

of its area remain yet unexplored; still, estimating its value as a mineral region by what I have already discovered within its limits, there seems to be good reasons for believing that it must ere long become the scene of important mining operations, independent of the discovery of gold.

From the mouth of Steep Mountain River, for a distance of thirty miles to the eastward, favorable indications of the existence of the ores of copper, zinc and barytes present themselves at different points.

Magnetic iron ore also seems quite abundant at some points between Grand Ance and Cape St. Lawrence. This might be turned to good account where fuel of every description can be obtained. I have no doubt that coal exists at Bay St. Lawrence, and I am informed that one bed has already been discovered there; and as for wood and peat for charcoal, the supply is unlimited.

But no mining operations, on a large scale, can be commenced in this region until a harbor of some kind is constructed. This, I have reason to believe can be easily done at Aspy Bay, where a good harbor carrying three and three and a-half fathoms water extends three miles inland from a bar which separates it from the bay, except a narrow pass of three feet most water on the bar. The shore slopes steeply outside the bar, to eight and nine fathoms, with sand and clay bottom. The distance between the points of three fathoms depth outside and inside the bar, will not much exceed three hundred yards; and the holding ground is good, for there seems to be a deep substratum of stiff boulder clay, into which piles can be driven to any depth that may be deemed necessary.

For a distance of twenty-five or thirty miles inland from this harbor, the soil is well adapted for agricultural purposes; and the facilities for lumbering and ship-building surpass those of any other district in the Province.

The cutting of a channel across this narrow bar would also give a great impulse to fishing on this part of the coast, and would be the means of saving much life and property. But apart from all other considerations, the mining interests that will be likely to spring up in this section of the Province in a short time, in connection with its silver, iron and zinc, render it necessary that the harbors should be opened with as little delay as possible; and some improvement should be made on the roads, which are now almost impassable even to a person on foot.

The prospects for silver and zinc mining appear most encouraging, over a considerable extent of the country, but more particularly so in the neighborhood of Grand Ance, where the Mackenzie River falls into the Gulf. This stream flows over a rough boulder bed about seventy or eighty feet wide, with a fall of about one foot in the hundred. It discharges a large volume of water during the summer season. It is not easily forded on this account, except when the water is at its lowest stages, and the difficulty is greatly increased by the large size of the boulders by which its bed is paved.

On each side of it, the land rises abruptly to a height of eight or ten hundred feet, except a short distance near the sea where the land slopes gently down to the shore.

Native metallic silver is found abundantly disseminated through the drift of this stream, in small grains and nuggets; and this appears to be the case along the greater part of its course, for in many trials made several miles inland, I found the silver as plentiful as I found it near the Gulf coast. Nor is there reason to doubt the existence of rich deposits in some places where circumstances favored the concentration of such particles of the drift as were of the greatest specific gravity, such as silver, &c.

The sources from which this stream derived the silver rolled in its drift are, as far as I have been able to discover,—first, from veins of a beautiful variety of spar, closely resembling meerschaum, that abound in some parts of this district. Some of these veins contain native silver, which is imbedded in strings and nests of a softish gray substance of earthy texture, much resembling the carbonate of that metal. The other source I have reason to believe is the general surface glacial drift along its banks and tributaries.