

18. What is your idea as to the best means of developing the mineral resources of the country?—I again respectfully refer the Committee to my answers to questions 11 and 12.

19. 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. On the contrary, from the Local Agent, Mr. Wilson, of the Sault Ste. Marie, I have ever received the greatest kindness.

ALBERT PEDERO TACHER,
Provincial Surveyor.

OTTAWA, July 26th, 1866.

3rd August, 1866.

Questions submitted by the Select Committee on the Copper Mines on the north side of Lake Superior, to Thomas Devine, Esq., Crown Lands Department, and his answers thereto.

1. Have you examined the country on the north side of Lake Superior and Huron; if so, at what time and to what extent?—In the summer of 1864, in obedience to instructions from the Department, I visited the north shore of Lakes Huron and Superior, for the purpose of reporting from personal examination the manner in which the surveys in the Great Manitoulin Island had been performed, and at the same time to ascertain the progress of settlement and mining operations in that section of the Province.

As the time at my disposal, however, was limited, and the instructions requiring my presence at the office, as soon as I could possibly return, my examination was somewhat cursory; I was nevertheless enabled to acquire some useful information, in addition to the results of my own observation, with reference to the lands for settlement and mining operations, and the best mode of developing the same. My report will be found in Appendix No. 35 of the Report of the Commissioner of Crown Lands, for the year ending 30th June, 1865.

2. What are the general features of the country in a mineral and agricultural point of view?—The general features of the country along the north shore of Lakes Huron and Superior indicate that the regions abound in mineral wealth, at the same time there is a fair proportion of good lands, back from the shore, adapted for agricultural purposes, as will be seen by a reference to the maps accompanying the Commissioner's Report, for the year ending 31st December, 1865.

3. In what sections of country did you find the existence of copper, iron, or other economic minerals, and to what extent?—As already stated, the time at my disposal prevented more than a cursory examination of the lands, the principal object of my mission being the examination of the surveys, and to obtain such information as to enable me to report from my own personal observations what progress settlement and mining operations were making, and the best method of dealing with these important matters; I had not, consequently, the opportunity of personally knowing in what sections the particular kinds of ore abound, nor their extent.

4. Do you consider that copper exists in sufficient quantities to pay the expenses of working the mines, and if so, your opinion as to the most available means of developing the resources of the copper region?

5. & 6. The same question with regard to iron and other minerals?—With the view of developing the mineral resources of the north shore of Lakes Huron and Superior, we recommend, in my report referred to:

"1st. The erection of light-houses on prominent points along the north shore and on the main islands, in certain points that were indicated on a sketch that accompanied my report. And it can scarcely be expected that the want of direct steamboat communication will be effectually supplied until this is done, so as to render navigation less subject to serious risks and hazards."

"And then, that encouragement should be given to run a first-class steamer during the summer season, from Sarnia to Fort William, touching at the principal places along the east coast of Lake Huron to the mouth of the Saugeen River, and from thence direct to Sault Ste. Marie and Fort William. With this steamer another should be kept up between Collingwood and Sault Ste. Marie."