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MICHIPICOTEN ISLAND

PROVINCE OF ONTARIO

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EXCERPTS FROM A REPORT BY T. STERRY HUNT  
TO THE QUEBEC & LAKE SUPERIOR MINING CO.

September 6, 1872

"It is however important to remark that near the middle of the Island, along the north shore on Bonner's location, at the so-called "Silver Mine", native copper was many years since extracted with considerable quantities of native silver and rich ores of nickel, all of which were examined and are described by me in the reports of the Geological Survey of Canada. The former workings of this place are filled with water, but enough is still seen to show that the rocks from which the ore was obtained are very like those mined at the west end.

"As regards the probable value and best means of developing these mining lands of the Quebec and Lake Superior Company, I have to remark that from the close resemblance between the rocks of your locations and those of the copper region on the south shore of the lake, it is to the latter that we must look for facts to guide us in judging of these yet unexplored lands.

"These copper-bearing beds, unlike ordinary veins, are not easily recognized at their outcrops, inasmuch as they closely resemble many other beds in the same series of rocks, which are, however, destitute of copper. Being in many cases softer than the great mass of rocks, they are subject to more rapid disintegration and are thus found in depressions of the surface, especially along the shores where exposed to the action of the water, and often covered by debris. As remarked by Mr. MacFarlane in his valuable report on this region in 1866 - "Even in the neighbourhood of Portage Lake the discovery of the valuable beds occurring there took place only after years of unavail-

ing search and large expenditure, and then in numerous cases by mere accident or by exploration in ancient Indian workings". Such being the case it will be seen that we can only hope for good results by a minute and systematic exploration of the surface, which involves a great outlay of time, labor and money.

"The complete identity of the rocks of the Canadian with those of the southern shore is evident and their cupiferous character being established, I unhesitatingly adopt the opinion expressed by Mr. Macfarlane, after a careful study occupying several months, of the rocks of the two regions, that it is certain that if the same energy, intelligence and capital were employed in the development of the rocks of the Canadian shore, as in the Keeweenaw Peninsula, it would soon become as flourishing and as populous as the latter.

NOTE: T. Sterry Hunt was a Geologist of the Geological Survey of Canada.

Mr. Macfarlane was a Geologist of the G.S.C. who reported on the Lake Superior region in 1866. (See Geology of Canada Report of Progress, 1866.)