

It is known that the Montreal Company held these lands under a Patent; and there is an impression abroad that, if we are not protected, no man can be safe even under a Patent from the Crown.

So that, even as a matter of public policy, it would be best, I respectfully submit, that it should be known that the Government *will* protect the *bond fide* purchaser and miner, even if there are technical defects in his title.

No capitalist will invest his money for *bond fide* mining purposes if there is any doubt about his title.

Silver Islet has acquired such a notoriety, that the action of the Government (whatever it may be) will immediately become known to everybody who has any mining interests or proclivities.

There are parties in England with whom I have been in correspondence, and also in the United States, who are anxiously awaiting the result of this question.

(6.) I claim, Sir, that having been the first person to carry on mining successfully on the North Shore, and to open up that district to the investment of large sums in *bond fide* mining operations, we should be entitled to some consideration, and even to a preference, if it came to a question of choice between ourselves and persons who have done nothing in the way of developing Thunder Bay District.

I think we may fairly call ourselves the discoverers of silver on the North Shore, as we were the first to prove that it exists there in paying quantities; and that having run a large risk in proving this we are entitled to more than ordinary consideration.

(7.) In conclusion, Sir, I respectfully submit that all question on this point is set at rest by our being the only persons whose application for this property is in strict accordance with the regulations of your department: and this being so, that we are, under any circumstances, entitled to priority over any other person.

We may add that we have been obliged to go to a very large expense in order to put ourselves right in this respect.

In addition to other expenses, we have been obliged to pay about \$1,500 for having a survey made at this season of the year, and we feel aggrieved at being put to such a large expense in defending our title under the circumstances.

I have the honor to be

Your obedient servant,

ALEXANDER H. SIBLEY,

Trustee.