

THE quantity and value of all sorts of lumber shipped from Frederickton, N. B., in 1871, were as follows:—

	Value.
Boards, Deals, and	
Planks.....	3,427.065 \$ 34,572 47
Shingles.....	75,400.250 153,382 01
Clapboards.....	1,060.995 12,994 82
Laths.....	4,762.000 4,450 50
Railway Sleepers...	18,681 1,585 00
Pickets.....	9,375 28 00
Total.....	\$206,021 40

#### LAKE SUPERIOR MINING REGION.

In the report of the Commissioner of Crown Lands for Ontario, the following in reference to the mining region on Lake Superior is given:—

A period of twenty-four years has elapsed since the attention of the people of Canada was for the first time particularly directed to the north Shores of Lakes Huron and Superior, and to the existence there of at least the baser metals in such quantity as would ensure ample returns to all who might invest their money in mineral lands, if not in actual mining operations. It was the discovery of native or metallic copper on the south shore of Lake Superior in quantities previously unheard of and unknown in other parts of the world, that gave rise to the conviction that rich and valuable mines would be found on our side also. The Government was consequently urged to frame and establish a liberal code of rules and regulations under which explorations might be carried on, mineral lands might be purchased and mines successfully worked. A history of the legislation on the subject, of the companies organized, and of the mining operations carried on during the past twenty-four years, with the causes of the unsatisfactory result of such mining operations generally, might not be uninteresting, but would be too lengthy for, if not out of place in, such a report as this. I may be allowed, however, briefly to say that whereas legislation formerly commencing, as it did, with locations of ten square miles in extent, closed our shore against independent explorers and miners almost entirely, and left the exploration of the country to companies and their employees, it has latterly been more favorable thereto, and that the general Mining Act of 1869, passed by the present Legislature, and now in force, leaves the practical explorer and miner little or nothing to complain of.

Until recently copper was the metal which constituted the principal object of search in this district. It is distributed over an area or extent of country large even where all else is on so large a scale. Veins containing either the ores of copper or that metal in its native state have been found at short intervals from the Wallace Mine, nearly half way down Lake Huron to Pigeon River on Lake Superior, or over a distance of at least four hundred and fifty miles. How far inland the copper bearing rocks extend has not been fully determined, but I have myself seen what under more favorable circumstances would be considered fine valuable veins of copper from fifteen to twenty miles inland, and have little doubt that the copper region extends at many points as far north as the height of land. Of this vast region a mere fringe along the shores of Lakes Huron and Superior has been examined or explored, and that in a very superficial manner. These explorations, however limited and imperfect as they may be, proved that an amazing quantity of copper is undoubtedly stored up in this portion of the Dominion of Canada. On the other hand the mining operations carried on during the last twenty-four years, limited as they have been, would appear to warrant the

apprehension at least that under hitherto existing circumstances and conditions as regards the price of copper, rates of labor, and cost of transport to market, the mining of copper in this district is not a profitable pursuit. That veins of copper exceptionally rich may be discovered and profitably worked, the success of the Wellington Mine fully proves, and there is no reason why other mines as rich should not occasionally be found. But it is not the less certain that so long as the price of copper continues as low as it has been for several years past, and so long as the rates of wages hitherto current, and cost of transport to market are unreduced, so long will the extraction of the copper and copper ores from a vast majority of the veins in the region alluded to be found to be unremunerative. In time the price of copper will probably advance. The produce of the North West may pass this way, food would in that case be abundant and cheap, and miners could work for less wages. Again, certain methods or processes whereby it is proposed to extract the metallic copper from its ores at the mines instead of shipping it as has hitherto been done to Wales and other distant parts to be there melted, have been discovered and are being rapidly perfected. One such method is now being introduced at the Bruce and Wellington Mines in this District on a very extensive scale and with every hope of success. Another new process has lately been patented by Dr. T. Sterry Hunt of the Geological Survey of Canada, which is in use at the Harvey Hill Mine in Leeds near Quebec, and claims to be still more economical and complete.

When we consider that it is hoped and expected that by means of these methods or processes: 1. The cost of transport to market will be reduced to about one-fourth or one-fifth of what it has hitherto been.

2. That as much probably as twenty per cent. of metal hitherto lost in the dressing and smelting operations will be saved, the importance of the discoveries and of their successful introduction into a mining region so remote as this cannot be over estimated. We need not therefore yet despair that the copper distributed so generally over this vast tract of country, and in the aggregate inconceivable in quantity, may not at some future, and perhaps not distant period, be largely and profitably extracted, and copper mining become one of the most flourishing and important industries of this Province.

The existence of silver on both the north and south shores of Lake Superior has been known for many years; on the south shore it is found associated with the native copper in many if not in all of the mines, and some have produced quite a considerable quantity. Near Marquette it was found associated with lead ore or Galena. In no case, however, would it appear to have been sufficiently rich to admit of the veins being worked, for the silver alone, irrespective of the other metals associated with it. On the north shore it had been found at Mamainse, Michipicoten Island, St. Ignace and Princes Bay, and possibly many other places unknown to me. Many years, indeed, before the excitement about copper arose on this lake, a French voyageur in the service of Captain Bayfield, is supposed to have discovered silver in this Thunder Bay. At a time when silver mines, at all events were little thought of, this man asserted that he had found it here. So satisfied were several parties at the Bruce Mines of his sincerity that an expedition was fitted out in the year 1852 and sent up to see the vein with the intention of securing and working it. Second, as the man was called, brought the party to Thunder Bay, but once there his memory would appear to have failed him as to the exact spot, and the party returned disappointed and for the most part, fully persuaded that he had deceived them. Poor and despised, the unfortunate man

committed suicide some time afterwards, the disappointment having doubtless preyed upon and affected his mind. The events of the last three or four years render it exceedingly probable that poor Secord really found silver in Thunder Bay as asserted he had done, when Captain Bayfield was engaged in the survey of Lake Superior, and should vindicate his memory from suspicions which were in all likelihood unjust.

As regards the silver lodes or veins and the operations carried on here, I may state shortly that although there has been a great deal of talking and writing and a good deal of money spent, there has, in fact, been very little done as yet to test or prove the real value, extent and permanence of any of the veins found in this mining division. The mining operations are too superficial as yet to warrant any positive opinions or statements on the subject. Silver-bearing veins have been discovered in ten or twelve different localities between Thunder Cape and Pigeon River, indicating a field sufficiently extensive to constitute a very important silver mining region, should the lodes or veins turn out well in depth. None of the veins have been sunk upon to a greater depth than sixty feet, or ten fathoms, a depth very inconsiderable in a mining point of view. We have, beyond doubt, veins containing very rich bunches or pockets of silver at or near the surface. That near Silver Islet, Thunder Cape, has produced this fall a quantity of ore which, if nearly so rich as reported, places it in the meantime in the foremost rank of silver-producing mines, and although the depth yet attained does not exceed ten or twelve feet, it is said to be as rich if not richer in the bottom of the slope than it was at the surface. Whether any considerable number of these silver veins will sustain profitable mining operations, carried on by a large force of miners and extended over a long term of years, like many such in Europe, remains to be seen. American capital, enterprise and energy attracted to our shores by the remarkable success which is attending on the operations of their countrymen at Thunder Cape, appear likely to solve that problem for us in a short time, and to this end we should not only wish our enterprising neighbors good speed, but afford them every reasonable facility and encouragement in our power.

Referring to that portion of the general Mining Act of 1869, which relates to miners' licenses and claims, I beg to observe that whereas I only issued three miners' licenses last year, the number applied for and issued this year up to the date hereof is thirteen, showing at least an increasing desire for such. With the slight modification suggested in a previous letter, I think the system would be very acceptable and a boon to practical explorers and miners generally, a larger number of which class would, I am persuaded, take out miners' licenses next year.

The existence of lead and of iron ores of such quality and in such quantity in this mining division as to be well worthy of attention is unquestionable, and I trust that we shall see mines of these metals opened up and developed this next season. Signed, E. B. BORRON, Inspector of the Lake Superior Mining Division.

Thunder Bay, Lake Superior,  
30th Nov., 1870.

—The imports of beet root sugar at the British and Scotch ports for the first eleven months of the past year were 134,480 tons, against 56,670 tons, and 31,060 tons in the corresponding months of 1870 and 1869 respectively.

—Mr. James S. Lockie, Agent of the Bank of B. N. A., at St. Stephen, N. B., has been transferred to the management of the Branch at Hamilton, Ont.