

Gold Mining in Ontario

PORCUPINE

ONTARIO'S rise to fame in gold mining has been spectacular. In 1910 the total production was only \$42,637, while in 1925 it totalled \$30,204,545 (amount shown on chart is "less exchange"). Of this amount Porcupine camp produced \$24,887,507, and paid in dividends \$7,083,464. Kirkland Lake section produced \$5,404,652, and paid in dividends \$1,150,000. The total dividends from the two camps amounted to \$8,233,464 in 1925, and \$48,380,000 to the end of 1925.

The grade of ore milled at Porcupine was \$8.65 per ton from which a recovery of \$8.22 was made; the grade of ore milled at Kirkland Lake was \$15.75 per ton from which a recovery of \$14.25 was made. The main point to remember is that the total average recovery of all Ontario ores was \$8.97, practically a \$9.00 per ton ore.

Gold at the rate of \$2,500,000 a month is at present being produced from the mines of Porcupine and Kirkland Lake, and it is conservatively estimated that there will be an increase in production of over \$5,000,000 a year for several years to come with an estimated production in 1930 of at least \$50,000,000. This is a decidedly interesting forecast, for gold production on this continent outside of Canada is declining and in a short space of time, possibly two years, with the declining United States production, Canada will rank second in the gold producing countries of the world.

A competent authority recently estimated that, based on increased milling capacity now being installed, Porcupine in two years should produce \$34,000,000 to \$35,000,000 of gold yearly (which is an increase of 40% over 1925 figures) and that Kirkland Lake's production in two years should be at the rate of \$9,000,000 to \$10,000,000 per year, a 45% increase.

Should every foot in depth of the Hollinger mine down to the 3,000 foot level hold up to the estimated yield of \$150,000 per foot in depth we reach the staggering figure of \$450,000,000 as the amount of gold Hollinger may be expected to yield to that depth. So far no decrease in values is shown with depth, in fact the contrary has been the situation at both Porcupine and Kirkland Lake, except of course, in the sediments.

It is impossible to deal with all the properties in each of the mining camps, but facts may be given about such important mines at Porcupine as Hollinger, McIntyre and others. Hollinger's ore reserve has increased

to \$65,000,000—the average grade per ton being \$9.05. Production costs dropped from \$4.46 to \$4.06, and net per ton recovery increased from \$8.09 to \$8.18 in 1925. *Net profits, less taxes, were 47% of income.* Thirteen miles were added to underground workings, so that Hollinger now has over 100 miles of underground workings with 65 miles of underground electric railways. A large crusher has been installed at the 2,150 foot level and the central shaft will be equipped with facilities capable of drawing 12,000 tons daily to meet the demands of the mill, now increased to 8,000 tons per day. The new hoist, the largest in North America, will draw ore from the central shaft at a speed of 3,000 feet per minute.

Hollinger affords employment to 3,000 men daily—80% of the Northern miners are contented Canadians drawing a high wage and largely owning their own homes. Very shortly Hollinger will have reached the high tide of any individual gold mining property so far in the world's history.

The mid-summer, 1926, annual report of the McIntyre is expected to show ore reserves approximate to the \$12,428,905 reserves estimated at June 30th last year. Actual measurements and complete computation of ore reserves are only made yearly. It will be appreciated that until the new shaft, which has now reached a depth of 2,500 feet is down to the 3,000 foot level and station and loading facilities provided, ore cannot be blocked out very far ahead of production because present hoisting facilities do not permit. Last year McIntyre production amounted to \$3,546,637 which added to \$1,115,087 of increase in their ore reserves indicated a total of \$4,661,724 as the value of the ore they developed during the year. Their grade of ore last year was \$8.86 and the grade will be better this year as will also the ore reserves developed, notwithstanding limited hoisting capacity.

A record is being made on the speed with which their new 4,000 foot six compartment shaft is being sunk. To better understand the magnitude of this new shaft work, it may be stated that it will consume one and a half million feet of B.C. squares for the timbering of the shaft alone. It will be equipped with one of the largest and best hoists known to mining and, like Hollinger's new hoist, will have a speed of 3,000 feet per minute. This new production shaft which is being sunk at the