

KARL J. SPRINGER

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**F**EW men in Canada have achieved greater success in prospecting than Karl J. Springer, whose career in this field could well serve as an inspiration to others who may be inclined to seek their fortunes in similar exploits.

With several successful and dividend-paying mines to his credit, there is no sign that Mr. Springer intends to sit back and simply enjoy the fruits of his earlier endeavors. On the contrary, he is still actively engaged in finding new mines — and it would be surprising, based on past performance, if he is not responsible for the discovery of additional mineral wealth.

It has not always been easy for Karl Springer. His prospecting fortunes began the hard way, back in the early 1920's. Together with his brother Leo, he eked out a meagre existence tending a trapline in Northern Quebec. An occasional claim staking enterprise added to the modest income, but most important, led to the adoption of a prospecting career, the parallel of which will be difficult to find.

It was in 1934 that Karl Springer formed Karl Springer Exploration Company Limited, which resulted in the formation of Springer Sturgeon Gold Mines Limited, which name was later changed to Barymin Limited after the company found and developed one of the largest barite mines in the world. Much of the success accruing to the Barymin organization resulted from the efforts of Karl Springer.

Leitch Gold Mines, developed by Springer Sturgeon Gold, a highly profitable and high grade, if relatively small gold producer is an example of his

inspirational leadership and drive. It demonstrates with its fine management and dividend-paying records, that a prospector can provide the leadership for a highly successful mining company.



Another long flow of dividends has streamed from Highland-Bell, a small but profitable company which Springer and Associates bought control of in 1949. Keenly aware of the value of the aircraft in prospecting, full credit is given him for his pioneer work in the use of the helicopter for this purpose. From his privately-financed Helicopter Exploration came the discovery of Granduc Mines. Under his direction, too, Central British Columbia Airways Limited grew from a small bush outfit to the third largest airline in Canada, Pacific Western Airlines.

The combination of aircraft and prospecting know-how were a part of the background in his organization of Mattagami Syndicate, in which Leitch and Highland-Bell participated to discover Mattagami Lake Mines. Karl Springer also organized the McKenzie Syndicate, which resulted in the discovery of Canada Tungsten Mining Corporation's tungsten deposits in the Northwest Territories. This exceptional deposit, in far northern reaches, is to commence production at 300 tons per day late in 1962.

Though his current responsibilities keep him busy operating out of offices in both Toronto and Vancouver, he still finds exploration the basis of his endeavors. That he may find more valuable mineral deposits as a result of his boundless energies is believed by most of his friends and associates.

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# MEN AND MINES



*Short biographies of some colorful  
contemporary figures behind  
Canada's mighty mining industry*

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by George Lonn

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