

more to the country than to have so many dollars paid into the land office, and have the property lie in a state of nature and undeveloped.

There is a wrong system practised in Ontario and Quebec, the selling of mining lands by auction. When a valuable ore has been discovered in a section of country the excitement gets strong, and the land office is floored with applications for lots, and to satisfy, not the discoverer, but contending parties, the properties are advertised and sold by auction, and the competition raises the price beyond that which a miner can afford to pay. The discoverer is not rewarded, and the property falls into the hands of a more wealthy man, a speculator, who will not work it himself, but purchases it on the chance of a rise in value, which fails to come, and the properties so sold remain undeveloped. The district ought to be opened as a free-grant mining camp, and the properties would be developed under proper mining laws and inspection, and the country receive many times more benefit than by selling it unconditionally.

The vast importance to a country of the proper development of its mineral wealth renders this subject one requiring the attention and careful consideration of our legislators and citizens.

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