

of fact, the horizontal strata, elsewhere in the district, have been found to contain silver-bearing veins, but, so far, have failed to afford foundation for a remunerative mine. In either case the future of Silver Islet mine depends mostly on the carefulness of the manager and his assistants in detecting minute traces of ore, and their skill and perseverance in following them. It would seem altogether unwise to depend upon any preconceived notion as to the manner in which the valuable minerals occur, or ought to occur, in the mine, for it must be confessed that hitherto the chemical geologist has rendered but very slight assistance to the practical miner in his search for the remunerative parts of a vein. The best guarantee for the future is in the past history of the mine, which proves that rich deposits may be stumbled upon quite unexpectedly in the ground already opened up.

I obtained from Edward Learned, Esq., President of the Silver Islet Company, whose faith and perseverance has carried the company through many of its difficulties, the original of the panoramic sketch, published herewith, of Silver Islet and the adjacent islands and mainland. It is exceedingly truthful, and will serve to give some idea of the situation of this remarkable mine. The artist is Mr. George Snell, of Boston.

I have thus endeavored to record the principal facts which have come to my knowledge regarding this extraordinary silver vein. Its story ought to teach Canadians, among other things, to have more confidence in the mineral resources of their country. That over three millions have been extracted from a bare rock, in Lake Superior, with an area not exceeding a thousand square feet, ought to increase our faith in the vast unexplored regions which stretch away to the north and northwest of us. But let us not, in the event of new discoveries, pamper our worthless mines, nor, on the other hand, starve those of good promise. Neither let us, when we find another productive mine, tear out recklessly all the ore in sight. The product of a mine, like that of a farm, cannot be forced beyond certain proper limits without bad consequences. Let reserves accumulate in our mines as the "rests" formerly did in our financial institutions, and mining will become as profitable as banking, if not more so. The opposite system, "picking the eyes out of the mine," *Raub bau*, as the Germans call it, has caused the ruin of such mines as the Ophir in Nova Scotia, and the Acton in Quebec. It is "more by good luck than good guiding" that a similar fate has not yet overtaken Silver Islet in Ontario.