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REPORT

OF THE

SELECT COMMITTEE

ON THE

COPPER MINES

ON THE NORTH SIDE OF LAKE SUPERIOR.



The Select Committee appointed to obtain information as to the extent and resources of the Copper Mines on the north side of Lake Superior, and the best means of their development, so as to make the Mines the means of increasing the revenue and affording, at the same time, greater encouragement to the employment of capital for the development of the Copper Mines; also to inquire into the sale of lands in the mining district up to this time, and generally as to all matters whatever relating to the Copper Mines: have the honor to Report, as follows:—

Your Committee proceeded, without delay, to obtain the information required, and to investigate the several points submitted in the Order of Reference.

Although the Order of Reference is confined to the north side of Lake Superior, yet your Committee have deemed it expedient to extend their enquiry to the north side of Lake Huron as well as Superior, and to procure as much information as possible respecting iron and other economic minerals, as well as copper.

Your Committee have been induced to extend the field of their investigations from the fact that, in general, the same witnesses who could afford information respecting the minerals of Lake Superior, were also prepared to furnish information respecting the mineral resources of Lake Huron; and for the same reason, your Committee were induced to receive evidence respecting iron and other economic minerals, as well as copper.

It has been known for many years past, that copper exists on the north sides of Lakes Huron and Superior, and many surveys and explorations have been performed to ascertain the extent and value of the Copper Mines, and, consequently, a great deal of information has been obtained; yet, the information contained in the various reports is principally of a scientific nature, and, consequently, not of very great practical importance to the general reader. Besides, these Reports extend over a period of twenty years, and are distributed through fourteen volumes of the Journals of the House of Assembly (a reference to which is given in Appendix A to this Report), so that even such persons as have access to the Library of Parliament experience considerable delay in procuring the necessary information on any particular subject; but as regards the general public, such information as that contained in the Journals is of but little value.

In the Report of the Select Committee of 1854, appointed to report upon the best means of making public the valuable information already obtained by the Geological Survey, the following statement occurs:—

“It is mortifying to your Committee to have to report, that results of so much value are almost inaccessible to the public, and that a great proportion of the inhabitants of Canada,