Timiskaming County, Quebec.

CHAPTER I.

INTRODUCTION.

GENERAL STATEMENT AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

This memoir is a general statement of the results of geological work carried on for several years in the northwestern part of the province of Quebec. It has special reference to a number of local areas studied by the writer in that region, all of which are included in the recently created county of Timiskaming (Figure 1).

The discovery of important mineral deposits at Cobalt, Porcupine, Kirkland Lake, and other localities in northwestern Ontario, in recent years, seemed to indicate that similar deposits might possibly be present across the interprovincial boundary in the province of Quebec and it was for this reason that the geological explorations in Timiskaming county described in this report were undertaken. Unfortunately, throughout a large part of the county and especially in the northern part where the geological conditions are most favourable for the development of mineral deposits the bedrock surface is largely hidden beneath post-glacial lacustrine clay so that prospecting is necessarily confined to the scattered knobs and ridges of rock, the total areal extent of which in many localities is less than one per cent of the total area of the bedrock surface actually present. Since the construction of the Timiskaming and Northern Ontario railway and the discovery of the silver-bearing veins at Cobalt, however, a few prospecting parties have visited the district during the summer months of each year and occurrences of gold have been found at several points, also pegmatite dykes and quartz veins carrying molybdenite; but mining operations up to the present have not been carried beyond the opening up of prospect pits.

It does not follow from this that extensive deposits of valuable ore are not present in the district or may not eventually be discovered. The geological succession of formations in the northern part of the county as far as has been determined, is similar in every respect to that found in the Kirkland Lake and Porcupine districts in Ontario, so that geologically there is no apparent reason other than the presence of the overlying cover of lacustrine clay, why similar deposits should not be discovered in Quebec.