Zinc Kings and Queens of the Joplin District.

Men and Women Who Have Gained Riches and Fame in a Few Years by Their Ability to Locate Mineral Deposits and Their Skill in Wresting the Ore From Mother Earth.

Special Correspondence of The Sunday Republic.

Joplin, Mo., March 21.—This is the home of the zinc king and the zinc queen.

There are many of them—each the monarch of a rich little kingdom that is bounded by the four sides of a hole in the ground.

And each draws from his kingdom sufficient revenue to enable him to live like a really royal personage—to command men and luxuries with the power that money gives, and to gain the respect that always comes to the man or woman who has gained success.

And each has sprung up, mushroom like, almost in a night. For the history of zinc in the Joplin district—wealth-producing zinc—is almost as new as the story of what happened yesterday.

Mrs. M. F. Robinson, Foremost of Zinc Queens.

Mrs. M. F. Robinson, foremost of the zinc queens, is the most successful woman who has ever been a zinc mine operator in this district. She came to Joplin in 1898 and engaged in zinc mining. Her son, Budd M. Robinson, was then a traveling salesman. She induced him to give up his position and join her in her mining enterprises. She owns the lease upon which her son's mines and other valuable zinc mines are located. Mrs. Robinson is a sister of Mrs. Helen Gongar, the celebrated politician, and of Mrs. A. P. Congrove and Mrs. William Honk, whose husbands are successfully engaged in zinc mining in the Missouri-Kansas district.

The Son She Persuaded to Take Up Zinc Mining.

Among the most successful of the zinc kings is Budd M. Robinson, the son whom Mrs. Robinson persuaded to come to Joplin in the fall of 1899. He began prospecting on his mother's lease at Chitwood Hollow, northwest of Joplin, and in less than two years had become the operator of the famous "King Jack" mine, the "Silver Shield" and "Crown Prince." Seven out of eight of his drill holes struck ore, and all three of the mines are rich producers of very high-grade zinc ore.

Big Ventures of Ex-Governor Renfrow.

Ex-Governor W. C. Renfrow of Oklahoma has become one of the largest mineral land owners in the zinc district. While Governor of Oklahoma, in 1896, he became interested in the vicinity of Joplin, and when his term of office expired he located here and began adding extensively to his mining interests. He organized the American Zinc, Lead and Smelting Company, a close corporation, composed of himself and several Boston capitalists. The capital stock of the company is $2,500,000, of which $1,500,000 is paid up. None of the stock is or has been offered for sale, the company preferring to keep its profits for itself.

Governor Renfrow individually owns large tracts of land also, having invested considerable capital in oil and mineral lands in Missouri and the Indian Territory.

James A. Graves and E. D. Smith.

James A. Graves and E. D. Smith are the owners of the great Independence mine, two miles northeast of Joplin, whose zinc ore always commands the highest price paid in the district. Mr. Graves came to Joplin from Chicago in Janury, 1899, to look at property for a Chicago syndicate. He was so favorably impressed with the district that he decided to locate here. Becoming acquainted with E. D. Smith, one of the most successful zinc miners in the district, the two men formed a partnership, leased 106 acres of mineral land northeast of Joplin and began to prospect.

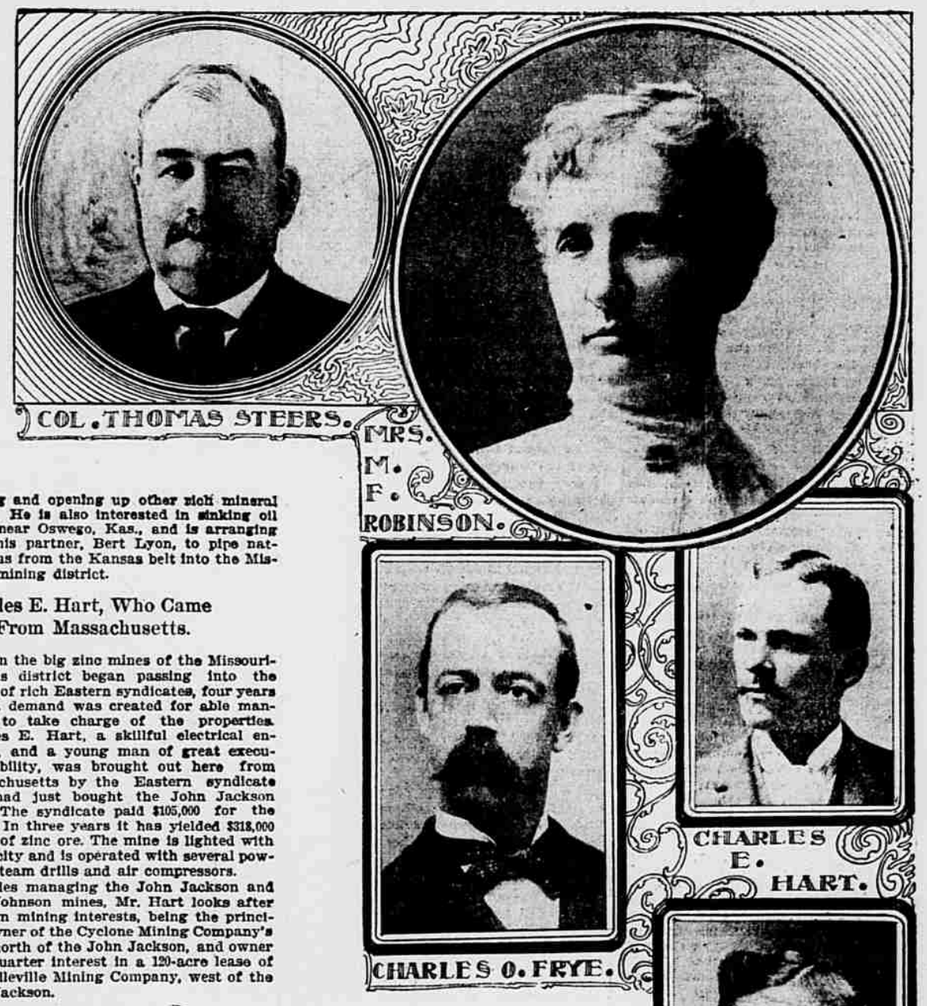
E. D. Smith came here from Wakefield, Ia., in the summer of 1897, and is familiar with all of the work of mining from that of pick hand to general manager. He was one of the owners of the Moonshine mine, southeast of Joplin, which was sold to a Boston syndicate. Every property he has become interested in has been a financial success, and he is one of the very few mining men whose success has been unvarying.

Graves and Smith went into an old abandoned shaft on their lease, cleaned it out and sank a few feet deeper, and now that old shaft is their famous Independence mine, one of the richest zinc mines in the world.

P. H. Leddy's Broad Field of Practical Experience.

P. H. Leddy, founder of Central City, is a miner of vast experience, not only in the Missouri-Kansa zinc belt, but in the gold regions of the West. While on a visit back to his old home in Illinois in 1889, Mr. Leddy was told of the big zinc strikes in Southwest Missouri, and paid this section a visit. He became superintendent of mines in Possum Hollow, and then secured some big leases at a point where Central City is now located.

Mr. Leddy is the owner of the Golden Slipper and Leddy Brothers mines, and is prospecting and opening up other rich mineral lands. He is also interested in sinking oil wells near Oswego, Kas., and is arranging with his partner, Bert Lyon, to pipe natural gas from the Kansas belt into the Missouri mining district.



Charles E. Hart, Who Came Out From Massachusetts.

When the big zinc mines of the Missouri-Kansas district began passing into the hands of rich Eastern syndicates, four years ago, a demand was created for able managers to take charge of the properties. Charles E. Hart, a skillful electrical engineer, and a young man of great executive ability, was brought out here from Massachusetts by the Eastern syndicate that had just bought the John Jackson mine. The syndicate paid $105,000 for the mine. In three years it has yielded $313,000 worth of zinc ore. The mine is lighted with electricity and is operated with several powerful steam drills and air compressors.

Besides managing the John Jackson and Jack Johnson mines, Mr. Hart looks after his own mining interests, being the principal owner of the Cyclone Mining Company's lease north of the John Jackson, and owner of a quarter interest in a 120-acre lease of the Belleville Mining Company, west of the John Jackson.

"Nap" Perry's Success After Many Reverses.

E. N. Perry, familiarly known all over the zinc belt as "Nap" Perry, has made a large fortune. He came to Joplin and began prospecting in 1873. After mining here five years he moved to Galena, Kas., where he operated for twelve years with varying success, then returned to Joplin and has since then been operating in the vicinity of Joplin and Carterville. He owns a half interest in the famous Possum Hollow tract of eighty acres, and a half interest in forty acres at Leadville Hollow. There are about twenty zinc mines operating on "Nap" Perry's lands, and he owns a great deal of undeveloped mineral lands, 2,720 acres being located at Aurora, Mo. He also owns considerable Joplin city property, and enjoys a rich harvest of royalties.

The Trade That Brought Fortune to Charley Frye.

For twenty years Charles O. Frye has been prominently identified with zinc and lead mining in the Missouri-Kansas district, and has done much for its development. His first successful venture has an interesting history. One wintry day a score of years ago, when he was quite a young man and unfamiliar with mining, he shouldered his gun and started out for a day's hunt. Chance led him to where a disgusted prospector was at work digging a hole in the ground. The miner bantered him for a trade, offering the prospect for the gun. Frye agreed to the proposition, and the trade was made.

The miner went off hunting, doubtless feeling highly elated over the good trade he had made, for he considered the prospect practically worthless. Frye began to dig, and kept it up until, in a few days, he uncovered one of those great shining deposits of shallow lead, for which the district is famous. Before a week had passed he sold his shot-gun prospect for $700 cash.

That venture gave him a taste for mining, and many other ventures followed, and he has become one of Joplin's most successful mine operators. He has opened up such rich properties as the Standard Hill, Blendville, Ruby, Pincard and other noted zinc mines.

Mr. Frye has been very active in the effort to secure State aid for deep drilling, so that a hole 2,500 feet can be sunk in some part of the mineral belt to ascertain what formation is to be found at various depths and to prospect for ore, gas, oil, etc. He has been chairman of the Committee on Mines and Mining of the Joplin Club for the last six years, and has also been prominently identified with the Missouri and Kansas Zinc Miners' Association.

Colonel Tom Steers of "Get There" Fame.

Colonel Thomas Steers, who has made a big success in zinc mining, was formerly a railroad contractor in West Virginia. He came here six years ago, and the first property he secured was the "Get There" lease, near Carterville, Mo. In a remarkably short space of time he had developed his prospect into one of the greatest mines in the district, and named it the "Get There," after the lease. He sold his mine to a Boston syndicate for a large sum and opened the "Laura S." mine, near Prosperity, Mo., out of which he made $70,000 before he sold it to a St. Louis syndicate, and started the Modoc, near Prosperity, which he is now operating successfully.

By means of air compressers and other devices he was enabled to work through the hardest ground and succeed in opening up big bodies of ore at comparatively moderate expense. Much of his success is due to system and the saving of labor, and his mining profits are accounted very large.

Astrolabe of Bagdad in This Country.

WRITTEN FOR THE SUNDAY REPUBLIC.

A curious astronomical instrument, which experts say has seen eight centuries, engraved with minute characters in the mother language of Arabic, was recently received in Washington, and has greatly interested scientists of the Smithsonian Institution and also the mathematicians of the United States Naval Observatory. The relic is pronounced genuine by all who have seen it, including Professor Langley, secretary of the Smithsonian, and Professor D. S. Brown of the Naval Observatory.

This curious piece of brass, in four parts, fastened together in the center with a screw which permits of the revolution of any of the three minor parts attached to the main circular brass plate, is called an astrolabe. In olden times an astrolabe was used by astronomers and seamen for measuring and locating the position of stars, planets and other heavenly bodies, in order to measure time and distances, and to ascertain the position of a ship at sea.

Just beneath the ring which might serve as the handle is a small inscription in Arabic, or, rather, in Cufic. This reads: "Hebat Allah Ben El-Hassan, maker; Abi Gayfair El-Khazin, inventor, Bagdad, in the year of Mohammed, 518."

The date would apparently show that this instrument is at least 800 years old.

This astrolabe came into possession of one of the Kalifs of Bagdad. The records from the time he possessed the instrument until the commencement of the Eighteenth Century have never been found. Presumably it spent the centuries in tender and appreciative hands, for its condition is still excellent and it is but little worn.

El Sheik Ahmad El Tantaouf, who was a well-known scientist and astronomer of Syria in the early part of the Eighteenth Century, upon his death left this astrolabe. There is another gap in the history of the astrolabe, until it came into the possession of Emir Abd-el-Kader, who lived in the early part of the Nineteenth Century, and, in addition to being a prominent scientist, was an Algerian General. Upon his death his effects were sold, and this astrolabe was purchased by Elias Bey Coudsl, who was then Consul General of Greece. Through his heirs the instrument went to Damascus, where it was purchased by its present owners.

Professor D. S. Brown of the Naval Observatory was greatly interested in the relic, and declared it the finest astronomical instrument of olden times he had ever seen. "The use of this astrolabe," he said, "is a lost science now. We can only see how the Arabs must have used it in the past, before the perfection of modern astronomical instruments like the quadrant and the sextant. The Bagdad Arabs were the most learned of ancient astronomers, and their skill is amply illustrated by the wonderful detail and knowledge incorporated in this ancient piece of brass. It is a wonderful thing to find such an instrument."

Special Correspondence of The Sunday Republic.

Warrensburg, Mo., March 30.—Club women are prominent in Warrensburg, and add a charm to the social and intellectual life of this city. Mrs. Kate Ellis Peed is at the head of the School of Oratory and of the Conversational Club. She is the wife of Captain Henry A. Peed of Company C, Thirty-second United States Infantry, whom President McKinley appointed last week to the position of Internal Revenue Collector of the Province of Bolanga, Philippine Islands.

Mrs. James C. Thornton is a member of both social and literary clubs. She has done good work in the Press Club, and has been editor-in-chief of the Normal Review. In her home the members of the Sans Souci and Columbian clubs meet.

Mrs. Frank Deerwester is a member of the leading social clubs, a worker in the Musical Club, and often writes papers for the Press Club. Mrs. Thomas E. Cheatham is an accomplished young matron, and is prominent in the social and club life of the city. Mrs. Charles H. Howes is a member of the Columbian and Modern Novel clubs.

Doctor Frances Coleman Smith is one of the prominent physicians of Warrensburg. She is president of the Woman's Press Club, the strongest woman's organization in the county. It was organized in April, 1897.

Special Correspondence of The Sunday Republic.

Fulton, Ky., March 28.—In the literary circles of Fulton much that is best and most popular has been suggested and brought to permanent success by Mrs. Mott Ayres, one of the most charming of the young matrons of this city. Mrs. Ayres is president of the Woman's Magazine Club, one of the founders of the Fireside Club, editor of the Home Department of the American Baptist Flag, and a fine church worker. She is the daughter of Doctor J. N. Hall, the editor of the Flag, and the wife of Colonel Mott Ayres, editor of the Daily Leader.

The young ladies in the group are among the social leaders in Fulton.

Telescope Sights for Army Rifles.

WRITTEN FOR THE SUNDAY REPUBLIC.

The United States Government, pursuing its theory that superior marksmanship wins in modern warfare, has just adopted a new device toward this end. Some valuable and practical lessons were gained in the Spanish war in regard to inaccurate shooting, when a deal of ammunition was used up with no result. The bullets in most cases went away above the heads of the enemy. This was attributed solely to poor aim and inability of the soldiers to locate and distinguish objects in the hazy distance.

The Government has just adopted a new telescopic sight of great magnifying power which is to be mounted on the Krag-Jorgensen rifle. At present the sharshooter corps in the Philippines have been sent the first instalment of the new telescopic sight. In the dark and snodwy jungles of the island forest these telescopes are said to have already proved most effectual in bringing down the far-distant forms of the insurgents which, without this aid, could not have been seen by the naked eye. At a range of 2,000 yards in hazy weather a man can be picked off as earily as at 500 feet in bright light.

The Ordnance Board of the army has carried on during the last six months a series of exhaustive tests with the telescopic sight at the Springfield range, in Massachusetts, and has recommended its adoption for army purposes. The sight was tested by actual firings up to a range of 2,000 yards and more. The board reported that the use of the sight is of special value in hazy or foggy weather at long range, that in either case the target can be seen with remarkable clearness and the marksman can be absolutely sure that he is aiming at the proper object. The firing conducted at the target range showed that better targets were secured with the telescopic sigh than with the regular sight.

The telescopic sight of medium power (twelve diameters) gave the best result, and was the one selected for future use. The telescope is of practically universal focus, and therefore does not require readjustment for different marksmen or for different ranges.