6. In this region there are mines of incalculable extent and richness. The principal minerals are iron, lead, copper, manganese, silver, lignite, anthracite, gypsum, petroicoum and different kinds of ornamental stone.

The most precious kinds and those which are easiest to work are iron, lead, lignite, manganese and gypsum.

There are considerable deposits of magnetic iron ore on the banks of the river Mattaganai, of red homatite or red iron ore in the diluvian beds of the Albany river, hrown heematite or bog iron ore at the grand rapids of the Mattagami river, (this ore has assayed 52.48 per cont of iron.) But these mines are not to be compared to those in the islands of the Straits of Nostakopa, where spathic iron containing manganese is found in inexhaustible quantities. In all these islands, which form a chain more than interty miles in length, iron ore is found on the surface to a depth of twenty feet. Two specimens of this ore have respectively given 25.44 and 27.83 of iron, thus proving it to be a very profitable ore to work, since, according to Osborne, who is an authority on the subject, any iron ore which contains at least 6 per cent of metal may be worked with profit. The ore at Nastakoka contains nearly twice this proportion of iron.

Besides this quality, it may be extracted under peculiarly advantageous conditions. The ore forms the upper stratum of the soil which is completely bare; the rock, as Dr Bell says, has been fractured by the action of the air and ice so that a great portion of the ore may be taken out without mining, thereby greatly reducing the cost of extraction, and consequently that of the ore when taken out of the mine, and enabling it to be delivered at the blast furnaces for a trifle. In the neighborhood of the islands good anchorage exists everywhere for vessels of the greatest draught, which may be moored or anchored with the greatest security and case.

These beds are sufficiently rich and extensive to yield at least 40,000,000 tons of iron.

This ore is almost unequalled for the manufacture of certain kinds of steel and espechally Bessemer steel, which has come into such general use during past years especially in making rails.

In England and in the United States, principally at Troy, a good many of the Bessemer steel factories are supplied with pig iron derived from the spathic iron ore which is imported in large quantities from Germany. In the United States, since a few years, thirteen foundries have been started in which Bessemer steel is made for the purpose of being worked up into steel rails, to such an extent does the demand therefor increase. These foundries employ 10.840 workmen whose wages, in 1881, amounted to \$4,980,339. For the same year, the yield of these foundries was \$55,853,000 and the expenditure for raw material, repairs, &c., reached the amount of \$36,875,926. The capital invested in these thirteen establishments is \$21,000,000. In France, there are more than thirty-fivo foundries where spathic iron ore is transformed into white cast-iron, in large plates, and into steel. Finally, in Germany it is with the same ore, generally of inferior quality to that of Nastakopa, that is made the famous steel of Styris and of the banks of the Rhine, which is much superior for some purposes to case-hardened steel. The presence of manganese in the spathic ores, such as those of Nastakopa, renders the malleable iron obtained from them much better suited for the manufacture of steel, and in Sweden, when the manganese is deficient, its want is supplied by certain manganesiferous mixtures which are introduced into the iron ore during the smelting.

Our Nastakopa ore is therefore of superior quality in this respect, since it contains 24.64 per cent of manganesiferous carbonate, according to the analysis made by professor Hoffmann. It is therefore an undoubted fact that these mines contain immense riches, of incalculable value, and may be worked with ease and economy; that we find in them ores from which the best Bessemer steel in the world may be made, and that the working of these mines would greatly contribute to the settlement of the entire adjacent region, as well as of the territory of James Bay. The mines of red iron ore, of magnetic iron and bog iron ore in the latter region are also af great value; ont their working would probably be delayed by that of the spathic ores of Nastakopa which offer so many advantages and such brilliant prospects.

Galena forms a stratum of about thirty feet in thickness and extends along the shore of the sea from the mouth of Whale river, as far as Richmond Bay, a distance of about

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