

and peas, and all kinds of roots and vegetables can be grown here just as well as in the older sections of Ontario. The soil is a rich *clay* loam, just such as would be called good wheat land in the East. A part of the township has suffered from fires which have destroyed the soil somewhat. This requires manuring, but the virgin soil is as good as can be found anywhere. There is enough timber for farm use, and the climate is, I consider, good. I have never known the crops to suffer from frosts, and they have always come to maturity, although a little later than in the East."

THE MINERAL RESOURCES OF THUNDER BAY DISTRICT.

JUDGE ROBERT LAIRD, of Port Arthur, who has for years warmly interested himself in the development of the varied resources of North-Western Ontario, writes thus :

"A very erroneous impression generally prevails as to the natural resources of Thunder Bay, particularly in regard to the extent of its mineral resources. Its mineral wealth is doubtless the richest on the American continent, and would have long ago attracted more general attention, but for its isolated location. The following metals and minerals are found in very large paying quantities, and those heretofore properly developed have proved a source of immense revenue to the owners. The Silver Islet Mine took out over \$3,000,000, at very little expense.

"The Rabbit Mountain Mine proves to be richer than the Silver Islet. It is of black Silurian slate formation; large nuggets of solid black silver weighing several pounds have been found. So far, the vein is 40 feet wide, and only one wall found as yet; a great quantity of ore is in sight.

"Standing first among the richest discoveries of precious metals is the Jack Fish Gold and Silver Mine. It is operated by the Huronian Mining Company who work it, not as a speculation, but as a rich paying industry. The working vein is 8 feet wide, and consists of free gold, or what is known as Sylvanite ore, the richest ore known to miners; \$49 is the lowest assay to the ton, and \$5,971 the highest.

"In 1871, free gold was discovered at the height of land, but owing to the impossibility of getting in machinery or away quartz, it was not worked. The Diorite Dyke from Silver Islet to McKellar's Point on the main shore extends for 30 miles and all veins crossing it are rich in silver. McKellar's Point is being operated by a company with a capital of \$1,000,000. Pie Island is stocked for \$5,000,000.