

lands. The same is true as regards the phosphate region in Quebec. It is this system of unconditional sale of mining lands for speculation, without regard to yearly working, that has ruined the mining interests of this district. The error of any one party owning a large extent of mining land in a block, arises from the fact, which is well known to experienced miners and explorers, that by selling, say to an Iron Mining Company, a few thousand acres in a block, it gets other minerals, which it cannot treat, or the use of which it may not know, and the ores other than iron remain unworked.

Compare the system adopted in the Western United States, where a mining claim is given to the discoverer on condition that it is worked, or has labor spent on it to the extent of \$100 each year; failing which it reverts to the Government. Under that system the right of discovery of the explorer, prospector, or miner, is respected, and a reward granted him (he can locate two claims), but in Ontario and Quebec, he has no rights, and he is, therefore, drawn to the more inviting fields of the United States. The location of the claim in the States is made by the discoverer on the ground, and is placed on record in the Land Office; but in this district it is made by a clerk in the Land Office, and not by the discoverer; a practice which has proved fruitful of the worst abuses and frauds on Canadian discovery. In the United States, by granting mining claims in that way, ore accumulated under the clause compelling at least so much work each and every year, and from its accumulation arose the necessity for milling or smelting works to work it up, and had the same inducements and compulsion been in force in Canada, our mines would have been counted by the thousand, instead of the few now in operation.

The chief ores of this region are: iron, (hematites and magnetic), phosphate, or apatite, and a large variety of pyrites, or sulphuret ores of the miners, holding in places copper, gold and silver in workable quantities, lead or galena, plumbago (black-lead), mica, and others of less importance.

The ores of iron are found in such variety and abundance that the only reason they are not now worked is the question of cheap fuel for reduction. Next spring certain tests of machinery are to be made, and should they prove as successful as former trials, this question will be