

ON THE NICKEL AND COPPER DEPOSITS OF SUDBURY, ONT.

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The presence of large deposits of nickel and copper in the District of Algoma, Ontario, has of late years attracted world-wide attention, in the first place on account of their immense and apparently inexhaustible character, but latterly because of the proposed application of nickel in alloy with steel to improve the quality of the latter. The existence of workable deposits of copper in this region was a fact that had long been known, and as far back as 1770 a company had been formed and attempts made to mine this metal, but the difficulty of procuring and maintaining miners at so great a distance from any centre of civilization, the remoteness of any market for the ore, as well as the absence of facilities for transportation, rendered these first attempts abortive. However, in 1846, owing to the activity in prospecting and locating mineral lands on the southern shore of Lake Superior, and a favourable report by Mr. W. E. Logan, then newly appointed Provincial Geologist, some enterprising Canadians banded themselves together into two associations called "The Montreal Mining Co'y," and the "Upper Canada Mining Co'y." The former company having purchased, amongst others, what was then known as "The Bruce Mines" location, and on account of the richness of the deposit decided to commence active work at this locality, while the Upper Canada Co'y proceeded to develop and work what was known as the "Wallace Mine," at the mouth of the Whitefish River. The Montreal Mining Co'y continued their operations from 1846 to 1865, when, from a variety of causes, the work proving unremunerative, they sold out the whole of their claim to the "West Canada Mining Co'y," who had previously leased and worked the western half of the location under the name of the Wellington Mine. This company continued working till 1876 when, owing to unsatisfactory results, work was suspended and has not been resumed since. The Wallace Mine was chosen on account of its promising character and proximity to civilization, and is chiefly remarkable as having been the first place in Canada in which the presence of nickel had been detected.