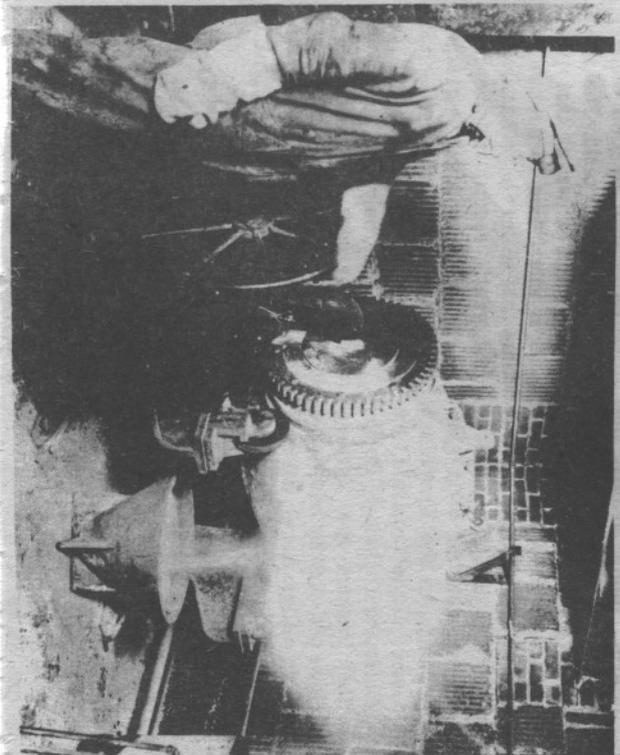


The ALGOMA NEWS Review

GOUDREAU GOLD MINES MAY AGAIN BE REVIVED



By D. E. Pugh

Although the closing of the Nichols Chemical Co. pyrite mining operation in Goudreau following World War I seemed a death sentence upon the village, a ghost town was not to be. Intensive prospecting by J. W. Webb in 1918 located gold bearing quartz four miles N.W. of Goudreau towards Lochalsh on the CPR. This deposit by the 1930's was to become the famous Goudreau Gold Mine, which yielded by 1938, 2,450 ounces of gold valued at \$84,576.

The gold rush into the area on-ly picked up however when Thomas Murphy and his sidekick James Perry discovered gold while fur trapping on April 16th, 1921. Born in New York City, Murphy had worked for the ACR at Hobon since 1911, and prospected the Goudreau region until his untimely death September 17th, 1923 at the age of 36. Announcing his claim publicly May 17th, 1921 Murphy told of great interlacing quartz veins, said to show up like tracks of a railway yard. Each was said to be studded with gold. Even the dirt above the veins, one reporter wrote, could be panned for rich nuggets of gold. James Lyons, President of the Sault Board of Trade stated that "I saw gold, solid gold, the size of a fifty cent piece imbedded in the rock". The find seemed another Cobalt or Porcupine, a region begging to be developed by all with courage and initiative. From Cobalt and Timmins prospectors and miners poured into what was called "the greatest gold fields in Canada". By March, 1922, Goudreau Gold Fields extended over a 30 mile area, 300 prospectors swarmed over 1,200 claims, probing outcrops, cross trenching, blasting, and filling the crisp spring air in all directions with the harsh ring of steel striking steel and the dull booms of dy-

namite. A. V. J. Selkirk of Franz reopened his Goudreau general store. A red school house was constructed, and the Goudreau Gold Mine advertised 2,500,000 shares at \$1.00 each. The mine boasted that year of its comfortable work camps, blacksmith shop, stables, dynamite house, wagon road to Goudreau, and the completion of a power line from High Falls.

The gold boom continued to expand each year. By July, 1923 claims extended as far south as Magpie Mine, thus uniting the Goudreau Gold fields with the developing Michipicoten gold fields.

Indeed by the 1930's a belt four miles wide, 15 miles N.E. and 7 miles S.W. from Goudreau boasted of many prosperous mines. The Cline Mine, 12 miles from Goudreau and 6 from Lochalsh, before its closure, produced 63,328 ounces of gold valued at \$2,369,053. Nearby the Edwards, 9 miles E. of Goudreau, from 1925 to 1937, produced 485 ounces of gold valued at \$16,970. The Algoma Summit, S.W. of Goudreau, yielded from 1918 to 1939, 8,776 ounces of gold valued at \$308,334.

With 400 men employed in the mines, Goudreau with 300 people and a railway station buzzed with activity. On armistice day, 1936 power was turned on in the town to light up Cappellini's 20 room boarding house, Bill Stringer's horse barns and the miners' houses.

The light of prosperity was short lived. Dark clouds of war diverted investment into the Michipicoten iron range. Last to close in 1942 was the Cline Mine. Diamond prospecting on the Goudreau Mine in 1960 and at the Kazak Prospect in 1967 and 1968 promises that the present price of gold will bring prosperity once again to the abandoned village of Goudreau.