

was afterward increased to \$2,500,000, to operate the Copper Cliff, Stobie and Evans Mines.

On May 1st, 1886, work was started in earnest at the Copper Cliff mine, and later on in the same year both the Stobie and Evans mines were opened up, and with the exception of a few months last summer, when, on account of some difference with the Canadian Pacific Railway, the Stobie was shut down, these three mines have been in active operation ever since. The chief business of the Canadian Copper Company is done at Copper Cliff, for here they have prepared a well equipped roast yard, two smelting furnaces, laboratory and offices, and other things requisite for carrying on this mining on an extensive scale. The Stobie and Evans mines are provided with excellent rock houses, but all their ore is brought by branch railways to Copper Cliff to be roasted and smelted. In 1889 the Dominion Mineral Company was formed to operate the Blezard mine, and later on they purchased the Worthington mine from the original owners. During the past summer this company have had their smelter in operation, and both their mines are being energetically developed. During the summer of 1889 the Murray mine was prospected under bond by Messrs. Henry H. Vivian & Co., Swansea, England, and in October of the same year they purchased it. About the end of last September, everything being ready, the smelter "was blown in" and set to work on some ore which had been previously roasted. All three companies are now prosecuting the work vigorously, and the output of these mines has already reached very large proportions. The whole district has been prospected, and I think that a very conservative estimate would now place the number of promising deposits at twenty.

The Huronian system in which these ore deposits occur may be regarded as the oldest series of sedimentary strata of which we have at present any certain knowledge. Amongst the more important of these rocks may be mentioned quartzites, greywackés, conglomerates, slates, evenly laminated gneisses, felsites, hydromica, chloritic, epidotic, horn-blendic and micaceous schists and narrow bands of cherty limestone. Most of these clastic rocks have been derived from the waste of older felspathic material, and hitherto it has been most generally supposed and stated that the Laurentian gneiss was the source from which the