

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE TAKEN BEFORE THE COMMITTEE.

13th July, 1866.

Evidence of J. P. Mansfield of Detroit.

BY THE CHAIRMAN :—

1. Have you had any experience in mining operations on the north side of Lakes Superior and Huron, if so, where, and to what extent?—We are now working at Batchewanung Bay, on the north-east end of Lake Superior, mining for iron. Commenced mining last August, and have been working since. Prospects not favorable; but, by going further east from the lake, on our location, prospects are better.

2. Is it your opinion, from the experience you have had, that mining for iron can be carried on to advantage in that section of country?—Yes, providing the ore is rich enough.

3. Have you met with any copper veins during your operations?—We have, of the same quality as that at the Bruce Mines; and we have also discovered, on the western portion of our property, the native copper-bearing rock (the amygdaloid rock); but, as yet, have discovered no veins of copper in this rock.

4. Have you experienced any inconvenience in locating mineral lands, and procuring a title for them?—I have found that the regulations of the Crown Lands Department admit of no more than four hundred acres of mineral lands to be sold to one person; and my opinion is, that this restriction has an injurious effect; that it would be more to the advantage of the Government, as well as to the purchaser, to allow each person to buy whatever quantity of land he might require; and that a tax should be at once imposed which would prevent any person or company from holding too large a quantity for mere purpose of speculation; the taxes to be appropriated to the development of the country.

5. What is your idea as to the best means of developing the mineral resources of the country?—I am of opinion that in the sale of mineral lands the Government should always reserve the right of way for the construction of a Public Road or Railroad, wherever adjoining occupants or others might deem it advisable to make such improvements; the original price of the land to be paid to the owner for such right of way. I am also of opinion that where a railway is constructed through any mineral region to the extent of five miles or over, every alternate section of the land on each side of the road should be granted to the party constructing the road; and that the price of the remaining alternate sections should be held at double the original price.

6. Have you experienced any inconvenience from the Government, or any other party, since you commenced mining operations in the locality above referred to?—I have not met with any from the Government, but I have experienced some inconveniences from the Indian Branch of the Crown Lands Department, in the following manner:—1st. I was notified by Mr. Wilson of the Sault, that we had no right to cut timber on our location, granted to us by the Commissioner of Crown Lands, which caused me a journey from Superior to Quebec. Afterwards, I was notified by the same Wilson that I must pay timber dues on all logs used in the construction of railway-loghouses and docks. A Mr. Maitland also stated that he had obtained from Mr. Wilson a timber license, and that, consequently, I must pay him for said license, which I did to the amount of \$200.00

In consequence of the demand made by Mr. Wilson for timber dues, I have had to perform a journey to Ottawa, thus incurring considerable trouble and expense; but on my arrival in Ottawa I was assured by the Commissioner of Crown Lands that the timber dues shall not be collected.

14th July, 1866.

Questions submitted by the Select Committee, on the Copper Mines of the North Side of Lake Superior, to Thomas MacFarlane, Esq., of Acton Vale, C. E.

1. Have you examined the country on the North Side of Lakes Superior and Huron,—if so, at what time and to what extent?—I have examined that part of it which extends from Sault St. Marie to Montreal River, on the east shore, and from Michipicoten Harbour to a point opposite Michipicoten Island, on the north shore, as also Michipicoten Island itself; this I did from the 23rd June until the 29th August, 1865.

2. What are the general features of the country in a mineral and agricultural point of view?—Where Laurentian and Huronian rocks prevail the country is hilly and rocky, and