

Rapide plat which is not navigable for vessels. We shall also avoid the Niagara portage, which is four leagues in length and in which there are three hills not practicable for Carts. Therefore I see no other Road for bringing down the products of the Mines than by the River I have mentioned, and the said portage may be called *Torontaux* as there are three on that tongue of land; and by this means a long Journey will be avoided and we shall be saved the necessity of building vessels and consequently considerable expense.¹

[The following "Relation made by John Adam Forster, father and son," dated 1739, is translated from a transcript in Macalester College library, published in Macalester College *Contributions*, series 1, No. 4, p. 114.]

1st. They have been to the Tonagua river to visit the rich copper mine from which specimens have been sent, but they found only one piece of rock from said mine which could truly contain a thousand pounds weight of copper; besides, there did not seem to be any absolute indications of a mine at that place; but in returning toward Lake Superior, at a distance of a league and a half from there, they found a vein or lode from which this piece could have been taken, as the vein contained a little pure copper, in the matrix, from which they cut and carried off as much as they could, without the proper tools.

One could never see a mine, apparently finer, and it is certain that if one wished to start in the business and invest money there, a great return in copper might be hoped for.

2nd. At Orinial river, five leagues from the first place, they found a fine appearing slate mine where were five layers, one above another, and many signs of a copper mine, from which specimens have been sent your Highness, which will show by asaying whether it is good or not.

¹ Considerable interest was awakened in Canada by the discovery of these mines. Father Nau wrote to Madame Aulneau, Oct. 12, 1739: "An inexhaustible mine of copper has been discovered on the shores of lake Superior, 700 leagues from here; but the profits will never be very great, owing to the immense expense of transporting the copper." *Jes. Rel.*, lxix, p. 39.—Ed.