

Americans have organized a Court of Justice and a military post with barracks.

On the Canadian side, to the north there is only the Dépôt of the Hudson Bay Company. There are several Canadian families among the Indians, these families depend for subsistence solely upon the American towns.

There is only one Justice of the Peace, who possesses no means whatever of enforcing the law, and thus mining companies or associations are deprived of all protection, and exposed to great injustice on the part of people who have nothing to fear from the commission of crime; this has the effect of causing all the manual labor to be procured from the American side, thus impeding the progress of Companies on the Canada side.

With reference to the general interests of the mines, I have now only to point out to you the places so important in navigation, at which vessels loaded with the produce of the lakes may find a shelter. Between Lake Huron and the Otter Head Islands there are only two, and they have been given up to the Indians by the Government; one is in the Indian territory, No. 15, and the other in No. 2. Michipicoten Island has but one safe harbour, situated on the south side, in the 86th degree of longitude, west from Greenwich.

The possession of territory No. 15, appears to me of the very highest importance for the protection of the fisheries, which of themselves almost equal the mines in value and importance, and which would under any circumstances be of immense assistance in the support of the increasing population in these latitudes, deprived as they are of agricultural produce.

The antiquity of the mines to the north east of Lake Superior is evidenced by visible proof. Works may be seen at Mamains which must date back to the period in which gunpowder and iron tools were completely unknown to the natives.

The Indians made use of a metallic amphibolitic rock which is excessively hard, and of great weight, to break the rocks in order to the extraction of the native copper which was found in small pieces or in veins. I have in my possession a very interesting little collection, which proves not only the search for copper ore, but also its use by the savages of the place at a very remote period. It consists of a stone hammer which was found on the spot where it had been used, and of various weapons of more recent date. I have in my possession locks of hair enveloped in copper, which the natives carried about them as marks of their bravery. Whenever they killed their enemy they used to cut off a lock of hair and carry it about them as a species of decoration. In places where there is no copper they cut off with the hair a small portion of the skin, which is called the scalp.

The mouth of the river Michipicoten to the north-east of the Lake is exposed to various changes caused by the waves of Lake Superior under the influence of strong gales from the south and south-west, and which form as it were channels in the sand. By this means the river on one occasion completely changed its course by forcing a passage through one of these channels, and in so doing exposed some human bones, the remains of which Mr. MacKenzie the governor of the Hudson's Bay Company's fort caused to be collected and interred elsewhere, not daring to take any part away on account of the well known superstition held alike by all the Indian tribes of America with respect to the displacement or removal of the mortal remains of their ancestors. Another traveller, however, who was acquainted with the fact of this discovery, and who did not reside at the place, found a means of deceiving the vigilance of the Indians, carried off these remains and sent them to Mr. J. Wilson, together with other booty. To his kindness I am indebted for the possession of a lower jawbone, a weapon of iron (a sort of lance,) a crooked knife, used by the Indians in the preparation of skins, an instrument made of horn and several locks of hair enveloped in copper. The knife and the lance are more than half eaten away by rust, the copper which encloses the locks of hair is completely