



Daily Mining Journal

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JAMES RUSSELL, Editor. A. HORNSTEIN, Business Manager. MARQUETTE, MICH., JANUARY 23, 1886.

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It was our intention to have presented in this number the statistical table showing the gross output of all the Lake Superior iron mines to date, from the inception of that industry here up to the close of 1885, but are compelled to hold it another week to ensure completeness and accuracy. The table will appear in the MINING JOURNAL of Saturday, January 30th, and will be a valuable one for reference.

SENATOR CONGER'S bill to give the war department control of the St. Mary's Falls canal, which passed the senate but failed in the house at the last session of the preceding congress, has been reintroduced in both senate and house, in the former branch by its author and in the latter by representative Maybury. The measure is a meritorious one, and we earnestly hope to see it made operative by concurrent action of both houses of congress and executive approval.

We give in this number an exceedingly strong reply to the Detroit Evening Journal's recent criticism of Gen. Poe's report, in which he recommends the further improvement of the St. Mary's River canal, and other of the connecting channels by which the great lakes are made a continuous and highly valuable water route. It is from the pen of a gentleman thoroughly conversant with his subject, and who has had special opportunities for ascertaining from direct observation the great advantage to the public of cheap water transportation. His communication can be read with profit by all our readers, and is especially commended to the attention of the editorial writer on the Detroit paper, whose strictures on Col. Poe's report called it out.

VIXENISH VENOM. In its treatment of the Irish question, the queen's address to the English parliament was, perhaps, no more malignant in tone, nor unjust to the Irish people in its statements, than might have been expected from that personage, who is the descendant of a line which has produced a succession of rulers noted chiefly for a propensity to brutal despotism in the exercise of the power vested in them. Nevertheless, the address is a disappointment to those who had hoped that English justice was at last about to overcome English prejudice in the consideration of Irish affairs. It reveals that all the power of the present government will be exercised to hold Ireland bound and helpless at the feet of her oppressors, and who will not be turned from their tyrannical policy either by the appeals of their victims backed by the pressure of worldwide sentiment in their favor, or persuaded to grant relief by an intelligent conception of the dangers that beset England on every side, the gravest of which might be removed by judicious concessions to the just demands of the Irish people at this time.

The sinister intimation conveyed in the address, that the Irish nationalist party has been engaged in a treasonable enterprise in seeking to obtain home rule for Ireland, gives the key to the policy which the toy administration will seek to enforce in that country. Patriotism will once again be declared a crime, and all the vengeful machinery of the rich and powerful English government will be set in motion to "stamp it out." The people of Ireland have dared ask for a voice in the management of their own affairs, and England's response is a promise of more "coercion," and the insolent denial of their right to adopt legitimate means of compelling her to grant their request.

In bearing false witness against a race whose great misfortune is that in their native land they are subject to her power, the English queen has but added one more to her many crimes against Ireland. The agitation for their enfranchisement in which the Irish people have been engaged, and which has had effect to nearly triple the national strength in parliament, was entirely legitimate and praiseworthy. There was and is nothing censurable in it. If the people of Ireland were well treated and humanely governed under the existing system, they might be open to the charge of ingratitude in working for the abrogation of the union. But it has brought them only war, starvation, and worse than serfdom. It has effected the destruction of their industries, and driven them by thousands to foreign lands in search of the means of earning a livelihood that was denied them at home. It has devastated the country by murderous evictions and periodical famines until its population is not half what it was before the iniquitous union with England had done the deadly work that it was intended to accomplish. Is it to be marveled at, then, that the Irish people hate and loathe it, pray to be delivered from it, and hold existence under it so little of a blessing that they are ready to risk their lives in all but hopeless uprisings against it, in the endeavor to re-

lieve themselves from the accursed thing? The temper of the Irish people in Ireland, in America, and everywhere else on the broad face of the globe, is up, and if the queen's address is a true forecast of what the government will do in response to Irish demands, there will be startling developments at no distant day. Ireland's cause is a just one, and the whole world has learned to understand her situation and sympathize with her distress. Irishmen, and the sons and grandsons of Irishmen in lands that are now theirs by adoption and by birth, will not stand idly by and see the land of their forefathers swept by the sword and desolated by famine. If this be England's purpose, the work of reprisal will be quickly begun and vigorously pushed, and before the end comes Ireland's ruthless oppressors will have the scales shook from their eyes effectively, and will then be able to see the mistake they have once again made.

COPPER COUNTRY NOTES.

Electric Lights For Hancock and Houghton. The G. A. R. Ball-New Smelting Works.

HANCOCK, Jan. 22.—The members of E. R. Stiles Post No. 33, G. A. R., have about completed the preliminary arrangements for their grand ball which takes place in St. Patrick's hall on Thursday evening, January 23rd, and expect a crowded house. Supper will be served during the entire evening and the orchestra will be made up of the same as of last year, which seemed to give such universal satisfaction. Every respectable and liberty-loving person is invited to attend, and all may rest assured that the G. A. R. boys will treat them well.

It may be gratifying for the people of Hancock and Houghton to know that they will not be wholly dependent upon the light of the moon much longer, as Mr. James R. Dea, the electrical manipulator and lightning hatter, is now engaged in procuring electric lights for use in the towns of Hancock and Houghton. Further mention of this matter will be made through this column later on.

Internal revenue collector D. McViche, of Ishpeming, is in the copper district looking after Uncle Sam's interests.

From a person who says he saw the plans, Ingot learned that the new smelting works to be erected near Lake Linden for the Calumet & Hecla Mining company will consist of twelve furnaces. The buildings will be of brick, resting on solid stone foundations. There will be electrical apparatus of stone, brick, and four hundred thousand bricks will be used in its construction. We also learned that the company has ordered one hundred thousand feet of timber for the construction of new docks. If all this is so, and we verily believe it is, the truth, there are going to be lively times in the copper country, but more especially in Lake Linden, next summer.

A tubogin club has been formed at Houghton, and a very pleasant side has been prepared in East Houghton.

Mr. Frank Laska, of the firm of Burghardt & Laska, merchant tailors of Detroit, is now at the Douglas house with a very select line of samples of all the latest styles of clothing. Mr. Laska will supply Lake Superior people with clothes at Detroit prices, and will take pleasure in showing his samples to any one desiring anything in his line.

J. H. Swartz, the upper peninsula architect, is in the copper country on business.

C. M. Wheeler, of Marquette, has been in the copper country for two or three days past, visiting with business at the Douglas house.

Dr. A. M. Wheeler has suffered a relapse, and is again confined to his home.

The circuit court for Houghton county convened on Tuesday next, but there are no cases of interest on the docket, and most of those were postponed for last term.

The Houghton Gazette seems determined to cast a gloom over everybody, as he was to be carried away so soon. At one time he lived here, and acted as physician to the Republic mine, and was liked and respected by all. His remains were taken to Detroit for interment. He was the kindest of fathers, and a devoted and loving husband. He leaves a wife and four children to mourn his loss. This community extends their sincerest regrets and sympathy to the bereaved in this their sad hour of affliction.

An polo club has been started at the LeGrand rink, and our young folks seem greatly delighted over it. In a short time they intend to send a challenge to the Ishpeming club.

Mrs. C. H. Kirkwood and son Charles visited Republic park of the week, the guests of Mrs. J. A. Kirkwood.

Our enterprising liverrman, Louis Lafortia, bought one of the largest teams of draught horses in these parts from Tom Atkinson this week. He is going to use them in the woods. The wife of August Klestrum died last Saturday, of pneumonia, and was buried last Sunday. She leaves five children and a husband to mourn her loss.

It seems as though there must be a change in the postoffice department; at least the demarcation on the war path and seen bound to have the present incumbent bound.

Castrovia was in town Friday from Milwaukee.

Mrs. B. H. Andrus returned from Champion last Tuesday.

Andrew Cook recently took it into his head that it was the first of May, and he took a tumble and moved last Wednesday. The bustle and bustle of the town was to much for his nerves, so he went to a block.

The Pigeons To Be Cremated. ("Victim's Column.")

A short time ago it was announced that the government had decided to crop Chinese and white prisoners indiscriminately. It was also stated that the tails cut from the Chinese would be preserved and presented to them on the liberation. The government has since ascertained that with the prospect of having their locks returned to them the cropping process possessed no terrors for John. So an edict has gone forth that the hair of the Mongol and the Caucasian shall, mingling in a common mass, be turned before the scorn of their eyes.

The Are de Triomphe Group. The plaster group at the top of the Arc de Triomphe in Paris is about to be taken down. It was only put up in order to enable the public to judge of the effect that a permanent structure of the same description would produce.

The London Times of Oct. 22 had seven yards of political speeches.

ST. MARY'S FALLS CANAL. Necessity For Its Further Improvement—A Conclusive Showing in Reply to the Detroit Evening Journal.

Colonel Poe estimates that the commerce going through the lock at the Sault is worth \$3,478,472, except the grain; this represents the value of the local business that is done by water between points on Lake Superior and such places as Detroit, Chicago, Toledo, Cleveland and Buffalo. The most valuable of it is the unclassified freight (which I think is under-estimated), which consists of valuable merchandise that is sold by the merchants of the cities I have named to the people residing on the upper lake. Is it not for the interest of those cities to build up and increase this business?

The freight charges from Escanaba to Cleveland have always ruled lower for that route than from Marquette. This is because of the shorter and safer passage of the Sault. The channel between Lake Huron and Lake Superior, both above and below the lock, cannot be run in the night; the result is that all vessels not reaching the lock from either direction about noon must stop at that point.

The Lake Superior region is developing new fields of lumber that must be brought to the lower lake markets, and in a short time the bulk of the wheat from the northwest must be loaded at Duluth. Will the lower lake ports hinder this development? Will they check the growth of a region that puts millions of dollars into their pockets every year?

The government has expended \$2,392,237 for the past ten years upon the Mississippi river, and \$1,000,000 on the channels between the lakes, including the St. Clair Flats ship canal and the Detroit river, although the business through the lakes has been vastly greater than that upon the Mississippi river.

Whoever examines the wonderful progress of this country will see that it is due to cheap transportation. Our exports of manufactures in the decade ending 1850 averaged \$30,000,000 per annum; in the decade ending 1870 they averaged \$60,000,000, and for that ending 1880 the average was \$124,000,000; while in 1881 our exports amounted to \$170,000,000, in 1882 they reached \$187,000,000, and in 1883 they were \$188,000,000.

While the value of our export of domestic agriculture in 1880 was \$256,569,972, in 1870 it was \$361,188,483, in 1860 it was \$685,941,000, in 1851 it was \$730,000,000, in 1842 it was \$552,219,419, and in 1833 it was \$619,209,449; showing that the United States beyond question is a grain producing country, and if we maintain our commercial prosperity we must do all we can to facilitate this industry. If we were not for cheap transportation we could not compete in the markets of the world with our products. India, Australia, and Russia are strong competitors for the grain trade.

These three countries together produce nearly twice as much grain as the United States, and with as cheap transportation would have advantages over us in the markets of the world.

The growth of our immense foreign trade has had a marked effect on the prosperity of our country. The balance of trade has been turned in our favor; instead of purchasing foreign merchandise and being forced to export gold to pay our debts, we have been enabled to sell in foreign markets more than we bought, and send back the surplus to pay for the grain we have sold. We have become the business of exporting food products the creditor of the old world instead of its debtor; this has benefited all classes of our citizens and brought thousands of emigrants to our shores. That the bulk of this foreign exportation was raised west of the region of the great lakes is a condition of things that has done no injury to territory lying further east; on the contrary, it has been an advantage. No one now looks for Genesee Valley wheat in the market, but the farmers of that section of New York state are no less prosperous. Their attention has been turned to other classes of agriculture.

The country is gradually separating itself into districts devoted to a particular kind of business. The west produces wheat, corn and cattle, and the east no longer raises the great bulk of the food that it consumes. Instead, it finds more profit in producing such manufactures as are suitable for the use of the west, and exchanges these for bread and meat.

The commercial activity which is a result of sending grain and cattle from the far west to the east, or to Europe, and the shipment of coal and manufactured articles to the west, has created prosperity from one end of our land to the other. Railroads have done a paying business, and the lake fleet has been actively and profitably employed.

This state of things has been brought about by cheap transportation. At one time last year grain was carried from Duluth to Buffalo for 15 cents a bushel, and a ton of coal was carried from Buffalo to Duluth for 88 cents. The average lake freight from Chicago to Buffalo for 1885 was 2 cents a bushel on wheat.

Those cheap rates of carrying have kept the grain and coal from the water in the channels connecting the lakes. In 1857 the largest vessels were about 600 tons, and the charge for carrying a bushel of grain from Chicago to Buffalo was 134 cents, the depth of water at this time on the St. Clair flats was only 9 1/2 feet. In 1871 the depth on the flats was increased to 13 feet and in 1874 it was made 14 feet, and the charge was reduced to 4 cents. In 1881 the lock at the Sault was finished and the charge was 3 1/2 cents. In 1884 it was 2 1/2 cents and this last year it was 2 cents.

The reason for this is that the cost of transportation decreases as the size of the vessel increases. This may be seen by the following table of the largest of the cargoes that vessels have been able to carry into Marquette harbor, and the rate of freight for the corresponding years:

Table with 2 columns: Size of cargo, Rate of freight. Rows include years 1881, 1882, 1883, 1884, 1885 with cargo size in tons and freight rate per ton.

"Water one foot low at the Sault.

The saving to the port of Marquette by the deepening of the water at the Sault was \$3,763,401.05 on the ore business that was done between the years 1882 and 1885.

This would more than pay the cost of the work on the St. Mary's river.

England, France, Germany, and Russia are making every effort to take our trade from us. England is spending \$50,000,000 to improve the facilities for transporting grain in India. Russia is expending \$200,000,000 on canals. France is building a ship canal from the Baltic to the German ocean at a cost of \$100,000,000, and Germany is spending great sums to improve her waterways.

We will lose our supremacy in foreign markets unless we can afford to facilitate transportation, and we can do this by deepening the channels and allowing larger vessels of ocean metal to navigate our lakes. The aim of the government is to make twenty-one feet of water between Lake Superior and Lake Huron and across the St. Clair Flats, and in the Detroit river; that this would cheapen transportation all who have studied the question of lake traffic agree. The vessels could be run with about the same crew and fuel, and could travel when the present boats are forced to seek protection from storms.

It is proposed to commence this work at the Sault, because the only lock on the channels between the lakes is there, and it will take eight years to complete the work.

Besides the benefit that would accrue to the whole country from this improvement, there are many in addition that would be

THE MINES OF ALASKA. THE LARGEST STAMP-MILL IN THE WORLD IN ACTIVE OPERATION.

Richness of the Country Already Discovered—A Fascinating Field for Prospectors—Marble and Coal as well as Gold.

[Charles Hall in Pioneer Press.] The largest stamp mill in the world is now in active operation on Douglas Island, opposite Juneau, and is turning out 800,000 bullion per month. It carries 130 stamps, and works the whole year round.

Right alongside of this mine, in continuation of the same ledge or formation, is the Treadwell claim, owned largely by San Francisco parties, which is supposed to be equally rich in ore. Its shares are at a very high premium, although the mine is not developed. Next year machinery will be set up by some one on a scale equal to the Douglas plant.

AS FASCINATING. Just across the channel from Douglas Island, and six miles back from the shore, in the heart of the mountains, is "Silver Bow Basin," where there are stores, blacksmith shops, boarding-houses and tenements for a large community engaged in placer mining, who turn out \$30,000,000 every month from May to October. The altitude is so high that the quartz ledges, which yield a fair supply of gold, are ordinarily clear enough of snow for prospecting in April. Here are scores of sluices, expensive hydrates and hydraulic apparatus, "crushers," hoes, pans and iron conduits ten inches in diameter, in place, all over the basin and up the sides of the enclosing mountains to the very snow line. Several tunnels have been driven into the quartz ledges, which yield a fair supply of gold. Claims have been staked out everywhere. Lead of the richest kind is found in nuggets, as well as gold. I have myself broken open large chunks of quartz which seemed to promise nothing, and been surprised at the richness of their revelations.

A QUIET APPARATUS. An apparatus is a queer sort of a cheap machine for treating ore which can be had at great advantage when the quartz is decomposed and soft. It is a sort of circular tub twenty feet in diameter and four feet high, with a hard stone floor and an upright shaft in the center which carries four arms, like a clothes-drier. At the ends of these arms heavy flat blocks of stone are attached by chains, and as the arms swing round they drag the stones over the quartz, which is pulverized the quartz, which is fed into it with a due proportion of quicksilver and such chemicals as the nature of the ore may require. The machine is driven by a simple water-wheel attached to the shaft, and a sluice placed a few inches above the floor lets off the waste water, the precious metal uniting with the quicksilver and settling to the bottom of the tub. One of these contrivances in the Silver Bow basin.

These mines have made Juneau quite the center of business in southeastern Alaska. There are possibly 300 white people in the town, which is most romantically situated at the base of a mountain just in front of the entrance of a canyon through which a beautiful stream flows in a series of cascades and perpendicular leaps to the sea. The store of the Northwest Trading company is conspicuous among others, but there are good restaurants, two drug stores and several general stores, a beer brewery, two barber shops with hot and cold water, a jeweler's shop, blacksmith shops, postoffice and some very snug dwellings, nearly all of which are painted and look neat. Some houses have little gardens enclosed. A display of flags from three or four tall staffs shows prettily against the somber background of overgreens, and makes the place look gay. There is an ammunition wharf and warehouse for the steamer, and usually two or three small sailing craft and numberless canoes enliven the little bight within whose curve the town is principally built.

Alaska is a fascinating field for prospectors. One can find there a "show" of everything he wants; gold, silver, iron, copper, marble, coal and great red garnets as big as hickory nuts; but the results do not always realize the promise, and the reason evidently is a lack of capital necessary to develop them. Since the mineral discoveries at Vermilion lake in Minnesota, it took twenty years to convince people that the ore would pay for working, but when a certain iron company found nerve to quietly undertake the business, it cleared up \$3,000,000 the first year, and \$26,000,000 the next, all that is needed in Alaska is capital. Lack of confidence and lack of capital have alone prevented the development of richness which is known to exist.

Alexander Choquette of Wrangell has some very fine specimens of mottled blue marble from a quarry quite convenient to this water. Mr. Bartlett of Fort Townsend, Wash., discovered excellent coal on Admiralty island, and several other deposits of coal are known elsewhere. Marble crops out all over the country which one passes in the coastwise steamer. There is plenty of rock which will pay well if properly worked. The gold mines of Alaska are doubtless as rich as those of California and Cassiar in British Columbia, since the geological structure is the same in all. The richness of Douglas island is an assurance of the rest.

Eccentric in Its Dealings. [Exchange.] The Japanese government is showing its self very eccentric in its dealings with Europe.

It is about to purchase a number of English ship-builders, and three from France, while two German officers are to be employed to teach naval tactics.

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