

pany employed Professor Sheppard and a large party of men to explore and locate lands along the north shore, and they located during that year 27 blocks of mining land on the mainland, and some islands in front of them, nearly, but did no mining work on them at that time. These grants were two miles wide and ran back from the coast five miles, and contained ten square miles each. But for the next sixteen years little was done beyond a few spasmodic exploring efforts and testing some of the Thunder Bay silver properties in 1816-57.

The district's mining history is divided into three periods, separated by intervals of idleness—the first period of work beginning with 1816, the second in 1833 and the third in 1882. Attention was first directed to the region by the copper finds on the south shore of Lake Superior, and by Sir Wm. Logan's suggestion of similar riches on the Canadian side, and the government accordingly sent Mr. Logan in 1816 to investigate the Canadian shores of Lake Superior, and during this inspection some silver veins were found, some having rich pockets of ore.

#### SECOND PERIOD.

This opened a much more active stage, especially in the silver district about Thunder Bay, and the discovery in 1863 of hematite and magnetic iron ores at various places from Port Arthur eastwards along the Lake shore gave evidence of the possible future in this line. In May, 1815, Peter and Donald McKellar, of Fort William, discovered the Black Bay lode on location 4, afterwards known as the Enterprise Mine, now in McTavish township, which carries some gold and a little silver, besides other minerals. Some other galena lodes were also found here including the Cariboo and Arctic, some testing work being done at the second in 1872 and at the last in 1881. In most of the early discoveries of the McKellar brothers was associated Mr. John McIntyre, then chief factor of the Hudson's Bay Company for the Fort William district. But the second great period of mining for precious metals in the region really began with the discovery in September, 1816, of native silver and of silver glance (argentite) in the Thunder Bay mine, by Peter McKellar. In May, 1837 George A. McVicar of Port Arthur found silver in the Shuniah or Duncan vein. The Wallbridge and lot 11 veins were located in 1863, and the former had a shaft sunk, but they also seem to have been considered as copper and galena bearers simply, and galena was also found at McKellar's Harbor, an 81 foot shaft being sunk in 1878.

In 1838 the Montreal Mining Company sent out Thos. MacFarlane and a small party of men to examine and report upon their lands, and that spring he found silver on Jarvis Island, part of the company's property. A month or two later in the same year was discovered the now famous Silver Islet Mine, on another island owned by the same company, the discoverer being a Mr. Morgan, one of Mr. MacFarlane's men. This islet was but a small wave washed rock about 75 feet long and 15 feet wide in the broadest place, and was only eight feet above Lake Superior, lying half a mile from the shore thereof, yet during its 16 years' successful working it produced in quantity the handsomest native silver and richest silver ore the world has ever seen, and greater value in bullion from the amount of veinstone broken than any known silver mine.

In the spring of 1839, McKellar's Island mine was found by John and Donald McKellar and in this year also Thompson's Island was located by Mr. MacFarlane for the Montreal Mining Company. Then came the discovery in 1870 of the Silver Harbor or Beck mine by Ambrose Cyrette and "Little" Campbell, two well known explorers of this section, and in the winter of that year miners from that mine found the 3 A mine. In 1872 two Cornish miners found the Cornish mine. These discoveries were followed by the McKellar brothers finding silver at McKellar's Point and at 3 B on the main shore, on the same diorite dyke as Silver Islet. Discoveries of silver were also made on Victoria and Pie Islands, the latter lying at the entrance to Thunder Bay and on the main shore on location 51 B near Big Trout bay and near the international boundary. Some testing work was done on them, notably at Pie, Jarvis, Thompson's, McKellar's and Mink islands, at Stewart's location and Sturgeon Bay, etc. Silver was found also in the Weesau vein on the properties comprising 1 T to 6 T inclusive, and on 26 T, 27 T and 28 T on Little Gull Lake, and on several of the locations on the southern shore of Arrow Lake at its western end. These last were made by Americans named Kindred and General Baker. With these discoveries were others on lands now in the townships of McIntyre, McGregor, McTavish, Neebing and Paipoonge. Of these there were the Trowbridge location, which adjoins the Duncan mine in McIntyre township, the Wallbridge mine, the Parasseux vein near the Parasseux rapids of the Kaministiquia river, and the Slate river location on lots 1 and 2 in the first concession of Paipoonge. To these add the properties known as F 16 and Y 1, southwest of Paipoonge township, with a few locations north of McIntyre, and the Algoma mine on locations 21

to 25 in the fourth concession of Neebing township. Silver was also discovered on Lambert island, in Thunder Bay, and on various locations on the shore of that bay, east of Port Arthur. Further east near Little Pic river silver was found on several locations by Ambrose Cyrette on C 45, on V 49, V 50 and V 51, by W. Pritchard, Donald McKellar and J. McLaurin, all of Fort William, and on location 1, between C 45 and V 49 and also at the Ecirre mine, about three miles west of Black river. During these discoveries silver was also found in places within the present town limits of Port Arthur, at the Singleton mine and in its very streets, for a tea chest full of very rich ore containing native silver was taken from a very small vein or seam a few inches wide that crossed Water street in front of the store of Messrs. Thomas Marks & Co.

#### THIRD OR PRESENT PERIOD.

During the whole of the time past mentioned operations on a large scale were going on at Silver Islet mine, keeping alive silver mining in the district until fresh interest and increased work were caused by the working of the Huronian gold mine and the discovery and working of Rabbit Mountain silver mine in 1882 and several other important mining discoveries were made creating greatly renewed interest and confidence in the permanent value of the mineral resources of the country. This was increased by the opening of the Canadian Pacific Railway from ocean to ocean through the Thunder Bay district in 1883-84. This led to the more extended working of the Huronian mine and to partial development of the Highland, Tip Top, Kam Kam, and some other gold locations.

After the Rabbit Mountain discovery came in rapid succession Rabbit Mountain Junior, Silver Creek, Twin City or Porcupine and the Beaver silver mines—all discovered in 1883 by Capt. Daniel McPhee and Oliver Dounais, and all within a radius of four miles. After these came the finding of the argentiferous veins on mining locations R 48, 140 T, 149 T and 141. The next important discovery of silver ore was in 1884 on the east and west ends of Silver Mountain, these properties being pointed out to Oliver Dounais by Weesau (Louis Bokachanini), the same Indian who directed him to the Rabbit Mountain vein. Soon after this, in 1881 and 1885, followed rapid discoveries of argentiferous veins on the locations known as silver bluff (R 61), Silver Hill (R 70), Crown Point (R 95), Silver Falls (R 110), Palisades (R 97 and R 98), Sunset Lake (R 80 and 81) and also on R 60, R 64, R 79, R 93, R 109 and 174 T. To these add the Balger, Caribou, Big Bear, Elgin, West Beaver, Silver Victoria, Silver Wolverine, Silver Fox and several others.

#### THUNDER BAY DISTRICT MINING.

Like all other regions dependent largely upon silver production, the Thunder Bay district is feeling the pressure of the present unprecedented depression in the silver market, while the shyness of capital, and want of confidence in the great money centres of the world, no doubt adds to the undesirable state now existing. Of the dozen or so of silver mines, which three or four years ago were in full blast of production, and giving employment to hundreds of men, only two or three are doing anything at present. That this state of affairs can be permanent, no one possessed of any knowledge of mining will admit. Vein after vein of rich silver ore are only lying waiting for a more favorable turn in the affairs of silver, and a little more freedom to investment of capital, to bring the district back to real activity, and start mining agoing again, not as a basis of hazy speculation, but as a live industry, which will give good remuneration for labor, and liberal returns on capital invested. To the mines which have been profitably worked in the past, quite a number of rich fresh discoveries have been made of late, so that once the present depression is over, silver production is likely to start out on a period of rushing activity, such as has not been heretofore experienced in the Thunder Bay region even in its liveliest days.

But the mineral wealth of the Thunder Bay region is not dependant upon silver production alone. The country west of the Bay has been swarming with explorers of late, and a number of rich gold ore finds