SPORTS

BILL'S MOOSE HUNT

A Clever Piece of Fiction by a "Top-Loader."

IT TOUCHED REILLY'S POCKET

"Poly" Le Blanche Lets In Some Light—Now Reilly Is Looking for Bill.

In township 60, range 24,
Described in the deed as timber-land;
It sometimes snows in the winter time,
As we are given to understand.
This alleged snow falls on the level
To the depth of several feet or more;
And when the wind blows like the devil
It drifts from the place where it was before.

When poor Stanley Huntley wrote the above, crediting it to the law reporter of the Brooklyn Eagle, he did not know he was furnishing me with an appropriate opening for a hunting yarn, but that was just what he was doing. The snow had fallen to the depth he speaks of, and per consequence "tote-teams" had fallen behind schedule time; the wind was blowing like the evil one himself, and there was no fresh meat in Reilly's camp. Consequently the cook had nothing but salt-horse and beans to furnish for the festal board withal; the which, under ordinary circumstances would have been too common an occurrence to have caused much comment. "But day after to-morrow's Christmas, an' if the boys don't have something with blood in it to chaw on that day they'll be chawin' the rag scand'lous. Something's got to be done if you don't want half of 'em to jump," was the way the chef set forth the situation to Reilly, when informed that no fresh beef laden team could possibly get through for a week. This caused Reilly, aforesaid, to send a man forth to break the game law.

Bill and His Rifle.

Now there was but one rifle in camp, the property of Bill Johnson, "top-loader," and a man who could be but ill spared, but as William firmly declined to allow the gun to go out unless he "toted" it, the foreman made a virtue of necessity and off went Bill at early dawn of the day before Christmas, promising to be in before dark, and bring a saddle of venison with him, if he was unable to bring down a moose.

Night came, but Bill came not. The boys "chawed" salt-horse and "the rag," and many of them "jumped," on Christmas, as the cook had predicted, and still Bill was among the missing. Several search parties vainly beat the woods in quest of him; a stray "Injun" or two was pressed into the same search, but futilely, and finally Reilly opined that if the wolves and ravens did not find him in the winter, the crows would in the spring, and let it go at that, as one of the mysteries the woods are so tenacious in keeping.

Surprise for Reilly.

But Mr. Reilly was more surprised than pleased to meet Mr. Johnson, hale and hearty, and willing to accept a job on the drive, when he visited Duluth in the spring to engage men for that purpose, and this is how the lost one accounted for his disappearance and the subsequent maintaining of the same.

Well, Jack, it beats the devil you or anybody else ever seein' me again.

B'gum, I never thought you would that time I was lost out in the woods when I went after meat last winter.

How'd I git lost? Well, I'll tell you. I went a long circle over the hills, then through a lot of old works, and got down 'long the little creek where moose used to yard, but it was most noon 'fore I got onto anything. Then I picked up a fresh moose track. Hoofs bigger'n Roy Wheaton's, an' a whacking big bull sure.

I follered the ole feller a while till I see he was circlin' round to try the wind 'fore he laid down to chaw his cud an' rest up a bit. Then I played Injun a little myself. I cut across a bit, got agin the wind, an' hid in a nice little thicket where I jedged he might fetch up, an' jes' waited fer him.

Sure enough, he showed up 'fore long, an' I ought to have tumbled him first shot. But I was a leetle mite too sure, or mebbe held a mite too high; anyways he went off like a shot, soon's the gun cracked, an' left me a cussin' a blue streak behind him. But I hit him hard, so's there was plenty of day left to foller him in, I put out after him after I'd et my lunch, an' kinder ketched my wind good an' plenty. I'd hit him hard, sure, fer he left a big blood trail as he went, an' I never doubted but he'd soon lay down, an' then he's my meat sure.

I did jump him twice, an' each time I put 'nother bullet inter him, but he'd the stay of the devil in him, fer each time he up an' dusted faster'n ever. By that time I was madder'n a wet hen, an' bound ter foller him if it took a week, till I got him.

Got Him at Last.

Long 'bout dark I got him at last, an' then I was up agin it good an' hard. He had gone every which way, an' I'd got so mixed up there warn't no way I knowed of to git to camp 'thout back-trackin', an' I warn't fool enough to try that in the dark. Last four or five miles I'd come through old works where fire'd burnt off every thing clean, an' left the whole country open's a Dakota p'rairie.

But I'd dropped him 'longside a little tamarack swamp, an' there warn't no trouble'n gittin' 'nough dry wood outer that to keep me from freezin' durin' the night. So I flew at it, built a big fire, ripped the hide off'n the big bull, roasted a hunk of meat'n filled myself with that, wropped the hide round me, an' curled up by the fire snug's a bug in a rug. I'd sleep a while, then wake up, git more wood, build up the fire an' sleep some more, an' was gittin' along all right. But 'bout midnight sprung up a h—l of a high wind, reg'lar old bliz. an' kep me jumpin' I tell you to lug wood enough to keep my fire goin'. Got more heat from wood-luggin' than from the fire I did, for bout' three hours. Then the wind died down an' I went to sleep agin.

When I woke up it was broad day, the fire was out, an' the moosehide friz solid 'round me so's I had to cut it all to pieces to git out. Well I cooked myself some meat fer breakfast, an' then hacked off a ham to take back, an' set out to backtrack. But backtrackin' didn't go; not on your life. The wind had filled every track up level, an' there I was like a ship at sea an' the rudder busted.

"Done a Fool Thing."

Then I done a fool thing. I figured out that I could make the timber I'd come through all right, then take my back track, an' so git into country I knowed: after that it would be easy to make camp; an' off I put forgittin' to take some of the meat along, though I'd the ham all tied up fer a pack. I did git the timber, but the back track I couldn't find no more than nothin', and after I'd rammed 'round the woods all day, I couldn't find where the moose was neither, though I tried mighty hard I can tell you. So I laid out all that night, luggin' wood to keep me alive, dozin' sometimes an' half freezin' more, till day come an' I started off agin.

Well, I tromped all that day, an' never see nothin' to shoot. By that time there was a wolf in my belly a-gnawin' the whole inside outer it. But fer havin' a whole plug o' terbac with me I'd a dropped down an' died that night sure. But I lived through it somehow, an' nex' mornin', when the sun riz in the north, I put out agin.

How I went ner where I went that day I don't know no more than the dead. I was clean bughouse, I know that, an' didn't care a d—n whether school kep' or not. I mind finding I'd lost the gun an' bein' glad of it, for it was a bother to carry, an' I mind peeling off dry strips of basswood bark an' tryin' to chaw 'em. I know I et lots of snow, an' I know my terbac was all chawed up; but the rest of it I don't know, an' I wish I could run up agin some feller who could tell, fer I think it would be kinder interestin' to hear.

Gave Plum' Up.

But I do mind givin' plum' up an' layin' down in the snow. I thought I dreamp of hearin' a dog bark, but I didn't care if he did, fer I was warm an' happy, didn't have nothin' on earth to care a d—n about, felt like I'd et a Christmas dinner at home when I was a kid 'n' could hold more'n two kids oughter, an' didn't any more think I was a-freezin' to death than I think you have any show of goin' to heaven.

Then I half waked up in hell. There was more'n forty million redhot needles stickin' inter me everywhere one could stick; there was sloshes o' ice water dashin' all over me every two minutes, an' it seemed to me the old devil had turned out all his boss tormentors for my special benefit, an' they was all earnin' their wages if they never earnt 'em before. But I got full waked pretty quick, an' then I seen I was layin' outside an Injun tepee, 'thout a stitch on me, an' two squaws a-runnin' backwards an' forwards from a waterhole, an' a throwin' pails of water over me every trip. Then an old buck he come up an' felt me all over, chased the squaws away, an' lugged me inter the tepee, an' kivered me up with all the blankets he had.

Tell you, them Injuns was white clear through. Took all kinds o' care o' me. Fed me like a baby outer a spoon till I could eat like a man; kep' me till I could walk, an' then the buck he guided me to the railroad, an' I got to the Rapids. Their dogs had winded me just's I laid down, an' would a et me up, but the old buck follered 'em up to where I was an' beat 'em off. I'd a come back to camp all right, but I took sick with newmony when I got to the Rapids, an' was in the hospital till spring.

Reilly Was Moved.

All this did great credit to Mr. Johnson's talents as a raconteur and so worked on Mr. Reilly's feelings that he "bought" divers times during and after the tale was told; hired the former gentleman for a drive, and "staked him to a five," as he was in the normal lumberjack condition.

But later on Mr. Reilly encountered "Poly" Le Blanche, an old comrade of Mr. Johnson's, to whom he related the moving tale as Mr. J. had related it. Which recital Mr. Le B. greeted with the merry ha ha.

What "Poly" Knew.

"Sacre nom d'un cochon," quoth "Poly," whose dialect is beyond my powers of reproduction. "Is it as thus?" A ha, I will tell you how it is. I go from those Rapids. I am merry for I carry in my packsack a jug of two gallon. She is fill wis whisky, and I am also fill, when I meet with Bill Johnson, who is sit on a stump by the road, and is look triste very much. Will he drink? He will like a duck will swim. Will he go wis me after we take six, maybe ten drink? He will to the green of Fiddler if it is of need. We go. Bill has a gun when we start. He has no gun when we wake up in Deer River. We go not to Deer River. We know not how we get there. But n'importe. We care not the damn. We have the head; we have the taste of the brown seal in the mouth; but of this is le vie. We bum some drink; we strike the job with Monsieur Sims; we work all winter; we blow our stake in Duluth, as is of custom, and now we go to drive that we earn the stake anew."

But Mr. Reilly was gone in an earnest search for Mr. Johnson—whom he has not found at the "present time of writing."

—C. C. Kelly.

Her Needs

There has been a great want for a perfectly pure nutrient stimulant for the physical needs of woman, and it has been found in

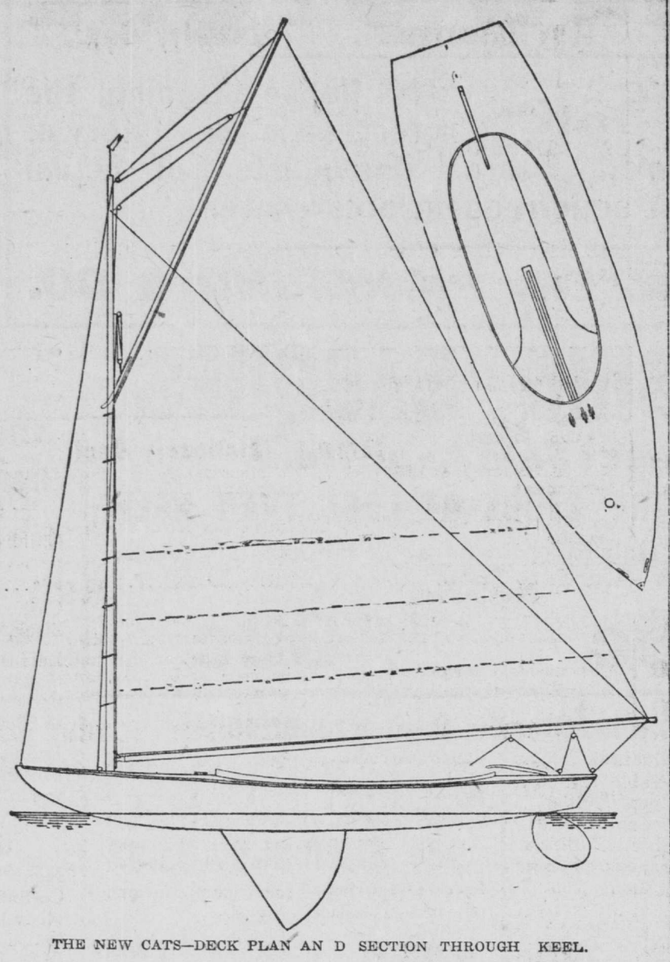
Hunter Baltimore Rye

It is the standard by prescription for the building up of health.

It has the endorsement of Leading Physicians.

Sold at all first-class cafes and by jobbers.
WM. LANAHAN & SON, Baltimore, Md.

FLEET OF CATS FOR 'TONKA SKIPPERS



THE NEW CATS—DECK PLAN AN D SECTION THROUGH KEEL.

The accompanying diagram shows the design after which Roy Moore, the Wayzata boat builder, is to construct ten new catboats to be put into commission May 1 for as many residents of Minnetonka. In some respects the lines along which the new boats will be built will be a return to first principles in modern boat building. Each boat will be a counterpart of the other. They will be built from exactly the same model, and it will be the aim of the builder to make them relatively fast. The owners will toss up for choice when the boats are placed in the water. In ten successive races, each skipper will have an opportunity to sail each boat. The men who have placed orders with Moore are Russell M. Bennett, A. M. Robertson, Charles Gluek, E. L. Carpenter, Roy Thompson, E. S. Hicks, A. C. Paul, W. K. Morrison, C. S. Hulbert.

The dimentions of the boats are: Length over all, 26 feet; beam, 7 feet 6 inches; length of water line, 20 feet; draught, centerboard down, 4 feet; sail area, 450 square feet.

The keels will be of selected white oak, properly sided, molded and rabbited to receive the planking. The stem and stern posts will be of clear oak, securely bolted together. The ribs will be of white oak in a handsomely finished frame. The builder will aim to achieve comfort and convenience without too great a sacrifice of speed.

VICTORY FOR Y. M. C. A.

Its Basket Ball Team Defeats Central High Team.

The Y. M. C. A. triumphed over the Central high school basket ball team last night to the tune of 12 to 6. The game was played in the Y. M. C. A. gymnasium and was watched with interest by a large crowd. The play was interesting, as it went to show what kind of a team the Central boys were going to turn out this season. They went up against a rather stiff proposition, the Y. M. C. A. boys being graduates of former high school championship teams.

Keyser played center for the Y. M. C. A. and did some very good work, getting two field goals. Best and Hobart also made goals for their teams. Bidlake and Brooks for the Central lads, did the scoring. Bidlake threw a splendid goal from the field while Brooks did efficient playing near the basket. Hunter also put up a good game for a new man. The team work of the older men won out for them, their guards being obstacles in the way of Central scores. The line-up:

Central.	Y. M. C. A.
Brooks and Lang	forwards	Best and Hobart
Bidlake (captain)	center	Keyser (captain) Hunter,
Brown and Ozell	guards	Chase and Stoddard

Time of halves, 20 and 15 minutes.

Referee, J. Bidlake; umpires, McDermott, Browne, Harris; timekeepers, McCarthy, Glassburg.

Goals—Keyser, 2; Best, Brooks, Bidlake, Hobart.

BOUGHT A RACE TRACK

Friend of Croker the Purchaser—Croker Interested.

New York Sun Special Service

New York, Dec. 27.—Frank Furrell, the friend of Deputy Police Commissioner W. S. Devery, and also closely identified with other Tammany politicians, bought the Empire City Trotting track for $218,-00 yesterday. The track was built four years ago by the late William Clark and the purchase was made at a foreclosure sale in the city hall at Yonkers. It is said Farrell merely acted for a syndicate said to be composed of Richard Croker, Senator Ptarick H. McCarran, Senator T. D. Sullivan and others.

LOOKS LIKE CONSOLIDATION

Representatives of Trotting Associations to Get Together.

New York Sun Special Service

New York, Dec. 27.—A joint committee consisting of Major P. P. Johnston, president of the National Trotting association, and W. P. Ijams, president of the American, will meet in New York early in January to discuss amendments to the rules, so that as far as possible the codes of the two associations may be alike.

Owners of trotters say this is the first step in a movement to bring about a consolidation of both associations. This would meet with the approval of all trotting men, as both associations have held meets which have nearly precipitated big conflicts between them. Many western trotting men have been invited to attend the meeting.

JEFFRIES IS WILLING

Says He Will Meet Winner of Sharkey-Maher Fight.

Denver, Dec. 27.—Jim Jefferies will meet the winner of the Sharkey-Maher bout in this city in March or April. When Jeffries was here he was asked by local promoters if he would consent to such a match, and stated that he would. A letter has since been received in which he expressed a strong desire to meet the winner of the fight which takes place in Philadelphia.

Rolled 300 Pins.

South Bend, Ind., Dec. 27.—The world's bowling record of 300 at tenpins, the best score possible, was equaled last night at the Commercial Athletic Club. The score was made by Samuel M. Robinson, a well-known business man and club member.

Billiard Players Go Abroad.

New York, Dec. 27.—Jacob Schaefer, champion billiard player of the world by reason of winning the recent tournament at Madison Square Garden, has sailed for Paris on board the Savoie. With him went Leonard Howison, of Canada; Louis Barutel, of Paris; Jose Ortiz, of Spain, and John Moulds, of this city. They go abroad under engagement to play daily with the local French professionals, Reni, Ducatti and Ferdinand. Schaefer expects to be gone at least five months. Before returning to this country, he anticipates meeting the leading French experts for the diamond emblem which he holds as the badge of the world's champion. His strongest opponents will, it is believed, be Vignaud, Fourniel, Gibelein and Cure.

12 leading stores at Plymouth corner

1 Men's Clothing,
2 Boys' Clothing,
3 Hats and Caps,
4 Haberdashery,
5 Shoes,
6 Furs,

The Plymouth Clothing House — Established 1882.

12 leading stores at 6th and Nicollet

7 Cloaks and Wraps,
8 Furnishings,
9 Millinery,
10 Custom Tailoring,
11 Shirt Tailoring,
12 Trunks and Bags.

Our Great "End-of-the-Year" Reduction Sale.

Extensive accumulations of good and very desirable merchandise---but in the form of "Remnants," "Odds and Ends," "Broken Sizes," "Slightly Mussed and Shop Worn Goods," etc.---resulting from our phenomenal Christmas business, are offered now with the determination of quick clearance.

$28 Fine Worsted Suits $20

This lot includes about 25 suits made of the finest worsted. The workmanship, style and fit of these suits are guaranteed to be the best. Serge-lined with hand-padded collar and lapel, hand-sewed button holes and sewed with the best silk thread; no tailor can duplicate these garments for less than $45. They are for the most part dark colors. All sizes though a better selection for the small size. Reduced price **$20**

$15, $20 Yoke Overcoat $10.

Only a small lot of about 40 yoke overcoats, the remnants of our immense autumn business. Although there be a few fancy patterns, most of these garments are of that stylish dark oxford which is and will continue to be most fashionable. All these overcoats are cut 48 inches long, with full skirt which gives plenty of walking room. Full serge lined with satin sleeve lining, hand-tailored throughout. Not one of these garments has sold for less than $15, and most of them are $18 values, while a few sold at $20. All sizes. Reduced Price **$10**

All our $25 and $22 Yoke Overcoats, $15.

$25, $28 Fancy Overcoat $15

Only 25 of these very fashionable overcoats remain, but there are all sizes so that any good dresser can make a splendid selection. Most of the garments are the rough Scotch fabrics, cut long and with high collar so as to make an excellent winter overcoat. Full serge lined with satin yoke and sleeve lining. Some have the half belt, other have the yoke and belt, while the remainder are cut plain. Reduced price . . **$15**

Men's Furnishings.

Men's Neckwear—In Tecks, Four-in-Hands and Imperials. Regular 50c quality, **25c.**

Men's Handkerchief Mufflers—In plaids and stripes; that were sold before the holidays for $1. Now, **50c.**

Men's fancy plaited Mufflers—The kind we sold for $2. What are left, **$1.**

Men's Reversible Mufflers—Can be worn on either side. Just a few left of the $1.50 and $2 kind. To clean up, **$1.**

Bargain Basement Prices.

$12, $15 Men's Suits $7.50.

Odds and ends of our best $15 suits and a few full lines of our best $12 suits have been placed in the clothing section of our bargain basement at less than half price in some cases, while not a garment is within 30 per cent of its former value. All styles, all fabrics, all patterns, all sizes. Bargain Basement price **$7.50**

$10 and $15 Black Clay Frock Coat and Vests, $3.

Every man should have a black clay semi-dress suit and this is a grand opportunity to secure such a garment at little or nothing. Only about 25 left. Bargain Basement Price, ... **$3**

Boys' Clothing.

For Saturday we have some big bargains to offer in Boys' Clothing. Some are small lots but all sizes. Suits $2.50 and upwards. Reefers $2.50 and upwards. Overcoats $3.00 and upwards. Vestee Suits, broken lines, values $5.00, $4.00 and $3.50, while they last $2.50.

Men's and Boys' Caps.

Men's fine Cloth Caps, blue, black and Oxford gray, silk serge lined; many of them velvet trimmed and worth 75c and $1.00. All go Saturday at **50c.**

Men's latest style long visor Jockey-shape Caps, also patent inside band and tie top Caps, that sold at $1.50 and $2.00; all to be sold at **$1.00.**

All the nobby winter styles soft and stiff Hats, in black and colors, that sold up to $3.00 and $3.50. Now to be closed out at **$2.00.**

Boys' and Girls' worsted Stocking Caps, in all colors; left over from holiday trade, to be closed at **50c.**

Boys' Tie Top, Band, Golf and Brighton Caps, all silk lined; worth 75c and $1.00. Special Saturday, **50c.**

4 Shoe Bargains

Cleaning Up the Broken Lots Left from Our Christmas Trade.

Men's $2.00 Box Calf Lace Shoes, medium heavy soles and stylish round toes. Saturday only, **$1.40.**

Men's $3.00 Box Calf Lace Shoes, double or single soles. Saturday only, **$2.50.**

Broken lots in Women's Shoes, worth up to $3.00. Saturday only, **95c.**

All our Children's Felt Shoes and Slippers, worth 75c, $1.00 and $1.25. Saturday only, **50c.**

Smoking Jackets.

A few broken sizes in Double-faced Golf Cloth with Plaid lining; were $6.50 to $7.50—to close quickly, **$5.**

Men's House Coats in plain Broadcloth with Sateen trimmings, in Blue, Brown and Maroon—$9.50 Quality at **$8.50.**

Men's Silk Matalasai Smoking Jackets, in beautiful desigus, $11.50 to $15 Quality; to close, **$8.50.**

Men's Silk Matalasai Smoking Jackets in Persian Patterns, Silk-lined, marked down from **$18** to **$9.50.**

Pre-Inventory Reduction Sale

Women's Long and Three-Quarter Coats, Opera Coats and Capes and Novelty Jackets.

Second Floor. Second Floor.

Just now, with cold weather ahead of us, this final sale at stock-reducing prices merits the attention of all those who have delayed the purchasing of their winter coats. The tremendous selling of the past several weeks has left many odd garments and broken lines, which we shall close out before the end of this year. They are in the season's very recent styles, and are representative productions from the most noted foreign and domestic makers.

Opera Capes, specially appropriate for evening wear; full and three-quarter length Medica collar edged with fur, lined with white satin; reduced to prices ranging from **$20** to **$35.**

Ulsters, plain and fur trimmed, warm, serviceable cold weather garments, all in this season's styles; in the assortment are half-fitted and box back, triple and single cape Ulsters and three-quarter coats; have sold at from $25 to $75, now **$15** to **$45.**

Novelty Jackets, 27 in. long, made of finest smooth kersey, high storm collar, lined throughout with Skinner satin, regular price $15 to $30. Special at from **$10** to **$20.**

Extra Special—We will place on sale 250 fine kersey, montenac and cheviot coats, 27 in. long, storm collar, fine pearl buttons; these jackets worth up to $15. Saturday only, **$7.50.**

We will offer Saturday all our Misses' and Children's Coats at ¼ off regular prices. All new desirable goods—no old stock at any price.

The Plymouth, Corner Sixth and Nicollet.

Northwestern Mines

ORE CHARTER TALK

Rumor as to Pittsburg Steamship Co. Denied by Wolvin.

CLEVELAND CLIFFS SHOWS GAIN

Shipments of the Crystal Falls District of the Menominee Range.

Special to The Journal.

Duluth, Minn., Dec. 27.—There has been much talk of ore charters on the lakes for 1902, and the Pittsburg Steamship company (United States Steel) has been reported as making numerous charters for the year. Vice President Wolvin, who has just returned from the east, says this talk is premature and that the company has made no charters and will probably make none for some time to come. The company has laid up the bulk of its fleet at Duluth and Cleveland.

The Cleveland Cliffs Iron company, though it has dropped some mines that last year added to its production, have increased over any preceding season and closes 1901 with a production of 1,148,202 gross tons. Of this the Ishpeming mines shipped 861,803 tons, a reduction of about 20,000 tons from the preceding year, and the Ashland mine, Gogebic range, which went under this company's control early in the year, 286,399 tons, an increase of 54,000 tons.

The shipments of the Crystal Falls district of the Menominee range for the present year and 1900 have been as follows:

	Tons.	Tons.
Crystal Falls	220,000	197,770
Great Western	143,000	98,550
Armenia	18,000	.....
Tobin	18,000	.....
Hemlock	147,000	72,413
Mansfield	75,000	90,155
Columbia	20,000	97,531
Bristol	36,000	51,639
Hilltop	2,500	6,410
Monongahela	2,500	.....

The four first named are Corrigan, McKinney & Co. properties, and have made shipments of 409,000 tons; the Hemlock is a promising property of Pickands, Mather & Co., and is increasing rapidly; Mansfield and Columbia were bought by the Oliver Iron Mining company during the year and will make a far larger output another year than they have this; Bristol belongs to Oglebay, Norton & Co., and was idle all last winter or would have made a larger shipment. Hilltop is the legacy of the United States Steel corporation from the American Steel & Wire company, and Monongahela is the new property of Jones & Laughlins, which is now under development.

The new shaft at Great Western is going down at the rate of sixty feet a month and last month the sinking aggregated seventy feet. At the old Dunn the same operators are commencing shaft sinking and propose to go down 800 feet to the ore body. Both Tobin and Armenia are looking well as depth and development are continued.

Mining will continue all winter at the Helen, Michipictoen range, and about 2,000 tons a day are now mined, crushed and stocked on the side of the high hill above the railway tracks. It is not expected the Josephine mine of the same district, ten miles further inland, can ship much of any ore the coming year on account of the impossibility of getting machinery in advance of the railroad. Attention will probably be turned shortly to the vast mass of siderite forming one of the walls of the Helen hematite deposit and some results from this carbonate are expected. This mineral assays as high as 37 per cent iron as it stands.

MONTANA AND MICHIGAN

Copper Situation as Seen From the Latter's View Point.

Special to The Journal.

Houghton, Mich., Dec. 27.—The Michigan copper mining interests have recently been made the object of a savage attack by a prominent Montana newspaper, the accusation being made that the Amalgamated interests have been holding out for high wages and generous treatment of employes, while Michigan mines and miners have been taking a course diametrically opposite. The argument is a trifle far fetched, and is perhaps best answered by a glance at the conditions prevailing in the two states. The Butte mines are working under check, with thousands of men idle, those who are at work receiving the same wages as formerly. The Michigan mines are working full forces, about 16,000 men being employed, at the same wages as for some months past, these being the highest ever paid in the Lake Superior mines since the early days when big wages were consumed by the very high cost of living.

It is doubtful if the coper mines of Montana are now working more than one-half as many men as are employed in the Lake copper mines. The Miners' Union, a power in Montana, fixes a minimum daily wage of $3.50 for every man who goes underground. This is from $1 to $1.50 higher than the minimum wage paid in the lake mines, but the mines of this district offer two advantages that almost or quite offset the lower wages paid, these being the lesser cost of living and the far steadier employment given workers. For these reasons there are few miners having steady places who quit jobs in Michigan copper mines.

The inference to be drawn from the attack on Lake mines and miners is that the lake mining companies should have curtailed production at the same time such action was taken at Butte. Whether this would have aided the workingmen is open to very great doubt. The Michigan miners seem to think they do better by working ful time at the best wages ever paid than they might do by working part time, or having 5,000 or 6,000 men thrown out of work. The partial cessation of production by the Butte mines has not held the price of copper up. The artificial regulation of prices is a dangerous game. A strong concern may hold prices steady for a time; when there are signs of a break, and can also keep prices down when they show tendencies toward a too rapid advance. Both of these things have been done by the United States Steel corporation, within the present year, but the influence brought to bear on the market was of a temporary nature, and was not used drastically. The maintenance of 17-cent copper by a partial stoppage of production in any given field, such as Montana, redounds to the permanent injury of that field. While the Montana mines are working under check the mines of other fields are making big profits and placing themselves in a position to meet a lower price for their product. Not only this, but new mines are being opened in many fields.

Were the leading lake mines to join the principal Montana properties in a restriction of output, the price of copper could readily be restored to 17 cents, but where would the profit lie? It is true that a mine making copper at a cost of 10 cents a pound can net as large profits on half its normal output with copper selling at 17 cents as it could make with copper selling at 13 cents, but while such a mine is working under check, new fields are being opened, new producers are coming into existence on every hand, and the profits of the present are being bought at the expense of the future.

The lake mines are occupying the same position now as they have since the inauguration of 17-cent copper, when the Amalgamated Copper company was organized. In plain English, their policy is "every man for himself and devil take the hindmost." This is the way they have managed their affairs for twelve years.

A market price of 10 cents a pound for several years to come will close up a few of the lake mines, but only a few, and those are small producers. Within four or five years the lake mines will be making 200,000,000 pounds of fine copper yearly, regardless of whether copper sells at 17 cents or at 9 cents a pound. Every added cent on the market price will mean a little larger output, but the increase or decrease caused by the market price will be small.

It will be useless to look for any reduction in output from the lake district. Reduction can be secured only by buying control of the leading mines. This can be done, of course, but it will take a hundred millions of dollars, or even more.

BLACK HILLS CYANIDING

New Machinery for the Imperial—"Wet Process" at the Dakota.

Special to The Journal.

Deadwood, S. D., Dec. 27.—The last of the machinery has arrived for the new cyanide plant of the Imperial Mining company. As soon as it can be placed in position the mill will be ready to start. This will probably be some time in February. The mill will have a capacity of 200 tons a day, and will treat ore from Blacktail gulch and from near Portland. The company has been doing a large amount of development work on its various properties. In Blacktail gulch it owns 300 acres of ground. It has purchased a large tract of ground two miles northwest of Portland, along the Spearfish line of the Burlington. Recent development work has disclosed a body of ore eighteen feet thick, and assaying $18 and $20 a ton.

The Dakota Mining company is making regular clean-ups at its cyanide plant in Deadwood. The plant is treating from 80 to 100 tons a day. It is crushed with stamps, by what is known as the "wet process." A cyanide solution flows through the batteries. The process is proving highly satisfactory, and 65 per cent extraction is obtained in the batteries alone. Ten stamps are being added to the mill, which will make thirty in all, with a daily capacity of nearly 125 tons. Minneapolis and St. Paul men are interested in the company.

The Black Hills Copper company is doing an important work in Pennington county, twenty-five miles south of Deadwood. The company is running an incline shaft, which is in 750 feet, with a vertical depth of 400 feet, following a strong ledge of copper bearing ore that attracted attention by its outcrop. The incline will be continued until the permanent water level is reached, when it is believed that the ore will improve in quality. It bears every indication at presnt of having been reached, and copper experts declare that the values should be found redeposited at permanent water level. The ore at present carries from 2 to 4 per cent copper, besides small amounts of gold and silver. A crosscut at the 400-foot level shows a width of 100 feet.

Active mining will be commenced by the Ohio-Deadwood Gold Mining company near Roohford, Pennington county, immediately. An air compressor and machine drills have been ordered, and a twenty-stamp mill is to be purchased in the next few days, the manager being in Chicago now for that purpose. The mill will be built in the spring. It will have concentrating machinery and a cyanide annex. The company owns 475 acres of ground along the Burlington railroad, with millsite and water right. The property is developed by an old tunnel in which is shown a lode 22 feet wide, 180 feet below the surface. A new working tunnel has been started, and is already in ore.

The Hidden Fortune Gold Mining company is making final settlements for the property on which it held options, and has disbursed a million dollars among the original owners. Final payments have been made with only two exceptions, and these will be made as soon as the titles can be straightened out.

MAMMOTH TREASURE HOUSE

Precious Minerals to Form Part of Mining Display at World's Fair.

St. Louis, Dec. 27.—In the mines and metallurgy department of the St. Louis World's Fair in 1903 will be displayed the most comprehensive exhibit, as well as the largest display of hidden treasures of the earth, the world's people have ever seen. The building for this department is so large that all space necessary for the mineral exhibit will be available, the remaining space to be given to mining machinery.

The work of arranging for exhibits has been systematically and energetically under way for several months and everywhere the chief, David T. Day, and his assistant have found great enthusiasm. The exhibits from the Rocky Mountain country are being prepared with much care. Only the choicest specimens will come to the great fair. In Michigan and Wisconsin special effort is being made to collect exhibits of extraordinary value.

In Alaska, the Philippine Islands, Cuba and Porto Rico, the United States government has begun the collection of specimens. One of the principal features of the exhibit from the republic of Mexico will be that in the mines and metallurgy building. Dr. Day is now located at World's Fair headquarters in St. Louis. The classification of the mines department has been approved by the Exposition company and is now ready for distribution.