

THE MINERAL RESOURCES OF THE
OTTAWA DISTRICT.*

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In investigating the mineral wealth of any district, in order to proceed on a right basis, one should, first of all, carefully consider the geological conditions which prevail, and should ascertain, by a careful preliminary examination, whether such conditions are favorable for the occurrence, or otherwise, of mineral deposits, in quantity to be economically important. If this precaution is neglected there is often a very great possibility that large sums of money may be foolishly squandered in a vain search after the impossible.

In all such investigations it may safely be regarded as an established fact, that our mineral deposits are determined by certain active causes. The action of these causes and their influence upon the associated rock masses, it is largely the business of the geologist, mineralogist or mining engineer to investigate. Unfortunately in the history of mining in this country, as well as elsewhere, this principle has often been entirely disregarded. In the course of some twenty-five years wandering to and fro, in the service of the Geological Survey, it has been my fortune to encounter many such cases, and to witness the small savings of individuals, singly, or even the capital of large companies, wasted in a vain attempt to obtain from the bosom of old mother earth some small share of her buried treasures, simply because some person, often with a smattering only of a few scientific terms, but who was otherwise entirely lacking in all knowledge of the conditions which govern mineral deposits, had asserted that the conditions in certain localities were favorable to the attainment of mineral wealth.

Very often it is to be feared that such statements are made by the adventurer, simply on the chance of getting money easily from the inexperienced, and in such cases, the poor proprietor, after investing what money he could raise, has had his dearly bought experience for his trouble, with possibly the addition of

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