

riod for completing payment of the first instalment, which fell due chiefly in the year 1849, to the 1st May, 1854, it was directed that such locations as were not paid upon by that date should be considered as finally resumed by the Government. The accompanying list exhibits the locations which remain still existing.

The system established by Orders in Council, in the years 1845 and 1846, was superseded by the Regulations authorised by an Order in Council dated 21st Sept., 1853, a copy of which is placed herewith. As declared therein, "neither the anticipations formed by the Government at the period of the promulgation of the former regulations, had been realized," nor, on the other hand, "had individuals desirous of engaging in mining pursuits been enabled to effect their object," without compelling them to purchase locations of so extensive an area as to occasion a needlessly large expenditure of capital, in acquiring a right to explore and mine, where the indications were favorable. I look upon the monopolies by a few not wealthy Companies, of nearly all the locations believed to possess metal or mineral of value, as singularly unfortunate, and had they been unable to retain them by carrying on the limited operations which the regulations demanded, and paid the purchase money, mining operations very possibly would have been repressed, and enterprise unfavorably acted upon for a long period to come. The area of ten square miles, two in front by five in depth, was such as seemed to enable one individual to forestall advantages, of an extent infinitely greater than could be required for any one mining establishment. Persons making enquires on the subject of Mining affairs, were in the habit of stating that they did not desire to be encumbered with tracts of so great a magnitude as the regulations compelled them to purchase; if they took up a location at all—and hence, to meet the views of individuals desirous of exploring the shores of the Upper Lakes, and other parts of Upper Canada, the proposition was placed before the Government to sanction the issue of licenses to explore; and upon a selection being made, to allot locations of 400 acres each. The nature of these licenses will more clearly appear on a perusal of the Public Notice dated 23rd Sept., 1853, a printed copy of which is attached hereto. The reason for a higher rate per acre being charged for the smaller than the larger location, is that in employing surveyors to establish the outlines, the comparative expense of survey in remote localities would be much more considerable as regarded the lesser tracts.

It may be desirable to observe, that persons desirous of exploring, have suggested, that upon the same system as is pursued in the United States, a general survey of the region of country bordering on Lakes Superior and Huron, should be instituted, laying it out into sections upon the principle there practised. In giving consideration to this proposition, it has appeared to me, that were a Geological Survey to be in the first instance made, of a division of the Country on each of those Lakes, materials would be procured for determining whether it would be desirable to incur the expense of a General Survey, into Townships and Sections. In the year 1846, the Provincial Geologist, Mr. Logan, inspected various Mining locations on Lake Superior, and visited a number of different locations, on its borders, and has since proceeded to examine the Bruce Mines. Doubtless that gentleman would have little difficulty in forming an opinion from the indications which present themselves, as to the division of country which would promise the most satisfactory results for a careful Geological examination; if the experiment proved encouraging, a survey into Townships and Sections might take place: and when the lands to some considerable degree were brought into the market and sold, the same system may be continued further.

As bearing upon the examination of the region of country bordering on the Upper Lakes, it may be desirable to remark, that a strong impression is entertained, and has been expressed by individuals who have frequented the Northerly Shore of Lake Huron, that fertile land is to be found within a very limited distance of its shores. Of this division of country no exploration has yet taken place, and as