

Letter to the Editor

EDITOR HERALD

Dear Sir:—Please allow me a little of your valuable space for the following: Two gentlemen were discussing, in our hearing the other day, what they had been reading about Blairton mine. One remarked thus:—“I have lived in Trenton, always, but was never west of Marmora.” “Where is Blairton?” he asked.

While it is no fault to be a home-bird, yet for such I pen the following:—Blairton, is beautifully situated on a plateau of considerable extent on the western halves of lots 7 and 8, in con. 1, of the township of Belmont.

From the village, there is a descent in every direction, and the soil being of an absorbant nature, rainfalls are powerless in impeding the progress or marring the comfort of pedestrians.

Being somewhat elevated in position, Blairton, is ratherly subject to occasional fierce winds and an euroclydon, when in earnest, is a terror to all, but in sultry seasons, we enjoy refreshing breezes liberally wafted thitherward from any direction while those of other villages in a hole, are wont to work overtime with fans or gasps for breath.

Due east of Blairton, is Crowe Lake, navigable clear to the beautiful and thriving village of Marmora, where there are numerous industrial firms, institutions and establishments of all kinds satisfactorily meeting the demands of its large rural district.

North of Blairton, is an arm, or inlet of Crowe Lake waters which, with its numerous islands, bays, coves, caps and cascade—its feeder, furnishes sceneries most unique and bewitchingly resplendant.

A little inland from the Lake, on the north east, are conical hills of granite, forming in line nearly due north and south. By recent developments, by mining experts, it has been fully demonstrated that the base of these hills at a considerable depth, where they will incline about 60 degrees. On the east side, forms a footwall of a large body of rich magnetic iron ore, and it is extensively conceded to, that these outcroppings, along the line of hills, are none other than "chimneys" of that body. We are here led to quote from our best mineralogists, viz: "Look at the east of granite formation for large and rich deposits of iron ore." Jas. Bowen, Esq., of Marmora is owner.

Seven miles north of us is the famous Ledyard, iron mine with an abundance of rich material and a R. R. terminus at the mine. Why the delay in working that mine, as well as Blairton, with their paying possibilities, is, to the public mind, a mystery.

To the west of Blairton is an extensive track of fertile farming land, interspersed with groves of pine, other evergreen, and clusters of floral shrubbery, while viewed from the big ore bed, the scenery is picturesque, yet to inhale the redolence dispensed by these shrubberies in their verdant season, is rather one's choice of enjoyment of the two.

South of us, is the locality in which was supposed to exist the renowned "Bleecker's Cave." A few aged men will remember that, along the forties and fifties, hundreds of men from all parts of Canada, and the United States, came here in small parties, bringing with them "diamond lookers" wizards, somnambulists, the seventh son of a seventh son, and such like, also instruments of rare construction, in order to locate the cave.

Dupes, were often guided "very near, if not over the mouth of the cave," was the word. Digging, and all search proving futile in every case. Pure silver, in marvellous quantity, and hanging all around the cave in icicle form, and being carried away by Bleecker, was what all were eagerly in search of.

Returning to our goal, it would appear that the situation of Blairton, is enviable: A lady of refinement, from New York, when on the "big ore bed" having on a folding stand, field-glass camera, and utensils for drawing in colours, sketching and etc., remarked:—"O, how invigorating this atmosphere is! were this my home, or could my home be brought here, I would desire none other Eden."

Skirting along the village limits is a large creek, fed by six large springs, a quarter of a mile away. Its maximum flowage is about 600 barrels per hour, while its minimum flowage is about 200 barrels. Besides abounding in trout, its waters, like those of other never failing springs and wells, are of sparkling crystal beauty and salubrious in the highest degree.

All migratory birds of song and golden plumage ever make undue early exit from the balmy shores of Bermuda, and Florida, the place of their winter choice, and, as if by enchantment, they hastily wing their way to this, their more preferable spot, hence we are the first in the land whom they fascinate with swells of their charming melody.

The eye of an observant visitor is first attracted by what he calls: "A beautiful and favourable site for a village." After a few circling sweeps of the eye on the surroundings, he is quick to identify facts favourable to the matter which has spell-bound him, and becomes more emphatical in reiterating his first remark.

The next object of most general attraction is the "big ore bed" looming up to the eye, as the chieftain of all surrounding elevation, and, when viewed from two stand-points, is in the form of a semi-circle, and the hugeness of which taken as a body of iron ore, is unequalled in Ontario. So runs public verdict.

Mining men invariably climb it. Scramble over the various upheavals, procure samples, and are soon unwittingly entrammelled in wonderment, yet to be increased when having descended to the mountain's base on the eastern side where one is confronted with a face of an opening made by the late company—a wall of iron ore standing vertical, 150 feet high and over 300 feet long, the ore enriching as it dips. Just here, the expert, though in taking the route described, has not seen half of the mine becomes more profound in thought and discussion, and giving such favourable expressions of his convictions than claims space here, but to curtail intrusion on the goodness of the Editor, suffice it that we quote, verbatim, the saying of the last man here, viz: "Well, the reports I have seen in government books, and inoreso in your local papers which come to us in Toronto, give a most clear and vivid elucidation of the richness and magnitude of this property."

Blairton February 20th, 1911.

J. L. Auger.