

April 2011

Cobalt Historical Society

The following was read before the Royal Canadian Institute:

Professor Arthur Philemon Coleman, Ph. D., LL.D., D.Sc., F.R.S.A., F.R.S.
An Appreciation
By E. S. Moore

In the death of Professor Coleman, on February 26th, 1939, Canada lost one of her greatest and most beloved scientists. Because of his long and exceedingly active career, he was known throughout his native land and in nearly every country where geologists practice their profession. There are few, even of the remotest sections of this country, from Labrador to the Yukon, and not many foreign countries, into which his studies of Natural History had not drawn him, because he was an inveterate seeker after truths to be found in Nature's laboratory.

Dr. Coleman's attainments in the scientific field are too numerous to chronicle fully, because he has left an indelible impression on many phases of his profession. Only the most conspicuous of these will be enumerated. He was born in the province of Quebec on April 4, 1852, and grew up under the cultured influence of the parsonage. In 1876, he graduated from Victoria University at Cobourg, after studying under an able teacher, Eugene Haanel, who later became the first director of the Mines Branch of the Department of Mines of Canada. He early showed an interest in Natural Science at a time when it was possible for one to encompass a large share of the existing knowledge of all the natural sciences. This apparently accounts for his extensive knowledge of plants and animals and the interest he manifested throughout his life in biology as well as geology.

In 1881, Dr. Coleman received the degree of Doctor of Philosophy from Breslau University in Germany, and on his return to Canada, he was the following year appointed Professor of Natural History in his Alma Mater. This position he held until Victoria was affiliated with the University of Toronto. Realizing that Coleman was a man of great promise, the University appointed him, in 1891, to the position of Professor of Assaying and Metallurgy in the School of Practical Science. This sudden change in his academic work was an indication of the breadth of his training and interests. Ten years later he was made Professor of Geology and Head of the Department in the University of Toronto, which position he held until his retirement, with the title of Professor Emeritus, in 1922, at the age of seventy years. He was also Dean of the Faculty of Arts from 1919, and Director of the Royal Ontario Museum of Geology from 1914 until he retired. He left a lasting impression on his students as a lecturer, because of the clearness of his exposition, his fine personality and his knowledge of and enthusiasm for his science.

The mining industry in this province, owes much to Dr. Coleman, because he began to describe her mineral deposits shortly after his arrival in Toronto. The annual volumes of the Ontario Bureau of Mines, issued between 1893 and 1909, contain many reports on his observations of the geology of different sections of the province. His greatest work was that on the famous Sudbury nickel field, completed in 1905, and revised in 1913. He was the first geologist to recognize the true nature of the nickel intrusive. So accurately was his field work done under the adverse conditions pertaining to a few

New Publications: Florent J. Heroux' latest publication : " Cobalt A Century of Memories " en francais, "Paroisse de Cobalt" in one volume 11x 8 1/2, sewed binding, contains a historical overview of the diocese of Sainte-Therese-de-l'Enfant-Jesus, Cobalt Ontario 1906-2006, its priests, the town, the mines, the parish and its five churches, photographs of the statues and sacred objects, religious orders, the schools, hospital, services and cemetery. The price is \$40.00 plus mailing. Copies are available at the Cobalt Public Library or through M. Heroux himself at P.O. Box 1570, New Liskeard ON P0J 1P0; the author's e-mail is flherou@ntl.sympatico.ca.

New Site on the Historical Silver Trail: " Cobalt Casey"- located in Casey Township east of the communities of Dymond and New Liskeard at the northern end of Lake Temiskaming. Take Highway 65 east to Quebec and past Sutton Bay there is a road sign "Casey Road". Turn right and soon the site will come into view. The history of the Cobalt Casey and the later mine on the site "The Langis" is described on the sign. There is a picture of the mine buildings and the mill. Nearby there is a rock pile, something we used to see in and around Cobalt but no longer.

Early History: A.D. (Danny) Hellens in the North Bay Nugget of July 24 1976, p.13 under the headline "Cobalters Opened Up Canada's North", wrote: " Fred Connell: Fred first arrived in Cobalt in 1905 as a prospector and student facing his final year at Queens. He returned immediately after graduation the following year. His first deal of consequence was in 1907 when he sold the "Cobalt Casey" for the farmer [John Bucknell] who had discovered it. An interesting sidelight is his examination of the prospect. The showings were so spectacular and the samples looked so good he kept putting pieces in his pack – he ended up with 100 lbs. which he packed to Haileybury, a distance of 20 miles! He made \$5,000 as his commission on the transaction..."

Later History: Wednesday August 16, 1916 a disastrous forest fire swept Hudson, Dymond, Harris and Casey Townships- fire destroyed the Casey-Cobalt Mine's entire surface plant- 100 cases of dynamite resounded in the air to be heard in New Liskeard. One hundred miners were out of work. A new mill was built by 1918 and the mine shipped concentrates. From Peter Fancy's Temiskaming Treasure Trails, 1916-1922, Highway Book Shop 1994 pp.12 and 52.

By 1942 Casey Cobalt was owned by Isaac Mosher, his son Murdoch [of the Mosher Run Around Cobalt Lake] and Jim Grant.

Inset photo