

# THE DAY BOOK

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One Cent

## THE ROMANCE OF THE MERRITTS; HOW THEY WRESTED WEALTH FROM THE WILDERNESS

*People of Duluth Tell How Brothers Fought and Labored and Suffered in Early Days To Win the Riches Rockefeller Robbed Them Of.*

\* \* \* \* \*  
\* The answer of John D. \*  
\* Rockefeller and his preacher \*  
\* come-on, the Rev. Frederick \*  
\* T. Gates, to the accusations \*  
\* hurled at them before the \*  
\* Stanley investigation com- \*  
\* mittee by the Merritt broth- \*  
\* ers of Minnesota, has been: \*  
\* "The Merritts lie." \*  
\* \* \* \* \*

\* The Day Book sent its spe- \*  
\* cial correspondent, L. C. \*  
\* Hodgson to Duluth, Minn., to \*  
\* find out just how much lying \*  
\* the Merritts did, that the peo- \*  
\* ple might be able to judge for \*  
\* themselves. Here is Hodg- \*  
\* son's first message: \*  
\* \* \* \* \*

Duluth, Minn., Dec. 1.—The first thing I did in this country of iron ore, where the Merritts made the fortune they lost to Rockefeller, was to find out just what manner of men the Merritts are, how they made their fortune, and how the people among whom they live think of them.

The Merritts came to this northeastern corner of Minne-

sota in the middle fifties. That was before Duluth existed, when Minnesota was a wilderness.

The father of the Merritts brought his family to Minnesota from New York state. He was one of the men who saw visions, who saw the wilderness productive, who saw a great empire in the west.

There was a little colony where Duluth now stands in those days. The colony was a joke up and down the lakes. The people lived on fish. That was the only food they could get. When a boat brought a little pork and coffee to the harbor, there was much rejoicing.

Tradition says the settlers changed their shirts every spring, and had much difficulty in getting the shirts off over the protruding fish bones.

The name of Merritt stands for romance in Duluth. There is story after story of how Alfred Merritt performed miraculous feats on behalf of his friends. There are similar stories of "Lon" Merritt.