

been said, of the writing and talk that has been going on for years.

It is now in order for the people of this province to ask what has the provincial opposition striven to do in the direction of getting the mineral wealth of this province developed? Have they had any policy on the subject?

For prospecting and superficial working of veins, the Kootenay district is superior to Montana. In the latter country, as in the former, chinooks occur in winter that clear the ground from snow, but in Montana the winter cold is often and generally very severe, while in the Trail Creek district it is comparatively mild. Montana knows temperatures of fifty below zero; the lowest in the West Kootenay is but little below zero. The lakes and rivers of the Kootenay country, though they lie over a thousand feet above sea level, are never frozen over. Steamboats ply all the year round. When snow lies higher upon the mountains it facilitates the transport of supplies, and winter is really a better season for opening "finds" than summer, when (as it is at present) the roads are not well fitted for travel. Of course the prospector finds difficulty in following veins when snow is on the ground, but the winter season is short. It begins earlier than in southern Ontario, but it closes earlier also, sometimes in February. Underground mining, of course is not affected by winter, except favorably, owing to the cheaper conveyance of supplies to the mining camps.

In getting out prospectuses, the drafters should avoid putting on the extra cent figures after the straight dollars are mentioned, either in stating the capital or calculations as to profit. It is a common fault in writing prospectuses, but a very foolish one. The thoroughly wide-awake man, who knows the world, simply ascribes it to ignorance, and it is the simplest kind of smartness that hopes to impose a "wool-sack" importance on the public. It fools nobody, excepting the most ignorant, who have nothing to invest, and it arouses a shade of suspicion in the quiet little capitalist who knows not the world broadly, and cannot make allowance for the littleness or ignorance, or something else, of the man who writes \$1,500,000.00, when the superfluous 0's might be omitted. Don't do it, boys. The world, if ignorant, is not imposed upon by this childish trick. Investors try to deal with facts and reasonable calculations. Don't ruffle the feathers of the shrewd man whose temperament allows him to be irritated by trifles. State the honest truth, without childish embellishments. If you can't, then state nothing at all.

ABANDONED AGES AGO.

DISCOVERY OF SEVEN ANCIENT COPPER MINES NORTH OF LAKE SUPERIOR.

SEVEN ancient copper mines worked by an unknown and pre-historic race, have been located in Cook County, Minn., on the north shore of Lake Superior, says the New York *Herald*. In the great Superior copper region, old debris-covered copper pits abandoned centuries ago, have heretofore been discovered, but this new find is the first that has been made on the northern shore of the great lake, and the discovery gives promise of activity in mining operations in that locality, for not only have paying deposits of copper been laid bare, but some silver and a little gold have been found with the baser metal.

These mines, which were accurately located only two weeks ago, lie within a few miles of each other, immediately south of, and close to, the Pigeon river, which is the boundary line

between the United States and Canada at that point.

That the mines have not been discovered before is not strange, for Cook County is an almost isolated point of land, far from any large settlement. Though it contains 1,520 square miles of land, it has only 140 inhabitants, besides a few Indians in the Pigeon river reservation, at its extreme eastern end—about ten miles from the nearest of the seven newly discovered mines. Then the county is very hilly, rocky and wild, with little fertile land, and offers few inducements to settlers.

HOW THE MINES WERE FOUND.

The ordinary observer might walk all over Cook County and not be aware of the fact that he was treading on rich deposits of valuable ore, for the pits of the ancient mines have been filled with debris and been covered by brush, growing and fallen trees, and the wash from higher lands.

It requires the eyes of an expert trained in prospecting to find the signs of hidden ore; and so it was in this case, for it remained to Captain William P. Spalding—now seventy-four years old—of Sault Sainte Marie, to make the discovery.

Late in 1895 he concluded that he would look over Cook County. His search brought him success, for he discovered evident traces of ancient "diggings," and then, having associated himself with Mr. John M. Miller, of Escanaba, Mich., the explorations were continued this year.

The two men went carefully over the ground, making thorough examination and numerous excavations, with the result of accurately locating the seven pits, so that a surveyor would have no difficulty in finding them.

In a letter from Captain Spalding, in relation to his discovery, he writes:

"I claim to have been the first discoverer of 'ancient diggings' on the north shore of Lake Superior, made in the fall of 1895, in what is Township 64 north, of Range 2 east of the fourth principal meridian, Sections 4 and 5; and afterward in Section 3. The diggings are on the north side of a bluff on a mountain, on a vein running nearly east and west. On Section 5 the work is about twenty rods in length, apparently of the depth of fifteen or twenty feet. I have sunk in these diggings two pits, from eighteen to twenty feet deep. On the foot wall of the vein in the bottom of the pits I found charcoal and ashes, but did not reach the bottom of the diggings on account of water.

"In another pit, just off these works, I sunk fifteen feet to a vein, which had been greatly disturbed. I found water that was plentiful and free, and which I suppose comes from the lake, which is close by the shaft. From this pit I took out very fine specimens of both gold and silver, besides the copper. The vein is quartz, and both walls are talcose slate.

"I found no tools or stone hammers, but from the evidences the work was done by building a fire on the vein, heating it to a high temperature, and then cooling it suddenly with water, which would have the effect of loosening the ore. The copper was then broken out with stone hammers. This was the ancient mode of working the mines on the south shore of Lake Superior.

On Section 5 I sunk sixty-five feet just outside of the old work, on the north, expecting the vein to come into my shaft at a depth of 110 feet—as the dip is toward the north—but I put in a diamond drill and bored forty feet at an angle of forty-five degrees before I struck the vein. In this vein I took out some valuable specimens of native silver and silver glance. I will continue the work here next year.

"On Section 3, there is old work on a vein which unites with ancient diggings where

two immense pits were dug by the prehistoric miners.

"Near this junction, to the north, there is a mound, which should be opened, and I intend exploring it on some future day. Not far from this mound there is apparently a road bed of loose stones, which might have been the road to Lake Superior, and the destination of the product of the mines.

"I have found no tools, so far, but this is no evidence that they will not be found in the future.

"I think the ancient works on these lands are the most extensive ever found."

It is not at all unlikely that the mound will be found rich in tools, in ornaments of copper, silver and gold, and more than likely in skeletons of the very people who made these excavations.

That tools will be found in these mines is not improbable, for in others opened on the south shore of the lake, on which trees of great age were growing, great numbers of stone hammers, or mauls, were found; also a few wooden shovels, strongly resembling canoe paddles, together with the remains of wooden bowls for baling, birchbark baskets, and some spear or lance heads, beads, pins, and axes of copper.

Whether or not the mound that is to be opened will solve the problem of the age of the mines, remains to be seen. Great antiquity has been assigned to these workings by some writers, and it has been suggested, and not without reason, that a busy industry was suddenly interrupted in them at some time over five hundred years ago. The finding of a tree, with 395 rings, growing in one of these ancient pits, has been used to support an argument that the working must have been abandoned at least as long ago as the middle of the fifteenth century, or some fifty years before the voyage of Columbus.

ENGLISH CAPITAL COMING TO CANADA.

SEVERAL large deals have been reported from the Lake of the Woods district during the past few months. Among these we might mention the sale of the Mikado, the Cornucopia, the Triumph, the Standard, and, besides, several groups of undeveloped properties. The aggregate amount paid for these properties is about a quarter of a million dollars. These sales have been negotiated by Mr. Robert Ahn to the satisfaction of all the parties concerned. This is creditable to Mr. Ahn's ability, and is a proof of his high standing with capitalists in England, where these limits and prospective properties have been sold.

USES OF PLUMBAGO.

THE use of plumbago in mechanics continues to develop. Originally used for crucible manufacture and as a dry finish or polish, its use later led to a marked advance in our wheel grease. Eventually it found its way into the iron foundries as a facing powder; next the self-lubricating journals marked it a true friend and economiser. Now we have it brought before us as a rust preventer and general preserver of iron surfaces, in which capacity the discussions in the American Painters' Associations show that it far exceeds red lead or iron oxide. Not only does it give a smooth finish fit for a yacht bottom, and slips on with very little brushing effort, but being an inert substance, it is quite unaffected by heat or frost, rain or shine, acid or alkali. It has besides the essential advantage of being cheap. Plumbago is found in considerable quantities in eastern Canada.

Our mailing list embraces thousands of the leading moneyed men of Canada. For substantial mining companies, no better medium offers for reaching investors.