

farmers. It is desired to point these out as the true causes of the lack of mineral development in this district and to suggest a remedy.

Others give as the causes the depending on a foreign market for our ores, extravagance and bad management, with an ill advised expenditure of too much money on the surface, before the mine is developed in depth, or to untrue and glowing promises, of "millions of tons of ore in sight" on the part of promoters of a new enterprise. There is no doubt that in some cases, these causes have helped to close the enterprise and deter others from embarking in a similar mine or property.

In Nova Scotia, Newfoundland and British Columbia, the Crown, or Provincial Government, owns the minerals, and issues licences to parties desiring to open and work mines, and in these Provinces the business of mining is largely and most successfully carried on. In Quebec and Ontario the minerals are at present sold along with the soil, and the birth right and portion of the explorer, prospector or miner, is thus given to the farmer, or, still worse, to the speculator in mining lands, and these sons of toil have to beg for terms from the miserly farmer, or independent and extortionate land owner or speculator. Mining lands have been sold in this way during the last forty or fifty years in Quebec and Ontario; some few, it is true, are being worked, but the great majority of the most valuable mining lands and mines are in the hands of speculators, or of parties who will not work them, and who ask for the mines and properties an exorbitant price should an intending purchaser approach them.

This state of affairs, or the act of the Local Legislators selling the minerals, instead of giving a lease or license, and compelling the owner to work the mine or quarry, or have it revert to the Government, or exacting a low rent or royalty, under such *lease or license*, from the profits derived from working the mine, is the cause of so many valuable properties being locked up, as it were, and development retarded, and the mining industry does not receive the attention it would, if these mining lands remained in the hands of the Government. In proof of this may be mentioned the vast amount of mineral land held by companies and speculators; in the Lake district and in eastern Ontario alone the area thus held amounts to many millions of acres of the best mineral