ECONOMIC MINERALS OF ONTARIO, CANADA.

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argentiferous as a rule, but the zinc-blende is often rich in silver, which is held in leaf-form through the blende. The rarer silver minerals which were found, more particularly at Silver Islet, contain nickel, cobalt, and arsenic, and are known as macfarlanite, huntalite, and animikite, the latter having also a little antimony. It is also said that arsenical silver-ore has been found on Edwards Island in Black Bay, antimonial silver-ore on an island at the mouth of Pine Bay, township of Pardu, and tetrahedrite in another locality. The silver-contents of the veins occur in very irregular pockets in some mines and in shutes in others. In the Silver Islet mine, the ore was associated with the occurrence of graphite, the presence of which was constantly watched for. In this mine there were pockets of gas, which sometimes became ignited. Ore was shipped from the mine of a value of 1,000 dollars, 3,000 dollars, and up to 5,000 dollars a ton. While in operation, the mine produced over 3,000,000 dollars in silver, but, after the prospectors had been unsuccessful in striking a new pocket of ore for some time, a gale on the lake flooded the mine, and it has not been since pumped out and worked. The best ore from the other mines has been shipped running 1,000 dollars and 1,500 dollars a ton. Lower grade ones are stamped and concentrated. No smelting has yet been done in the district, and at present, owing to the low price in silver, no mines are worked.

There is no question that silver-mining will be carried on profitably in the future, as has been the case in the past, and on a very much increased scale in this district.

A silver-ore of an unusual character has been discovered and prospected to a limited extent in eastern Ontario. The ore appears to be an argentiferous meninghenite, the silver being more probably associated with the lead than with the antimony, for it is stated that specimens of stibnite found with the ore were devoid of silver. This ore appears to occur in veins or stringers in connexion with a strong bed of crystalline limestone, of Upper Laurentian age, which can be followed for miles.

Lead.

Lead ores have been worked in both castern and central Ontario, but the ventures were not successful. In the east, veins carrying galena, considered at one time to be in paying quantities, cut the Upper Laurentian, and also the Calciferous formations. In the former, the country rock is gneiss and crystalline limestone, and in the latter a dolomitic limestone. In both cases the silver-contents of the ore was low. The vein-matter consists of calcspar, and on an average about 5 per cent.

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