

Copper has been found at the following places on the north side of Lake Superior:—At Goulais and Batchewahung Bays, Mamainse, Gargantua, Cape Chozon, and the Island of Michipicoten, Dog River, Pickerel River, Jack-fish River, Black River, and the Slate Islands, Les Petits Ecris, Black Bay, Dutch Bay, Thunder Bay, Isle St. Ignace, the Fighting Islands, and Simpson's Islands.

Besides the localities here referred to, the evidence goes to shew that good indications of copper have been observed at many other places throughout this whole section of country, and the copper-bearing rocks are spread over a space sufficiently large to warrant the expectation that further explorations will lead to very important results in the way of further discoveries.

As regards the character and general appearance of the country, the evidence given indicates that the land in the region where the minerals are found is generally mountainous and rocky, and not well adapted for agricultural purposes. The land best adapted for agricultural purposes is situated principally along the valleys of the rivers, and is of sufficient extent to support large settlements. In order, however, to the rapid development of the country, both in an agricultural and mineral point of view, it appears evident that the opening up of leading roads is an essential condition.

Your Committee would, therefore, recommend that each alternate block of land along any proposed line of Railroad through the mineral region be granted to any person or company on the construction of such road.

The amount of copper ore sent to market from the Wellington and Copper Bay Mines, by the West Canada Mining Company, in the year 1861, was about three thousand tons, averaging the nearly nineteen per cent. The Company had then eleven thousand pounds sterling to the credit side of profit and loss.

Iron exists in large quantity and of superior quality, a short distance in rear of the north boundary line of the Township of Palmer, on the north-east end of Lake Superior, forming, in one instance, a mountain, covering an area of about one hundred and fifty acres, and yielding the black magnetic ore, which has been analyzed, and found to average forty-eight per cent. It also occurs in many other places throughout this section of country.

An American Company is now carrying on mining operations at Gros Cap-Michipicoten Harbour, and exporting the iron ore to Cleveland.

It is much to be regretted that so large an extent of mineral lands have fallen into the hands of speculators, and companies who do not carry on mining operations, but merely hold the lands for the purpose of speculation. This has long been felt to be a great hindrance to the development of the mineral region.

One company, known as the Montreal Mining Company, although they carry on no mining operations, yet, are in possession of no less than ninety-nine thousand four hundred and ninety-eight acres, on the north side of Lake Superior. This large quantity of mineral land appears to have been all purchased in 1856, at forty cents an acre.

Your Committee are of opinion that the unconditional sale of such a large quantity of land to one Company must greatly retard the development of the country, and prove detrimental to the public interest.

The system of granting lands on the South Shore, or United States side, of Lake Superior, is a very simple one. The whole country is surveyed by the Government, and laid out in separate blocks, divided into sections of one mile square each, by lines running north and south and east and west, and each of these sections are again subdivided into four quarters, or lots. Some of the best mines have no more length of lode to work upon than may be contained in a quarter section; consequently, the attention and energies of the Mining Companies and their Managers are, on the discovery of a cupriferous bed, at once turned to exploring and mining in depth.

Your Committee would suggest, that on the north side of Lake Superior a system of survey be adopted similar to that which has been pursued on the north shore of Lake Huron, and that the whole country be thoroughly explored by a skilful Surveyor and Mineralogist, and base lines drawn north and south and east and west, at a distance of eighteen to twenty miles apart; that the portion of country found fit for cultivation be subdivided into lots, and the other parts of the country, or such as may be found suitable for mining purposes only, be blocked out, so that miners may have no difficulty in describing their mineral locations;