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THE STONE-HAMMER MEN AND THEIR SUCCESSORS.

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Much has been written about Lake Superior, both in reference to its magnificent scenery and to the rich metallic deposits; yet the region is extensive, and requires still a vast amount of research before it becomes well known.

The knowledge of the mineral wealth of the South Shore is much more advanced than that of the North Shore, as during the last thirty years our American neighbors have spent vast sums of money in useful explorations, besides millions squandered in wild ventures.

On the Canadian side of the Lake, it may be safely said that ten years ago there was scarcely a white man outside of the Hudson's Bay Company employees and a few traders; but during the last five or six years a considerable impulse has been given to mining explorations owing to the success of the Silver Islet Company. In reference to geological explorations on the North Shore, no one man has done so much in acquiring reliable information to be used as the base-work of future explorations, as Prof. R. Bell, of the Geological Survey, who has spent seven seasons in those regions, and the

results of his explorations should be more widely known.

Since the rapid influx of people to Manitoba by way of the Upper Lakes, as well as owing to the many excursion parties to Lake Superior, this great lake seems to be nearer the rest of the Province of Ontario; yet there is a ground of dissatisfaction to the tourist, that the greater number of the vessels do not even pass in sight of many of the places most noted for their grand scenery; particularly is this the case with the vessels running on the American or South Shore lines.

Turning now to the subject of this paper, I begin with a narrative, of what skill in mining had been arrived at in pre-historic times.

The first settlements of Europeans on Lake Superior were made a little more than two centuries ago, these being missionary establishments of the Jesuits. At this time, the shores of the lake were thinly peopled by Chippewa Indians, as far west as Bayfield, on the South Shore. Beyond Bayfield the Sioux occupied the country for a considerable period of time, till driven westward by the encroaching Chippewas. According to some of the