

The water between Silver Islet and Burnt Island is about 60 feet deep and between Burnt Island and the main shore it is about 40 feet.

Now, what could any person desire the space between these islands and between them and the main land for? What use could he make of this land without also having land not covered with water from which to work.

It would be impossible to sink and maintain a shaft in 60 feet of water there, for the *bonâ fide* purpose of mining.

If, on Silver Islet with a basis to work from, it took twelve months with the most consummate engineering skill, to construct defensive works for mining; and if, as is the fact, the Montreal Mining Company was driven from Silver Islet itself, which was several feet above the ordinary water level; and if we, as was also the case, were compelled to suspend mining in consequence of the waves breaking in on us in a storm, and could only succeed in mastering them by going to enormous expense—one can, without any engineering knowledge, readily see that it would be impossible to construct any works at all where the miner would have to commence operations at a depth of 60 feet, exposed to all the perils and difficulties which, in the case of Silver Islet, have been found to be so formidable.

The only object that such a person could have in view would be to obtain the property to the injury of the *bonâ fide* miner. He could not mine himself; but he might prevent us from mining on his lands, or make us submit to what I can only fitly describe as *blackmailing*.

(4.) But, apart from this consideration altogether, there is this further.

Supposing it possible to sink a shaft between Silver Islet and Burnt Island, in 60 feet of water, without any solid basis to work from, such a shaft would be a most serious obstruction to navigation in what is really the only harbour of refuge in Thunder Bay District; and although, as I understand, this matter of navigation is peculiarly within the jurisdiction of the Dominion Government, the title to the soil is in the Ontario Government; and I most respectfully submit that it would be injurious to the interests of the public, as well as to the interest of individuals, if the Ontario Government should enable any one by a grant of land covered with water to place any obstruction in the harbor, as a shaft and the works connected with it would be.

The course of vessels coming in from the Lake to the wharves and harbor, which are on the shore inside of Burnt Island, is at times by way of Burnt Island, and at times between Silver Islet and Burnt Island.

The practical result of allowing any such work to be constructed would be, so far as the public is concerned, the obstruction of naviga-