

not prevent my making searches for mines on all the Rivers, during the Autumn, winter and spring. I found nothing but masses of Copper. Had I had any knowledge of Minerals, I should certainly have had no need of Miners.

1738 I returned in my vessel to Sault Ste Marie, and I intended during The Voyage to land on The island where the virgin Copper is said to be [Isle Royale]; but I encountered a gale from the West south West, which veered round to West North West, and the sea was as high as on the banks of New Foundland. I decided to scud under my Foresail, for I could carry no other Sail. I certainly ran 250 leagues in two days and a half. When I reached Sault Ste Marie, I was never more surprised than when I learned that eight days before two German Miners, father and son, had passed through there on their way to join me at Chagouamigon, so that I might take them to the places where I had found those Masses of Copper. I remained quietly at sault ste Marie awaiting their return.

I was nevertheless uneasy for I saw no one who could take them there. When they returned at the end of a month, I asked them what they had seen and they told me that they had found nothing but nodules of Copper (this is what we call Masses), but no main lode. I told them that they must re-embark with me. Thereupon they said that Copper was not found in earth but in Rock. I replied that they had come from too great a distance to allow of their returning so soon; that I would find Rocky bluffs for them in the neighborhood where we could certainly discover the main lode; which I did.

When I reached Chagouamigon I found war raging more fiercely than ever between the sauteurs of my post and the sioux of the Lakes. I decided to remain at my post to endeavor to restore peace between those two nations, and I sent my eldest son with six Frenchmen and two savages in a good Canoe propelled by eight paddles to take the Miners to the Tonagane River. They found in the bottom of that River some more Nodules of Copper, but no Mines.

On leaving this River they entered the River Ste Anne six leagues to the West of Tonaga. At its entrance they found two