

and all other ores and metals. At that time it was believed that the most valuable product of the grant would be copper ore, but no deposits of this metal were found of economic value, and at that date the gold deposits were unknown.

The grants of Crown lands made prior to 1759 contain no reservations of minerals. This would have the effect of reserving the royal metals, gold and silver, it being held that they pass only by special mention. From this date to 1809 the usual reservations expressed in the grants were gold and silver, copper, lead, coal, lapis lazuli, and in some cases, precious stones. There were, however, some large township grants in which gold, silver, and coals only are reserved. In 1809 iron ore was added to the list of reserved minerals. After the passing of the grant to the Duke of York in 1826 the Crown land grants necessarily reserved all the minerals, but in 1858, when the greater part of the General Mining Association's monopoly was surrendered, an Act of the Provincial Legislature declared that the grantees of land since 1826 received all the minerals previously reserved excepting coal, silver, lead, tin, copper, coal, iron and precious stones. Those grantees receiving land prior to 1826, retained of course all the minerals already granted, and all others relinquished by the government in 1858, and their possession of subsequently reserved minerals was confirmed. In the words of the Act "all other minerals, mines, ores and earths, including ironstones, limestones, slate stones, gypsum and clay" are now granted with the lands.

At the present date a good deal of confusion exists as to the actual minerals held with the land in many of the large township grants. These grants were made usually in a block to a number of settlers, many of whom did not take up their lots. When these lots were settled on at a later date, the occupants in some cases had no title, in other cases new grants were issued with reservations differing from those in the original grant.

One of the schemes of the General Mining Association was the smelting of iron ore, but they found that the principal known deposits were included in the grants issued prior to 1809, in which iron ore was not reserved, and the idea was abandoned after the erection of a small test furnace.

The Duke of York, however, did not propose to work the mines, and lost no time in arranging for a lease of his rights to the General Mining Association of London, a company formed to acquire and work mining properties in all parts of the world. They believed that valuable deposits of copper ore existed in Nova Scotia, but an examination showed that the coal deposits gave greater promise.

The company found, on taking possession, that the Sydney mines and the best known exposures of the Pictou seams were already being worked under lease, and consequently were not transferable to them by