
Historical Highlights of Canadian Mining

by L. F. Jones, George Lonn and R. M. Longo
*Pitt Publishing Company Limited,
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Historical Highlights of Canadian Mining presents the reader with a hodge-podge of historical data, reminiscences of mining personalities, and information on certain aspects of the mining industry. The first half of the book describes the development of Canada's mining industry between 1603 and 1972; the second half includes brief descriptions of the careers of fifteen men or families who are prominent in the mining fraternity.

The book has a broad scope, and the authors have brought together a great deal of fascinating information. Unfortunately, the reader's concentration is disturbed by the numerous typographic, grammatical and factual errors, the inconsistency of style, and the strangely disjointed structure of many parts of the book. For example, a chapter entitled "The Early Gold Rushes" includes descriptions of the Sullivan and Brenda mines. Elsewhere, samples from Little Long Lac are described as having "assayed \$2.00 an ounce in gold", and "a silver content of three per cent" is attributed to a 600-foot intersection from Kidd Creek! A well-written but somewhat lengthy chapter describing the relationship between mining and government is illustrated by thirteen GSC pictures of highly photogenic rocks and structures, not one of which has any significant connection with mining geology!

The write-ups on contemporary mining personalities are variable as to length, quality and relevance, but most of them contain at least a few points of interest to those involved in the mineral industry. A few are illustrated by old photographs, which,

to my knowledge, have not been published elsewhere. In describing the achievements of some of the personalities, the authors have erred in over-emphasizing recent ventures of unproven worth, while ignoring, or glossing over, earlier more meritorious contributions.

Despite its technical defects, *Historical Highlights of Canadian Mining* contains several worthwhile items for the mining enthusiast. Among them are: the introduction, by Thayer Lindsley; the chapter on mine financing by R. J. Redrupp; the numerous photographs and sketches of early exploration and mining scenes; and, above all, the first-person accounts of the circumstances surrounding the discovery of some of Canada's most notable mines.

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