

The Pittsburgh Gazette.

THE LAKE SUPERIOR IRON REGION.

Although the iron interests of Pittsburgh are largely dependent upon the rich Superior iron ores, and almost every day we may see several car loads, consigned to some one of our blast furnaces, yet the isolated peninsula from whence this wonderful metalliferous deposit is obtained is almost terra incognita to most of our citizens.

For a pleasant summer vacation we know of no top so inviting, as that to the diversified shores of Lake Superior. The cool, clear, bracing atmosphere, the trip on the Lakes, the changing scenery, the appealing dunes, all attract the tired man of business, and promise a fresh stock of energy for the weary routine of every day life, on his return.

There are two routes to the Lake Superior iron region. The first, as above indicated, via Cleveland and Lake steamer to Marquette; the second via Chicago and Green Bay to Escanaba, the rival shipping port for the iron ore of the Bay de Noquet, at the head of Green Bay.

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At Chicago we took the care of the Wisconsin division of the great Northwest coast, for Fort Howard, at the Southern end of Green Bay, at the Southern end of the Green Bay, at the Southern end of the Green Bay, at the Southern end of the Green Bay.

The Southern terminus of the Peninsular branch of the same great consolidated railway lines, about which we have been speaking, "Green Bay terminates at the door," navigators term the eastward passage out into the lakes, "Grand Point" is a long tongue of low, sandy beach, projecting from the bay into the peninsula, upon the Eastern extremity of which the government has recently erected a substantial light-house.

The town of the Iron Mines, sixty-five miles distant from Escanaba, and fourteen miles from Marquette. The mill and the bay is, though a primeval forest of cedar, balsam and pine, the soil is sandy loam, and the surface is almost a water level.

The mill stretches away off in a straight perspective, until it seems to reach the water, that "two parallel lines cannot meet." We encounter no other symptoms of civilization than the straight, level roadway, with an occasional wood-chop, shanty, or a witch-tender's house; there is not a clearing, or a house, besides, until we reach Goose Lake, or Lake Fairbanks, fifty-eight miles inland, when we are startled from our reverie by a village of rather overgrown "Hottentots," huts whitewashed, built in a long line, alongside the new track.

On inquiry, we learn that these are the charcoal ovens of the Pioneer Furnaces; they are composed of cast iron, brick or stone, lined with fire brick inside, and plastered with cement outside, whitewashed, so as to enable the collars to detect leaks the more readily. It is deemed the more economical method of burning charcoal, as these ovens are taken down and removed, when the wood in their vicinities has been burned off.

But we pass by the ovens and the Lake, and are presently in the flourishing little town of Negaunee, of about 3,000 inhabitants, principally engaged in the iron mines, or interests connected therewith. Both the road we have traveled, and the Marquette road connect Negaunee with the outer world, and their westward projections and branches, with all the iron mines, extending some sixteen miles westward.

In 1845 John Western and P. M. Everett, guided by an aboriginal Indian, discovered the new and richly mineralized deposit, which was named after the mountain worked by the Jackson Iron Company. A quantity of this remarkable deposit was secured from the surface, packed by half barrels to the mouth of the Carver river, (now where the town of Marquette is), from thence transported in canoes to the bank, and, on being shipped to Detroit, was tested by supposed experts,

and pronounced worthless. To-day, which every one so disposed could accomplish, as the tests were never so great but that they could be completed by an industrious convict in two-thirds of the time allotted for work.

"A year or two," you assert, "reduces the majority to such a stupid, stolid, fatuous state that, beyond that time, nothing remains but madness or deep-settled revenge." This is not in accordance with facts. Witness the annual reports of all the officers.

The fact that Auburn has adopted the silent for the solitary system, and that with sanitary and economical advantages, is strong argument against our solitary punishment. When did "Auburn" try the Pennsylvania System? And in what do his reports show any lessening of progress? None—and none were to have been expected.

In order to fully appreciate the extent of the iron business, the following table is given, showing the total production of the principal mines of the district during the year 1897:

Table with 2 columns: Mine Name, Gross Tons. Includes Jackson Mine (126,360), Cleveland Mine (83,649), New York Mine (47,000), etc.

Notwithstanding this large output, representing about 288,000 tons of pig iron, beside surface work has yet been done at any of the mines; all the mineral has been quarried from shallow openings in the sides of the iron hills.

FRISON DISCIPLINE. (Correspondence of the Pittsburgh Gazette.) Many articles have, within a few months, appeared in the GAZETTE, under the heading of "Prison Discipline" and "Solitary Confinement," and all of them condemnatory of the Pennsylvania system.

What is the system? The Pennsylvania Separate System of Prison Discipline complete. First—Separation of one convict from all others, that is, from evil companionship and influence.

Second—Occupation at some useful branch of trade a sufficient length of time, each day, to afford bodily exercise, and to make towards defraying his expense to the State while in prison, and enable him to acquire a knowledge of a trade by which honestly to support himself after his discharge from prison.

Third—Moral and Intellectual Culture. To all his inmates, the Warden has made an officer of the prison, whose duty is daily to visit among the prisoners, giving appropriate religious and moral instruction and counsel—selecting from a well-stored library, suitable books for those that can read—and becoming the benefactor to such as never had the benefit of an education.

Three times, daily, the prisoner sees an officer who supplies his ration, to whom he can make known any want or desire. He is, also, visited in his cell, daily, and often if needed, to be instructed in his trade and to have his work examined. The Warden makes his rounds of visitation, conversing with and counselling these prisoners—and whenever they desire it, they can call for the physician for his attention and advice.

You remark justly, "our discipline must seek to educate the prisoner. If he cannot read and write and cipher, let these arts be taught him as a means of present pastime, and a future usefulness." To him is no "trade, let him learn one. It will not harm him, and more useful member of the community, etc."

"As further and final means of reform," you say "the prisoner should have the opportunity of earning something against the time of release." This was suggested by

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