

infrequent; for during the three days I remained on the spot, several separate blasts developed rich portions of the vein, from which many very fine specimens were obtained, showing free gold in strings, spangles and small nuggets, and streaks, coatings and small masses of the extremely valuable sylvanite ore. This sylvanite was first mistaken by the miners for silver glance, but assays and analysis proved it to be the true telluride of gold and silver, some samples of the sulphurets through which it was mixed yielding on assay up to \$4,000 per ton in gold and silver, chiefly the former. From some few barrels of the ore taken to Silver Islet, 128 lbs. of rock was selected and sent to Balback's smelting works in New Jersey, the works returning as a result a small brick of silver and button of gold, weighing respectively  $5\frac{1}{2}$  and 1.16 oz.

Of course it is not to be supposed that so high a result represents the average of the rock; nor does it any more represent the best that could be obtained, since a little more rigorous selection of the sample sent could easily have made the latter yield double or quadruple the *percentage* of gold and silver, as any person will understand when it is understood that many samples could be selected carrying free gold alone or with the rich sylvanite.

A road has been cut through the woods, a distance of 12 miles, and connecting the mine with Lake Shebandowan, and thereby with the Red River Road to Thunder Bay, the route of the Northern Pacific Railroad branch, at present in process of construction. The immediate neighborhood of the mine is heavily timbered, the trees being of good growth and various qualities, offering everything in the way of timber supply for mining purposes. The occurrence of the soft talcose slate on a hard wall is very favourable for the breaking out of the vein, and leaving a good wall requiring hardly any timbering.

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