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cluded October 4, 1842—ratified March 23, 1843—by which was ceded the remainder of the district washed by Lake Superior on the north, and extending west from Chocolate to Montreal river, and southerly to the boundary between Wisconsin and Michigan. In this cession Isle Royale was also included.

Each of these treaties, however, embraced other lands than those described.

Shortly after this last cession, applications were made by individuals in different parts of the Union for permission to explore and locate any tracts supposed to contain valuable ores. These applications were granted by virtue of a joint resolution of Congress, passed as far back as 1818, in reference to the "lead lands" of Illinois. The applicant in the first instance was allowed to select a tract of three miles square; but this was subsequently modified, limiting him to one mile square. He was required to make the selection within one year, to mark the corners thereof, to leave a person in charge to point out the bounds, and to transmit to the proper department a description and plat of the same. On the receipt of this plat the applicant was entitled to a lease for the term of three years, renewable for an additional term of three years, provided Congress did not otherwise direct; annexed to which were certain conditions: the most important were, that the lessee should work such mines with due diligence and skill, and render to the United States six per cent. of all the ores raised—to be delivered at such points within the district as the latter might indicate.

The Committee on Public Lands of the 29th Congress, 2d session, decided that the Department of War had no authority to grant leases of copper mines, and recommended that these tracts be surveyed and sold.

On the 6th of May, 1846, in conformity with the decision of the President of the United States, the further issue of permits was suspended.

The whole number of permits granted under the authority of the Department of War amounted to about one thousand—nine hundred and sixty-one of which were located. Sixty leases for tracts of three miles square, and three hundred and seventeen for tracts of one mile square, were perfected, and mining companies organized under them.

At the subsequent session of Congress an act was passed, entitled "An act to establish a new land district, and to provide for the sale of mineral lands in the State of Michigan," approved March 1, 1847.

By the first section of this act, all of that portion of the public lands in the State of Michigan lying north of the boundaries of the Saginaw and Grand river land districts in the State, known as the northern peninsula, with the islands in Lakes Superior, Huron, and Michigan, and in Green bay, the Straits of Michillimackinac, and the river St. Mary's, within the jurisdiction of said State, was included in one land district, to be called the Lake Superior land district.

The second section provides that the Secretary of the Treasury cause a geological examination and survey to be made and reported to the Commissioner of the General Land Office; that the President be authorized to cause such of said lands as may contain copper, lead, or other valuable ores to be exposed to sale, first giving six months' notice of the times and places of such sale in such newspapers of general circulation in the several

* Report of D. R. McNair, Mineral Agent; Ex. Doc. No. 2, 30th Congress, 2d session.