lutely condemning every region that is not naturally as level as a meadow and as fertile as a garden. There can be no doubt, that, in the present state of this country, the narrow glens and scattered alluvial flats of a hilly and broken region are not likely to be very inviting to settlers; but if other inducements than those of agriculture alone can be offered, such districts may be profitably occupied. The river alluvia and the sheltered valleys of such regions are often very fertile; the black peaty swamps, when drained, afford inexhaustible crops of grass; and the stony hillsides are well adapted for orchards, and yield good pasturage. Experience shows also that the energy and force of character of the population of such districts rise to meet the difficulties that surround them; and thus these regions become nurseries of the patriotic feeling and of the mental and bodily energy, that are too apt to die out on the more fertile plains. If therefore by placing the seat of government on the confines of the Laurentian region, by opening new lines of traffic, or by developing the mineral resources that may be present, an effectual stimulus can be given to the settlement of these vast wastes, the object is well worthy of the attention of Canadian statesmen.

Into the consideration of the two first of these means of improvement it is not the province of the Geological Survey directly to enter, but the last falls within its scope. Unfortunately the present state of the district presents many obstacles to its exploration, but everywhere Mr. Murray met with indications of magnetic iron ore, which probably occurs in workable quantity in many places, while abundance of wood for its reduction exists in the territory. The Huronian formation also, which has proved so productive of copper on the shores of Georgian Bay, is extensively distributed, and small quantities of copper ore were found in it in several places. On this subject Mr. Murray says:—

"The existence of the ores of copper and iron, which are known to be more or less characteristic of the Huronian rocks, invests the geographical distribution of the formation with much economic importance. These ores were repeatedly observed in the region explored last season, and, although nowhere seen in large amount or to a large extent, the indications were sufficient to establish their pretty general distribution. Small specks and patches of the yellow sulphuret of copper were frequently found in the blackish and dark-gray slates, on the lower lakes of the Maskanongi; and at the southern turn of these lakes there is a quartz vein of from six to eight feet wide, with copper pyrites, cutting slate conglomerate and an intrusive mass of compact