

and with what success?—At the Bruce and Wellington Mines on Lake Huron; Batchewona Bay on Lake Superior, in rear of Fort William, and I believe, on the Island of St. Ignace. The first have been worked since 1847, and under the present managers, are the *best paying mines on the shores of either Lake*. These mines are managed by Messrs. Plomer and Bennett, for “Taylor and Sons” of England.

8. What are the facilities for reaching the mineral deposits, on the coast and in the interior?—There are two means of communication, the one by the steamer *Algoma*, from Collingwood, the other by the American boats, from Detroit. In answering this question I must express my regret that the “North Western Transit Company” had not been supported, as I have no hesitation in saying, that had a generous support been extended to them, many portions of the country, bordering on the shores of Lake Superior, and lying between Fort William and the Red River, would have been settled and occupied, in place of being in a state of primeval wilderness.

9. Are you acquainted with the mining operations on the south shore, or American side, of the Lakes?—I am, and deeply regret that the same energy and enterprise, has not been displayed on our shores, as upon theirs. The whole country is surveyed and becoming, daily, developed, while as we, with a section of country equally rich in mineral wealth, *are doing nothing*.

10. Please inform the Committee as to the character and extent of the mines there when you visited the locality?—In answering this question, I would most respectfully state, that, while employed under the Hon. Commissioner of Crown Lands, I, deeming it to be my duty, collected all the information I could, both from the American authorities and our own. This information I gave in my Report to the Honorable Commissioner of Crown Lands, but to recapitulate it I would say that from *May to October*, 1859, the south shore of Lake Superior, exported 63,190 tons 247 lbs. of iron, and 6,427 tons 429 lbs. of copper, valued at, by the Custom's Report, \$3,199,608.73 —employing in the transit 891 vessels, *steamers, sailing craft and tugs*. I could go more minutely into the business and wealth of the shore south of us, but I hope, *one year* will suffice to shew its importance.

11. Are you acquainted with the system of granting lands on the south shore; if so, please state its leading features?—I am acquainted with the American method of disposing of lands, having been instructed in 1845 to enquire into the method adopted, and to report to the chief of my department. This report is, or should be, on record. In as few words as possible. The whole country is surveyed. Such Townships as are found *fit for settlement* are subdivided into *sections and quarter sections*; the outlines of the remainder are defined, thereby giving an explorer a chance of determining his locality. The lands are offered for sale in the vicinity *by an agent*, who, to the settler or explorer, shews the map, on a scale of 20 chains to an inch; furnished with which, he can easily discover the plot he wishes to locate himself on, further, on the payment to the agent, of the amount required, a receipt is given to the purchaser, a duplicate of which, forwarded to Washington, secures the patent *forthwith*. This, I think, correct.

12. What is your opinion of the American system as compared with ours?—I think the American method of managing their wild lands, far superior to ours, inasmuch, as they encourage settlement. We hinder it, or at all events, throw every obstacle in the way of promoting it.

13. Have you any suggestions to offer the Committee for the improvement of the land-granting system, in the mineral regions; if so please state them?—I would respectfully refer the Committee to my answers to questions 11 and 12, which contain, in few words, my opinion on this subject.

14. Have you had any experience in mining operations on the north side of Lakes Superior and Huron; if so, where and to what extent?—I have not. I am an explorer, not a miner.

15. Is it your opinion from the experience you have had, that mining for iron can be carried on to advantage in that section of country?—I have no doubt that the iron lodes in the vicinity of both Lakes can be worked profitably.

16. Have you met with any copper veins during your operations?—I have, many.

17. Have you experienced any inconvenience in locating mineral lands, and procuring a title for them?—I have not.