

SILVER.

The history of silver mining in Ontario is one of the most interesting and romantic in our mining annals. Silver was first found by the veteran prospector, Mr. Peter McKellar, in 1866, at what was afterwards the Thunder Bay mine; but much more important was the discovery two years later, of the most famous mine in the province, the Silver Islet mine. Close to the stormy north shore of Lake Superior, just east of Thunder Bay, a small islet, about 70 x 40 feet in dimensions, yielded to one or two blasts, silver to the value of \$1,200. The next season 10 men secured over \$16,000 worth of native silver in not more than 14 days of actual work.

In 1870 the Montreal Mining Co. sold out to American capitalists and development was begun in earnest. The little islet was enlarged by crib work and filling until there was room for 7 buildings with some space besides; while shafts were sunk to the depth of 1,230 feet. Some of this sinking was through rock tightly bound together with wiry native silver, which, with a number of rich silver bearing minerals, some new to science, formed the chief ore.

To treat the ore a fifty stamp mill was erected on the mainland, and the now widely-used Frue vanner was invented by Mr. Frue, the mine captain. The total production up to the end of 1884, when the pumping engines were obliged to shut down for want of coal, and the mine filled with water, amounted in value to \$3,250,000, by far the largest return from any single mine yet recorded in the province.

The product of other mines to the west of Port Arthur brings up the total value of silver from the region to about \$4,300,000, according to the Survey Reports. Since 1881, however, the amount of silver obtained has been trifling, and at present no mining is going on in the Thunder Bay district.

The mines, other than that at Silver Islet, seem to be shallow and very pockety. Nevertheless, if silver should again reach its old price it is probable that several of them could work at a profit.

GOLD.

In August, 1866, two prospectors in the township of Madoc found flakes of a yellow metal like copper, which could be beaten out into thin leaves. They were informed by the geologist, Vennor, that the metal

was gold. The mine. Other followed, and came south. Probably from the region failure seems to be the case, partly to Deloro, where giant management of the western part of the yellow metal has been the region and the gold producing territory that has the Huronian more or less good.

In spite of this it can be said to have begun within the last few years to come from the west and from Wabigoon. The specimens seem to be of the same kind.

The most important present is the Lake Superior and Regina, and the Rainy Lake region. The Rainy Lake revive, and there is a chance that Shoal lake will be found.

The Manitoba in the prospecting energetic Wiley passed the expense of the mine.

In and near the mine in its centre and a very large amount of the McKellar's mine with results that