Kapuskasing lake) and Groundhog river, and the maps we have prepared set forth the exact location of this survey.

In an early Dominion report by Bell, he sets forth on a map—now out of print—the place where Borron found the silver-lead veins as being on the point between the two arms of Matagama lake well down towards the chain of lakes on the portage between Flying Post lake and the eastern arm of Lake Matagama. It is a country well worthy of exploration, and what Borron found has not since been located either by Indians or white man. This formation seems to extend westward where bloom and native silver flakes have been reported to have been found.

Further west, diabase outcrops on the portage on Missinabi river at the falls below Peterbell siding. Diabase outcrops again on the eastern shore of Lake Nipigon, north of a line due west of Jellicoe Station.

Magnetic iron ore occurs at several points along the line of railway, the first of importance north of Ruel,