

IRON-MAKING.

VALUABLE AND GROWING INDUSTRY IN THE SOUTH.

Wonderful Development of Alabama's Iron Mines—Story of the Iron Boom—A Visit to a Big Mine.

A WONDERFUL development is going on in iron-making in the South. I spent some time in Birmingham, which city is the biggest iron producer south of Pittsburgh...

The South is doing its business on a big, broad scale. There is an enormous amount of money invested. The Tennessee Coal and Iron Company has itself a capital stock of \$21,000,000.

oped iron mines in China during my stay there, and there are some good mines in Mexico and Central America. There is one iron region in Cuba, and you find small beds scattered through the West India Islands.

The furnaces at Bessemer are within a half mile of the mines from which the iron is taken out. In company with one of the superintendents of the Tennessee Coal and Iron Company I visited them. We rode up to the mouth of the mine in a carriage...

One man who owned some of the most valuable iron territory of Alabama called upon Abram S. Hewitt, who has made a fortune out of iron, and who has big iron interests to-day.

"Why," said he, "we people here in New York look upon iron as so much gold, and you can hardly make me believe that you people have lumps of gold lying around down South and that no one has yet picked them up."

It flows out at the foot in a little river of gold. The stream looks like molten gold alloyed with copper until it gets a distance of perhaps twenty feet away from the furnace.



THE DANGERS OF MINING.

feet away from the furnace. Here it is divided into two streams. The iron flows one way and the slag or refuse, which has formed a scum and floats on the top, is carried off in another.

A-KNOWLEDGING DOG AND HEN.

Whitestone Village, says the New York World, contains some remarkable animals, but the most intelligent one is a huge St. Bernard dog...

Duke is beloved by the children of the village. He escorts them to school every morning, and waits patiently at the school door until recess time...



HEN AND DOG ARE CHUMS.

Whenever the hen strays off with her progeny Duke corrals her from the rest of the flock and drives her back to the yard.

KEYSTONE STATE NEWS CONDENSED.

PENNSY'S UNARMED ARMY

Adjutant General Stewart, of Pennsylvania, has made his report to Congress relative to the strength of the militia in the State.

A joint agreement of merger and consolidation was filed in the office of Secretary Reeder between the St. Marys & Southwestern railroad company and the Buffalo & St. Marys railroad company...

Mrs. Mark Elsworth, of Genesee, Potter county, drowned her child in a small creek. The woman cut a hole in the ice and dropped the child into the water.

A ten-acre plot of ground, adjoining Arlington heights, on the line of the Greensburg, Jeannette & Pittsburgh electric railway, has been donated to the Gill Glass Company...

Robert Barr, 17 years old, of Allegheny township, Westmoreland county, is the latest victim of a hunting accident. While erecting a fence the hammer of his gun caught on a rail and the load of his gun entered his side.

PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATURE.

Feb. 1.—After hours of bitter debate, the treasury investigation resolution was passed without division, but with an amendment which practically commits the House to the enactment of a law requiring interest on state deposits.

Mr. Sparks, of Berks, announced to the House the death of Representative P. McCausley Cook of Fulton county.

Bills were offered—To provide for the acquisition of a site and the erection of a state hospital for the criminal insane, to be called the State Hospital for Criminal Insane...

Feb. 2.—The first important business today was the introduction of the snowplow resolution by Senator White, of Beaver.

"Whereas, It is the duty of the general assembly under the constitution to, immediately after each decennial census, apportion the state into congressional, senatorial and representative districts; and

"Whereas, There has been no congressional or representative apportionment since 1877, nor senatorial apportionment since 1874; and, whereas, great inequalities exist under the present apportionment, and some portions of the state are deprived of the representation they are entitled to under the constitution by reason of their increased population; and, whereas, the governor of the state, in his message of January 5, 1897, calls the attention of the general assembly to this question, and urges the passage of proper congressional, senatorial and representative apportionment bills, therefore be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the senate that prompt action should be taken on this subject, and that the congressional and legislative apportionment committees be instructed to report on said bills within two weeks; that such bills shall be passed at the present session of the Legislature.

Bills were read: By McQuown, a supplement to the Brooks high license law, which provides that the several courts of quarter sessions in the granting of liquor licenses shall not grant in any city more than one license for every 1,000 inhabitants, and in the several boroughs not more than two licenses in each borough having 800 inhabitants or less.

By Mr. Rowland, to insure greater safety to life in theaters and other places of amusement by prohibiting persons from standing in aisles, and providing that a penalty of a fine of \$100 and an imprisonment of 30 days in the county prison or any manager or lessee, who shall sell tickets to persons with the privilege of standing in aisle, corridor or passage way.

February 3.—Everything is in chaos concerning a plan for a continuance of the session of the Legislature. Until the governor arrived Tuesday night there was talk of an adjournment for about two weeks, but his excellency said there was no necessity for an adjournment at all.

Senate convened at 11 a. m. A number of bills were presented, and when it was announced that the House had adjourned until 11 o'clock to-morrow Senator Grady's motion was reconsidered and the Senate adjourned until 11 o'clock to-morrow morning.

Representative Kirkslager presented a resolution that all members who had resigned their desks from the fire be permitted to retain them. The resolution caused a laugh, and Representative Kirkslager was called in order who presented the resolution must be from a very remote section of the Commonwealth, else he would not present such a resolution, as that was not the way to get State property.

The following bills were read as follows: By Robert Smith—An act appropriating \$200 to the Southern Home for destitute children at Philadelphia.

Feb. 4.—Lieut.-Gov. Walter Lyon called the Senate to order at 11 o'clock and read the communication from the governor announcing that the board of public property and the state officials had agreed on Grass M. E. church for a temporary home for the legislative bodies.

Senator Grady offered his resolution for an adjournment until February 22, which precipitated a heated discussion. Senator Robin took the floor in behalf of the governor and said that if the Legislature adjourned until February 22, it would practically lose two months, and that the session would not be over until July.

Mr. Gobin moved to amend by fixing next Monday, February 8, as the time for adjournment. This was agreed to by a vote of 22 to 12.

Senator Thomas offered a resolution that the legislature refuse to order the erection of a new state house until a better fire department is secured for Harrisburg. Senator Grady asked that the resolution be referred to a committee on public buildings.

Several bills were passed and the senate adjourned until Monday night at 9 o'clock. Bills were offered in the House: Making it unlawful to erect and maintain wire fences constructed in whole or in part along the public roads and between adjoining lands. The following resolution was adopted:



THE GREAT SLAG POT.

The coal and iron of the South are fairly hugging each other. They lie side by side, and when their marriage takes place in the furnaces with the aid of the heavy bridal veil of limestone, which is also found near by, they can produce industrial children in the shape of iron and steel more cheaply than their kind in any other portion of the world.

There is no doubt that we are to furnish the greater part of the iron for the world in the future. We have bigger ore beds than any other country, and our coal fields are practically inexhaustible. There is enough coal in Alabama to do all the manufacturing of the United States for many years to come.

South and get them to swear to what they see before you try to place such property in New York."

It was some time after this before the Alabama mining boom began. A great deal of this was on paper, but the foundation is there, and the iron mines are as valuable to-day as they were ten years ago.

I could hear the boom! boom! boom! of the blasting powder as I went through the mine. At times the air shook and quivered with the concussion, and our candles were blown out.



LOWERING HORSES INTO A MINE.

coal output, and we produce, you know, about one-third of all the coal of the world. In 1894 we mined 170,000,000 tons of coal, while the whole world produced only 570,000,000 tons. The only country which beat us that year was Great Britain. We have thousands of square miles of coal lands outside of the Appalachian fields, and there are great undeveloped coal areas in the West.

Leaving the mine, I next went to one of the great furnaces at the foot of Red Mountain, where the ore is turned into pig iron. Iron, you know, never occurs pure in a state of nature. The ore of the Red Mountain, which is used at the Bessemer furnaces, contains only about forty-eight per cent. of iron, and the superintendent told me that the purest iron stone found anywhere contains only seventy per cent. The rest is made up of rock and other minerals, and it is necessary to separate the iron before it can be used for manufactures.

They are immense tubes, many feet high, and as big around as a city gas tank. They are lined with fire-brick and are heated by the gas which comes from the furnaces. The air is made to pass through these enormous stoves before it goes to the blast and it produces a heat so intense that the iron and steel machinery of the furnace would not last a minute were not every bit of it enveloped in water. All of the pipes are incased in other pipes which are kept full of cold flowing water, and this water is forced about the outside of the furnace whenever smelting is going on.

We lead the world not only in the production of iron, but also in the making of pig iron. We made 10,000,000 tons in 1892, which was an increase of more than 1000 per cent. over the product of 1865. Since that time we have increased our steel production 360 times, and we are now making enough steel every year to give every man, woman and child in the United States 140 pounds, and have some to spare.

It is wonderful how iron increases the value after it is turned into machinery or articles of use by the people. You get some idea of what labor is worth when you think of it. It is estimated by Carroll D. Wright, of the Labor Bureau, for instance, that seventy-five cents' worth of common iron ore when turned into bar iron is worth \$5. If you make it into horse shoes it is worth \$10, or if into table knives, \$180. Seventy-five cents' worth of ore manufactured into needles is worth \$6900, and when made into buttons more than \$22,000.

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A Great Find.

One of the greatest finds of treasure ever known was that of a Russian in the village of Starogorski. The man was a resident on the estate of Prince Oterebey, whose ancestors were plundered and expelled from their possessions by the Tartars. The treasure was probably secreted by the family at the time. The man had been given his clew somehow or another, and he worked ten years before finding anything.

Practical.



Johannie—"Grandpa, what did Washington's father do after he cut the cherry tree?" Grandpa—"Well, I dunno. Guess he made some cough syrup out o' that bark."—New York Herald.

New York's Composite Personality.

Mrs. Schuyler Van Rensselaer contributes to the Century a paper entitled "Places in New York," in which she gives a picture of interesting phases of life in the New World metropolis. Mrs. Van Rensselaer says: More than seventy-six per cent. of those who people New York to-day were born of foreign mothers; more than forty per cent. were born on foreign soil themselves; and many of these aliens, brought from many different lands, continue here to live in clusters with their own kind after their own kind.

Thomas Smith, an employe of the American Steel Casting company at Sharon, was seriously hurt by a casting weighing 2,000 pounds striking him.

Fire in the residence of Harry Marker, an Algonquin, destroyed the contents of two bed rooms and considerably damaged the interior of the house.

Mrs. E. Mink, of Charleston, eight miles east of Sharon, was the victim of a brutal assault, committed by two masked men Sunday night.

John Peppin, employe in the Westmoreland mine at Larimer, was instantly killed by a fall of coal.

Samuel Kentium was struck by a train at Morrisville, near Johnstown, and instantly killed.

Councilman Burket has introduced a curfew ordinance in Council at Altoona.

Chicago has on hand a cash balance of \$5,500,000.

Secretary Edgerton has called for a National conference of Populists at Kansas City, Mo.

Dr. J. Mount Blyer, of New York City, exposed to view the human heart in action by use of X rays and his fluoroscope.

C. C. Merrill, a California contractor, has secured the contract for laying the water pipe in the City of Mexico, involving over \$3,000,000.

The largest onion reported last year was on exhibition at Los Angeles, Cal. It was thirty-six inches in circumference and weighed seven pounds.

There were 983 cars of Mexican oranges exported to the United States during the month just closed, and next year these figures will be doubled without doubt.

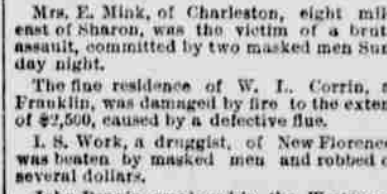
The House Committee on Military Affairs reports that it costs \$164 to fire one round from an eight-inch rifle; \$322 from a ten-inch rifle, and \$650 from a fifteen-inch pneumatic gun.

Diamonds Worn on Finger-Nails.

Millionaire women, says the New York Journal, have a new eccentricity which they are quite sure they can re-

serve for their own exclusive use. This new millionaire fad is to wear diamonds on the finger-nails. The new fashion, which has all the glory and prestige of an invention along more scientific lines, demands that women with bank accounts long enough to permit of this costly trifling shall have a tiny gold cap made for each of their fingers. From the cap is suspended on the outer side a big diamond drop, which sparkles most satisfactorily, there being one large sparkle for each finger-nail. Of course the sparkles are not so conspicuous as they would be if a large number of rings were not worn at the same time, but society is as yet hardly ready for the great sacrifice which the laying off rings would entail.

Some day, perhaps, the finger-nail adornments may be allowed to shine in undiminished glory.



DIAMONDS IN FINGER-NAILS.