

Copper Mines ; one to the right, the other to the left, which they state to be as good as any mines in their country, and that the waterfalls are very good for supplying the motive power for the furnaces ; that the land is very well fitted for Cultivation and the timber very suitable for Building forts, Houses, Magazines, and forges ; while the stone is excellent for furnaces.

On their return they found, six leagues farther to the west in the Rivière noire [Black River], a mine that they report to be very good ; and they returned to pass the winter at the fort.

1739 Early in the spring a savage named l'Esperance, the bastard son of a Frenchman, showed me a piece of copper that he had taken from a Rock at the Tonagane River about a gunshot from the great Mass of Copper that lies there, and which the Miners saw.

When the ice had melted, I sent my son with a Canoe Manned by six French and two Savages to examine the said Rock. They reported that this Rock was a very good mine. Consequently this makes four that they know of. I brought them back in my vessel to sault ste Marie.

I sent my vessel back to Chagouamigon under the command of my son, with a cargo of provisions, and I put on board of it twelve Carpenters and Sawyers to erect buildings at the River Ste. Anne, where there are two mines, one to the right and the other to the left of the River. The miners claim that they join under the bed of the River. I ordered my son to go there with his workmen as soon as he reached the post of Chagouamigon and to build a very strong fort with Barracks, good Magazines, and a suitable forge at the place where the Miners said that this should be done to take advantage of the water-Falls, and I also ordered him to collect stone for the furnaces.

He also has men for the purpose of making Charcoal, and they are likewise to make Flumes in order to carry water to the furnaces to make blast furnaces of them on the German System. After this I resolved to return [to Quebec] in my Canoes with the Miners.

They told me that all along the grand River they had found several veins of ore which they call mother lodes. They say that