OIL INDUSTRY HELPS FARMERS

Laborers Are No Longer Lacking in Kansas — Brought In by Boom—Profits of Thrifty Agriculturists.

REPUBLIC SPECIAL.

Sedan, Kas., Dec. 16.—There is less trouble in getting laborers for the farms of Southern Kansas than there was a few months ago. This is a change from the last two years since the high wages paid in the oil fields depleted the ranks of the "hired hands."

The young men who were doing the farm work of this part of the state left the farms as quickly and as generally when the call of higher wages came as did their fathers forty-five years ago when Lincoln called for men. Now the "boom" is ended and the oil business has become a legitimate and conservative occupation. The men who left the farms are coming back and resuming old duties. They are getting higher wages than they did when they quit, but not as high as they received in the oil fields. There tool dressers were paid $3.50 and $4 a day and drillers got $5 a day.

The tool dressing was the apprenticeship through which farm boys had to serve before they could get $5 a day. But even that was better than $30 a month and board on the farm. Then, too, it was a new kind of work, and this appealed to many who dreaded the drudgery of the farm. Now not enough dressing rigs are running to give work to all who want it, and old men are getting the preference over rookies and later recruits, and these are seeking once more the farms for their livelihood.

The oil boom was a boon to the farmer. Many leases were so far from the towns that the drillers boarded at the nearest farmhouse rather than drive far to their meals. Where a few years ago every country school teacher in the county could get the best of board at $3.50 a week, the oil men were compelled to pay $5 and then $6, and when things were at their highest point the price went to $8 and $9.

The thrifty housewife had caught the spirit of the times. They figured that any man ought to be willing to pay at least one day's income for his board and room for a week. But the school teachers suffered also, and many a school board heard a tale of woe from the teachers, who said they, too, would have to have "oil time" salaries if they had to pay "oil time" prices for board. Many housewives became hardened boarding-housekeepers during the boom. The labor board was the best evidence of this. Where they started by serving up all the products of the farm, giving the borders all the eggs and milk they wanted, they soon adopted the arts of their sisters of the cities and eliminated many of those substantials from the bill of fare.

The oil business brought in thousands of dollars to the farmers of Southern Kansas in other ways. Many quit farming and went to "shooting" gushing gas wells for their work. Others engaged in the lively business of buying and selling. Others sold off their trees for big timber. Thousands of farmers received bonuses and are still receiving good royalties for their leases. The income from these will be permanent.

Only one class has not been directly benefited. These are the land speculators. The development of the oil land has increased the value of land for oil purposes without adding to its worth for agricultural purposes. In many cases the landowners are exacting large sums to make the same per cent on the increased valuation. This comes from the tenants, who raised crops any more for farming than he could before the boom. Many are seeking rather than pay higher rents.

It is safe to say that the farmers of the old belt are the same observers of the oil market as they are of the stock market of Kansas. They realize that boom times will come again whenever the price of oil goes up to a dollar or $1. Whenever they come to stay they watch the oil news, knowing that an upward movement of oil prices will bring them additional prosperity.

GIRLS BLOCK PASTOR'S FREE WEDDING PLANS.

Say They Are Having Too Good a Time to Accept Minister's Offer.

Stroudsburg, Pa., Dec. 16.—Stroudsburg girls are having too good a time to think of marrying, is given out as a reason why the thirty odd young men members of the Lehigh Association of the Methodist Church, prefer to remain single.

Friday evening was the time set by Doctor Bennett, pastor of the church, to marry the young men free of charge. It was the twelfth time for the association. No applications were made for the free marriage.

Doctor Bennett's church is full of young marriageable men, and he wants to see them settled, believing it will increase their interests in church work. The young men appear willing, but, as one put it, "The girls appear to be in no hurry."

MAN SENTENCED TO HAVE HIS PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN.

Shrewd New York Magistrate Imposes Unusual Punishment on Intoxicated Prisoner.

REPUBLIC SPECIAL.

New York, Dec. 16.—Magistrate Crane in the Morrisania court administered a new kind of a sentence in disposing of a case of intoxication that of disorderly conduct. The prisoner upon condition that he get his photograph taken immediately after leaving court and before he changed his clothing, and that he look at it every time he entered a saloon.

The prisoner was Thomas Burns, 31 years old, of No. 361 Union avenue. He was a slight when arraigned in court. He promised to send one of his photographs to Magistrate Crane, who will keep it as a horrible example.

WOMAN SHUT UP A SALOON.

Denies Consent to License and Has Document Revoked.

REPUBLIC SPECIAL.

New York, Dec. 16.—One woman saloon has closed in Edgar Tompkins' Harrison despite the alleged political pull of the proprietor.

Mrs. William Bullard of No. 291 Main avenue, was one of the Harrison women in New York who for months in obtaining a revocation of license issued to Patrick Joseph Ryan and Michael Ryan, who maintained a saloon at Main avenue and Fourteenth street. Last Friday with Commissioner Bullard the Main avenue place a year ago.

The license was granted on the affidavit that all the property owners, including Doctor Bullard, in the neighborhood by law, had consented to it. Revoking Doctor Bullard signed away, and Mrs. Bullard swearing that she had not, for Bullard was the owner of her Main avenue house, went to court and, by proving she had commanded a signature as soon as she learned of it, obtained an order cancelling the license.

WOMAN FIGHTS HIGHWAYMAN.

Robbed While Protecting Baby in Front of Poe Cottage.

REPUBLIC SPECIAL.

New York, Dec. 16.—In front of the Poe cottage, in Kingsbridge road, Fordham, Mrs. Lawrence R. Berth of No. 2[illegible] Creston avenue, fought a footpad late in the afternoon.

Mrs. Berth had left home, taking her baby in its carriage, to go to a grocery store. In Kingsbridge road a man about 45 years of attacked her and attempted to seize her purse. Clutching the baby's carriage with one hand to prevent its falling down the steep incline near the Poe cottage, Mrs. Berth, shouting for help, battled with the robber with her free hand. Having finally snatched the woman's purse, the highwayman escaped in spite of the efforts of several bicycle policemen and a crowd to catch him.

Every Bone in Face Broken.

REPUBLIC SPECIAL.

Racine, Wis., Dec. 16.—Louis Gestrich, while repairing a trip-hammer at the American Steel and Foundry Company, slipped and struck the lever and the machine started. The immense hammer struck Gestrich on the back of the head, smashing his face against the anvil. The force broke every bone in his face, fractured his skull over the eyes and also on the back of the head. Still he was conscious and talked. Physicians performed an operation at the hospital, and within two hours he died.

$6.75 for **$12.50 Morris Chair** (Exactly Like Cut—See Window.)

Quarter-sawed oak, solid mahogany and weathered oak, hand-carved—claw feet—biscuit upholstered, velour cushions—all colors—back adjustable to any angle. Others for from $4.50 to $25.00.

Open Every Night This Week Till 9 P. M.

THE HUB

Corner Broadway and Washington Avenue (Opposite Nugent's.)

Open Every Night This Week Till 9 P. M.

Open A New Hub Charge Account.

You can open one right now, when the Christmas-present pull on the purse is felt. It ought to prove very convenient right now.

Six More Shopping Days Before Christmas!

Six More Days of This Stock-Reducing Sale!!

¼-⅓-½ Off on Everything!

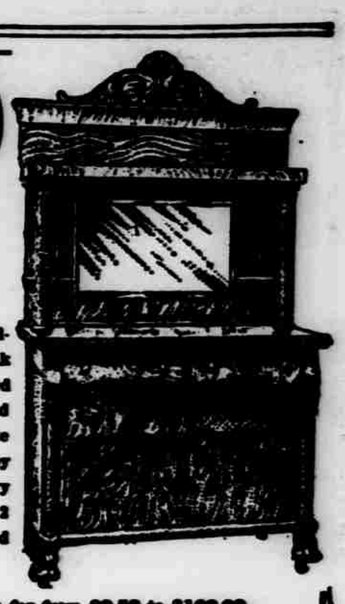
Appropriate, choice, dependable, useful Christmas gifts selling at "gift prices." A sale that is making all St. Louis marvel. Attend—purchase—save money. A sale that you cannot afford to let slip by.

Special offerings for the last 6 days:—

Christmas Mail Orders Shipped Same Day as Received

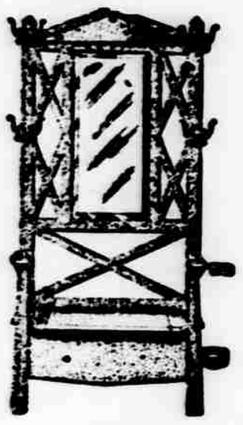
Prices and articles just as advertised. You can buy by mail as safely as you can buy here in person.

$27.50 For **$45.00 Sideboards** (Exactly Like Cut.)



A most massive, magnificently made Golden Oak Sideboard, round, veneered columns, heavy roll top and base, French bevel plate mirror measuring in. by in., swell front, heavy claw feet, measures 92 in. high, 24 in. deep, and 48 in. wide.

Other Sideboards for from $9.50 to $100.00.



$11.75 For **$25.00 Hall Trees.** (Exactly like Cut.)

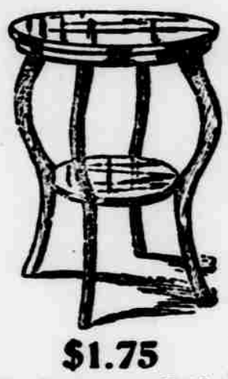
Weathered oak, hand-rubbed finish, solid brass hooks and umbrella stand, 80 in. high, 42 in. wide. French bevel-plate mirror 24 in. high, 16 in. wide. Others for from $6.50 to $45.00.

$16.75 For **$35.00 Solid Mahogany Chiffonier.** (Exactly like cut.)

70 inches high, 19 inches deep, 36 inches wide. Full swell front. French shaped legs, solid brass handles. French bevel-plate mirror, 18x30 inches. Others for from $8.98 to $50.00.

89c For **$1.50 Child's Rockers.** (Exactly like cut.)

Very useful Xmas gift. Solidly made of golden oak finish—turned spindle backs—rolled seat—worth every penny of $1.50. Other Children's Rockers for from $1.50 to $3.50.



$1.75 For **$3.00 Center Table.** (Exactly like cut.)

Always an appropriate gift. Modeled of golden oak, bird's-eye maple and mahogany—piano polished—with 16, by 16 in. top—shaped French legs.

Others for from 75c to $25.

$7.50 For **$12.00 Writing Desks.** (Exactly like cut.)

Daintily modeled Ladies' Desks; made of selected quarter-sawed oak, bird's-eye maple and genuine mahogany; superbly finished by hand-rubbing process; shaped French legs; large drawer; measure, 39 in. high, 15 in. deep by 27 in. wide. Others for from $3.98 to $50.00.

$6.50 For **$10 Music Cabinet.** (Exactly like cut.)

Finely constructed of mahogany and golden oak—piano polished—French bevel-plate mirror 11 in. high, 19 in. wide and 14 in. deep; French shaped legs.

Same cabinet without mirror for.. **$4.98**

$9.75 For **$20 Music Cabinet.** (Exactly like cut, see window)

Solid mahogany, 45 inches high, 30 inches wide by 16 inches deep; French legs with French bevel-plate mirror; 14 by 10 in., solid brass trimmings.

Others for from $2.50 to $35.00.

$5.50 For **$10 Oak Heating Stoves**

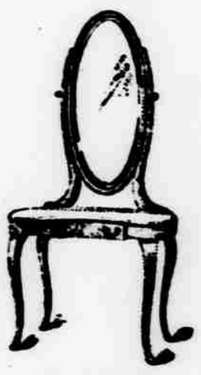
A good-sized heater. Nickeled screw molts, absolutely airtight, on ash and feed door. 18-inch fire pot, nickeled top ring and nickeled foot rest extending all around stove.

Smaller size $4.00 Oak Heating Stoves for $3.65.

$21.50 For **$40 Brass Beds.** (Exactly like Cut.)

Splendidly constructed bed, made of the best qualities of brass, English lacquered; 2-in. post and bow foot. A bed of manifest beauty and positive durability.

Others up to **$90.**



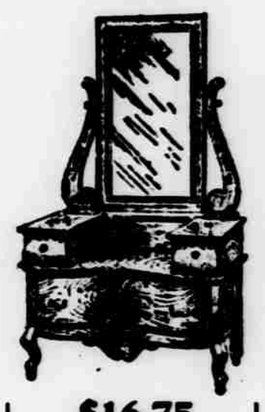
$13.25 For **$30 Dressing Tables**

Fitted with handsome oval-shaped French bevel-plate mirror; French-shaped legs; swell front; quarter-sawed oak and bird's-eye maple. A better Xmas gift than this could not be selected. Other Dressing Tables from $5.98 to $35.00.

$1.48 For **$2.50 Pedestal Tabourettes** (Exactly like cut.)

Superbly constructed of weathered oak, golden oak and mahogany, piano polished—measures 20 in. high—an acceptable Xmas gift to any housewife.

Other Jardiniere Stands for from 50c to $6.00.



$16.75 For **$25.00 French Princess Dressers** (Exactly like cut.)

French bevel-plate mirror, 20x36 in.; G. G. Cross handled frame; serpentine front; two small box drawers; 72 in. high, 46 in. wide, 21 in. deep; solid mahogany and quarter-sawed golden oak; piano polish. Others at $22.50 to $50.00.

$16.50 For **$22.50 Combination Bookcases.** (Exactly like cut.)

Quarter-sawed oak front; piano polish; 6 feet high; 3 feet 6 inches wide; French beveled mirror, 10x16; double bent glass doors.

Others for from $8.95 to $50.00.

$18.95 For **$35.00 Turkish Leather Rocker.**

(Exactly like cut)—Hand-tufted back, ruffled front, heavy springs; finest leather; extra large size; genuine value $35.00. Others for from $10 to $60.

GOVERNMENT RAILROAD TO OPEN NEW WHEAT BELT IN CANADA

Wide Strip of Land Just Discovered—New Ontario and the James Bay Region—Canada's New Mines and How Prospected—The World's Biggest Nickel Deposit.

BY FRANK G. CARPENTER.

Special Correspondence of The Sunday Republic.

Sudbury, New Ontario, Dec. 11.—I have spent a month in the past week through the new Ontario.

This is the solid northwest of the Ontario [illegible] opposite side of lakes Ontario, Erie and Huron.

The country near these lakes is about as thickly settled as Ohio. It has a population of [illegible].

It has some of the best farms of North America, and enough of them to be worth [illegible] and to produce grain, vegetables and fruits to the amount of $[illegible] a year.

And Ontario has good cities every few miles, with street cars, electric lights and all the surroundings of our best settled districts.

It is cut up by railways, and the country roads are such that one can go in an [illegible] through any part of it.

Great factories are springing up in many of the towns, and the whole region is one of industry and thrift.

ONTARIO OF THE NORTH.

The new Ontario is the vast frontier which belongs to Ontario Province. It lies above and beyond the latter.

It is the great north land between the Canadian Pacific, Hudson Bay and beyond Lake Superior and the Albany River, Thunder Bay and Rainy River districts in the west, which are now being opened to settlement, are about quite as long as from Philadelphia to Boston, and as wide as from Washington to New York.

The Algoma district, farther eastward, is almost as wide, and it extends from Lake Superior to the Albany River and Hudson Bay, while the Nipissing district, where I am now writing, runs from Lake Nipissing, not far from the Georgian Bay, north to James Bay.

It borders the Province of Quebec on the east, but as the Rainy River district, the other end of New Ontario borders Manitoba.

Until within a few years this vast territory was looked upon as valuable only for its timber. It was thought to be all rock and swamp, covered with ice the greater part of the year. Its only inhabitants were the Indian hunters, Hudson Bay fur traders and lumbermen, who have been cutting down the trees along the streams and floating them down to the great lakes.

Then the Canadian Pacific Railroad was put through, the great nickel mines about here were discovered, other minerals were also reported up, and the Canadian and Provincial Governments began to look upon the country as an available asset.

Within the past few years towns have sprung up all along the lines of the railways, and [illegible] have been started here and there upon the Ottawa River, which goes up into Nipissing and there are mining towns and lumber mills with farms about them on the streams above the Georgian Bay and along the shores of Lake Superior.

About five years ago exploration parties were sent out by the Ontario Government to investigate the country from Quebec to Manitoba. They have reported that there is a wide strip of fertile soil running from one end of this wilderness to the other, about a hundred miles north of the Canadian Pacific Railroad.

This region is of a different formation than that farther south. The land is a clay loam which will raise wheat, and it is now known as the great clay belt. The belt is several hundred miles wide, and altogether is estimated to contain in the neighborhood of [illegible] acres, or about as much as our State of West Virginia.

It is covered with timber, which will have to be cut off, but this may be done by the lumbermen when the country is opened. Otherwise the settlers will have to undergo the same hardships and difficulties which were common to the clearing of our Eastern States.

Both the Ontario and the Dominion Governments are anxious to make this country accessible. The Government of Canada has undertaken to build its transcontinental railroad through it, and by this time next year an army of track builders will be grading the route and laying the rails.

The eastern end of the Grand Trunk Pacific, which is to be built entirely by the Government, will begin at Winnipeg and traverse the clay belt, passing through Nipissing at about the latitude of Lake Abitibi and going thence on to the Atlantic, giving a short haul for the wheat to the seaboard and England.

The Ontario Provincial Government is building a railroad northward from Lake Nipissing, a few miles east of Sudbury, which will cross the Grand Trunk Pacific in the neighborhood of Lake Abitibi. It has already laid its tracks for about 120 miles, and it is now within a few miles of the clay belt. Its surveyors are working further northward, and they will complete their survey of the line to James Bay.

Another project is the James Bay Railroad, to run from here at Sudbury to about the same point, and a third is the Algoma Central Railway, from the Canadian Soo to Hudson Bay. The Algoma Central was begun by F. H. Clergue, and it now the property of the Lake Superior Corporation, an American company which owns vast properties about Sault Sainte Marie, Canada.

The road has already been built seventy-five miles from the Soo, and it has been graded for about ninety miles. It will eventually cross the clay belt, and, like the other roads to the northward, will give that region an outlet to the Great Lakes and Hudson Bay.

If the clay belt turns out to be as rich a wheat country as is predicted, it may be that the wheat will go to Europe via Hudson Bay.

The distance is much shorter than by the lakes or further south along the Atlantic, the chief difficulty being that the straits which lead into Hudson Bay are open for vessels only about four months in the year. This might perhaps be remedied by larger steamers or ice breakers, which could penetrate the ice floes.

The Canadians claim that they have as good a climate as the United States. They say their winters are not as bad as ours and that the long, steady cold makes better wheat and better men.

I am told that the country grows warmer a hundred miles or so north of the Great Lakes. The cold increases until you reach the height of land which divides the waters which flow into the Great Lakes from those which flow into Hudson Bay.

When you get over that ridge the weather moderates all the way down to Hudson Bay.

The clay belt is just beyond the height of land. At midsummer it is as hot there as in lower Canada or in the United States. Everything grows faster than in the States, for the days are fifteen or sixteen hours long, owing to the high latitude, the sun rising a little after 3 and setting between 8 and 9.

Surveying camp on Ontario Government Railroad, building towards the Clay Belt.

Wheat has been grown, I am told, by the Hudson Bay Company's agents about James Bay, and the people here predict that the clay belt will be one of the wheat regions of the future.

HERDS OF CARIBOU.

In talking the other night with a man who had been through this country, he spoke of the immense herds of caribou which roam there, saying that the existence of these animals is an evidence of good land, as they need rich vegetation to support them.

The caribou are seen in droves of hundreds, and sometimes thousands. They have, he says, cut trails across the country, and the droves are sometimes so large that you can hear their rush as they go by your camp at night. Moose are found in great numbers in the forests farther south. They are browsers rather than grass eaters, their necks being so short that they have to get down on their knees when they eat grass.

The Ontario Government is now planning to open up the clay belt to settlement. It will give 160 acres free to settlers on certain conditions, and they can buy 160 acres more at 50 cents an acre.

I am told that some tracts have already been taken, but these are along the streams, which give an outlet to the south. No real colonizing or settling can be done until the railroads have opened up the country.

It is different in the Rainy River region and in the Thunder Bay districts. They lie across the way from Minnesota and are already accessible by the Canadian Pacific and the Canadian Northern roads.

As to the colonization of the clay belt itself, one should take all the statements concerning it with a grain of salt. Much of the land is probably good, but the cutting off of 160 acres of trees to make a farm is an enormous undertaking, and without it can be done for the timber upon it, the pioneers expected will not speedily appear.

VAST AREAS OF SWAMPS.

Much of the country between here and the height of land is, barring the timber, not worth 10 cents an acre.

I rode all day through the woods going north from the Canadian Pacific line to Cobalt, on the Ontario Government Railway, which has recently been put through. The road winds its way in and out among lakes, sloughs and swamps.

The country is covered with pine and hard wood, and is so cut up by water that you can go almost all over it in a canoe. Even along the railroad it is so swampy and boggy that the telegraph poles have to be propped up, and outside the swamps it is so rocky that deep holes cannot be made. In such places great piles of rock are built up about the poles to support them.

Some of the country is made up of bog, known as muskeg. This is a bottomless swamp, covered with a thin coat of vegetation, through which one sinks down as though in a quicksand, and if not speedily rescued is liable to drown.

Hunters in traveling over it have to jump from root to root, making their way by means of the trees which grow here and there. There is said to be much muskeg in the region of Hudson's Bay, and almost everywhere throughout this northland.

I am told it can be drained, and that, in this case, a country somewhat like that of Northwestern Ohio, which was once known as the Black Swamp, may be produced. This might be a possibility in the clay belt, but it certainly would not be so in the region I passed through, on account of the rocks.

TOP OF OUR CONTINENT.

This great clay belt is just about on the roof of the North American Continent. It is near the dividing of the waters and on the Hudson's Bay slope. There are seven good-sized rivers flowing through it, which are about 300 miles long, and it is well watered throughout.

The streams on this side of the ridge flow down into the great lakes, and a little west of Lake Superior to the Gulf of Mexico. On the other side they flow into Hudson's bay or by the Mackenzie and other rivers into the Arctic Ocean.

The country here is rough. It looks as though it were the scum of mother earth's head, and here about Sudbury and all the way along Georgian Bay and Lake Superior the old lady's head is covered with gigantic warts in the shape of rocks.

There are some farms, but they lie between the warts. The same character of country extends for many miles northward, save that the rocks are in the woods.

The soil is so thin in most places that it can be tipped off like a strip of carpet, and almost everywhere the scarred rocks show out above it.

Half the rocks one sees are boulders, some the size of an elephant, and others approaching that of a great apartment house. Even the flat rocks are ground smooth, and one sees the work of the glaciers everywhere. Indeed bed rock is close to the surface.

Some of the miners tell me that this part of the world is the oldest formation known, and that rocks which are found far down in other parts of the continent here lie at the surface. One well-known man, who is something of an authority on the minerals of this part of the world, believes that this is why the cobalt and nickel lie at the surface.

The nickel he supposes to be the core of the world, saying that if one could get at the heart of old mother earth he would find that it is made of nickel steel.

I doubt whether the southern part of New Ontario will ever be worth much for farming, although the land between the rocks is said to be rich. The whole country, however, is filled with minerals.

This is especially so about Lake Superior and Georgian Bay, and above these no one knows how far northward. I have met a number of explorers who have crossed the country from here to Hudson Bay.

They say there are evidences of gold, silver, copper and iron all along the way. There are immense beds of gypsum near James Bay, and also signs of petroleum and gas.

These explorers, however, have only gone along the streams over two or three known trails, so that the region is unknown and unprospected. The Canadian geological survey has made some explorations and reported thereon, but no one has any idea what the country really contains.

So far two of the best mineral regions have been discovered through railroad cuts. The new cobalt silver mines, which may possibly yield $[illegible] or more within the next few years, were discovered by the Temiskaming Railroad builders in excavating the roadbed about Cobalt Lake; and the nickel mines here, which are now supplying more than half the nickel of the world, were stumbled upon by the Canadian Pacific Railway while grading its tracks twenty-five years ago.

Prospecting here is not like the business as carried on in the Rocky Mountains. There one can go around toting his pack on horseback or donkeyback and chip the rocks with his hammer.

Here the country is wooded, and there is so much muskeg that it is impossible to make one's way though, except upon foot. The prospector carries his blanket, provisions and tools on his back, holding them there by a wide strap about his forehead.

He has often to uncover the soil; and, in the cobalt region, make trenches here and there, stripping the earth from each likely spot, to see if the rich silver veins will not show out in the rock. One indication of cobalt silver is known as cobalt bloom. This is a beautiful pink, which the cobalt in the rock takes on when exposed to the weather.

Where there is much of it it looks for all the world just like the rouge which our society belles put on their cheeks in a vain attempt to imitate nature.

In prospecting for nickel the men keep their eyes open for what the Germans call iron hat caused by. This is a red coating of iron rust covering the hillside or the rocks which indicates that the minerals, which may lie below, contains nickel and copper.

The Creighton mine, which I described in another letter, was found in a swamp. The nickel cropped out on the edge and was followed under the water. The swamp was then drained, and the largest ore bed of nickel ever known was discovered.

There are other swamps about here which may be standing on nickel. Indeed, the nickel deposits of this country seem almost inexhaustible. It is estimated that there are more than half a billion tons in sight, and the metal is now found throughout a territory about twice as big as Rhode Island.

Indeed, the most wonderful metal basin in the world is that which contains Lake Superior. This lake is the largest body of fresh water on earth.

It is almost as big as the State of Indiana, and in some places it is about 1,000 feet deep. This vast body of water seems to be in a basin of valuable ores.

There is copper all around it, and iron mines on both sides of it which are of enormous extent. The greater part of the ore used by the Steel Trust comes from Lake Superior, and, indeed, it is safe to say that most of the tracks over which the trains go are composed of Lake Superior ores.

I will not speak of the vast bodies of ore on the United States side. Those on the Canadian side are known to be of vast volume. Canada has ranges of iron mountains which are said to be a continuation of the Minnesota mines which now lead the world as iron producers.

The Lake Superior Company is shipping ore from some of these mines, and is taking it from the Helen mines in connection with other ores, to make the steel rails for Canada's new railroads. In addition there are other ranges farther north, which are said to be of great value.

It is the same with copper. There is a belt of that metal running 60 miles along Lake Superior and the Georgian Bay and extending northward to the height of land.

FRANK G. CARPENTER.

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