

the merest chance, that any of them would be found. In my opinion, however, this rock (mostly gneiss) does not contain many large or well-developed and regular veins. Nor are such veins as do occur, often charged with valuable minerals or metals, or if so, it is in quantities too small to admit of their being profitably worked. We found copper ore in one or two places, and also iron sand (magnetic) but the quantity was inconsiderable. At another point mica was seen of good quality and afforded sheets two or three inches square. But nothing else of any apparent value did we meet with in the tract explored this season.

In the course of my explorations in this territory, I have not met with a single instance where the Silurian and Devonian strata would appear to have been much, if at all dislocated, or even disturbed by volcanic or other agency, either on the Moose or Albany rivers or their tributaries.

So far as my own observations and experience go, the existence of large, regular and well-defined veins is intimately associated with, if not, actually dependent upon such disturbances or dislocations of the inclosing strata, commonly called the country rock. Then the state or condition of this "country rock," even when geologically favourable, would appear to exercise more or less influence on the mineral contents of the veins. I am most hopeful when this rock is more or less decomposed, "or rotten," at least at or near the surface, conveying the impression of age and long continued chemical action, and change of structure if not of composition.

There may be, and generally are, marked differences between veins in the same mining field or district, and even those in close proximity to each other. They differ in their general bearing or course, in their size, dip or inclination. The matrix or veinstone, the ores or metallic contents and the accompanying spars and "soils" may not be the same. They may be close, hard, compact and dry, or as miners say "hungry-looking," or so open and porous as to allow of the free circulation of water with the mineral contents, spars, gossan and ores in such a loose condition, as frequently to allow no inconsiderable part of the work of mining or excavation to be performed with the pick and shovel alone. The practical miner is guided in his judgements, by the knowledge and experience he has gained in the mining fields or districts with which he is acquainted, and directs his labours accordingly.

Now, although it may be thought by some uncalled for or imprudent, I feel it my duty to state for the information and guidance at all events of the Government, my opinion frankly in reference to this territory, seeking neither unduly to exaggerate and extol the importance and value of its resources on the one hand, nor depreciate them on the other. This opinion is, that to whatever cause or combination of causes it may be owing, there are seemingly few true mineral veins or lodes of large size and running for any considerable distance or length in this territory, and that those small or irregular veins that do occur, are generally hard, compact and dry, and if not entirely destitute of minerals or metallic ores of economic value, contain them in quantities too small to defray the expense of their extraction.

This scarcity of true mineral veins in most parts of the territory (even of veins that are barren), is the more remarkable, in as much as the Laurentian and Huronian rocks are traversed by numerous and exceedingly large trap dykes, which, with the exception of their composition of contents, differ little, if at all from mineral veins, and the existence of which would seem to indicate more or less volcanic disturbance. This disturbance must have occurred, it seems to me, *before* the deposition of the stratified rocks of the Paleozoic Age, for only in one instance (and that somewhat doubtful) have I found a trap dyke which appeared to cut through or intersect these strata.

By far the most promising and desirable portion of this disputed territory, in regard to its mineral resources, in my opinion, is a belt commencing a little above and extending thirty miles or so below the long portages on the Abitibi, Mattagami and Missinabie branches of Moose river.

It is in this belt, at or near the edge or outcrop of the Devonian and Silurian strata, where we chiefly find iron ore, lignite coal, china clay, ochres and sands of more or less economic importance and value.

If the northern boundary of the Province had been determined satisfactorily, I