

# This Entire Village Is to Be Moved

By **GEORGE M. FISHER**



This entire street, formerly the main portion of the city, will be moved within three months. Many of the buildings on the extreme upper end of the picture have already been taken to the "New Hibbing."

**H**IBBING is being moved. Located in the heart of the iron ore district of Northern Minnesota, it must make way for extensive mining operations by the United States Steel Corporation. For twenty years it has been common knowledge that the ore body in the east, west, and north sides of the original forty acre townsite of Hibbing extended under the principal business section. This ore the big mining interests want and want badly.

For the last ten years, the most densely populated district of Hibbing has been surrounded by open pits, making it impossible for the village of Hibbing to expand on its original site. The northerly extremity extends out thumb-shaped and somewhat like a plateau, some of its buildings being perched on the edge of the wide gorge, hewn deep into the earth. Since the original townsite was laid out, the mines have steadily encroached on it, the Sellers from the north and east and the Rust Mine from the west.

The Oliver Company, subsidiary of the United States Steel Corporation, had already acquired the right of the minerals under this forty acres by lease in 1899, and two years ago began to buy surface rights. It paid \$2,500,000 and today owns the majority of lots and buildings in an area of more than eight city blocks.

After these purchases were made it became necessary to acquire a new location for that portion of the village that had to be transplanted. One mile away was the Central Addition, owned by the mining company, and here is to be the "New Hibbing." The first buildings were moved from the original townsite to the new addition in September, 1918. All frame buildings in good condition have been transferred and brick buildings are to be moved next. Structures that are in poor condition are to be torn down. About eighty dwellings, twelve frame buildings and eight brick business blocks, will be "on the go" shortly. The city hall, the finest and largest building to be moved, and worth over \$100,000, presents some difficulties to the house moving firms at work here. In order to transfer it, it will be necessary to set back telephone posts on one of the main streets and remove temporarily the fence and part of the grandstand of the town's baseball park. The cost of moving this building will be \$80,000. When the village authorities abandon the streets,

40,000 yards of wood paving block laid seven years ago will be removed and laid down in the streets of the new location. Lamp posts, electric light poles, light wires, hydrants, man-hole-ring covers, fire-alarm boxes and trees on the boulevards will all go from the "Old Hibbing" to the "New." The moving of the buildings has been done by steam log haulers of the caterpillar type. This seems to be the most satisfactory, although garages and small buildings have been moved with tractors. The Central Addition, where all of these buildings have been moved, is growing very rap-

or Southern Additions. The application for a temporary injunction was argued November 28th and 29th, and was taken under advisement.

For many years the Great Northern Railway Company's tracks entering Hibbing have skirted the southerly edge of the Hull-Rust mine for a distance of about a mile and a half. The Great Northern held this right of way, subject to mineral reservations. The Oliver Company indicated to the company that the location of the tracks was delaying mining operations in the Hull-Rust mine and preventing its extension to the south. Accordingly, the Great Northern made an application to the Minnesota Railroad and Warehouse Commission for leave to abandon the tracks of the Duluth, Mesaba and Northern Railroad Company, at the southerly edge of the Southern Addition, and nearer the Central Addition. This application was granted and the railroad company started to tear up the tracks. The Oliver Company's stripping shovels followed quickly along and tore up the roadbed. The plaintiffs in the original injunction suit rushed back into court to stop this work, and the case is still hanging fire.

Moving day for Hibbing was not without its reward, however. Among buildings erected by the United States Steel Corporation in the New Hibbing are a \$350,000 hospital and a \$350,000 hotel. The Old Hibbing, a typical mining town of many modern buildings, is to be replaced by a modern city with modern brick buildings, wider streets and more up-to-date conveniences.

That this is true is already in evidence, for a number of houses that have been moved have been placed on a good wide street presenting a much better appearance than in the old town.

The same will be true of business houses. The old ones that are being moved and the new ones will make for a better business section. Hibbing feels that it has been put to considerable trouble to move but Hibbing still lives in a better place for the trouble.



The city hall of Hibbing which is to be moved. It is built of concrete and pressed brick and is one of the best appearing municipal buildings in the state. To move it, a part of the ball park of the town and a street will have to be widened in order that it can be "transplanted."

idly. Since September, sixty-two buildings, dwellings and three store buildings have been moved onto the site and twenty-four new buildings have been built. The new village power plant, including the municipal heating system, is nearly completed at an estimated cost of \$1,000,000. In order to allow the new addition to connect up with other residential sectors, a track fill along the east edge of the addition with thousands of tons of earth, has to be removed and huge steam shovels, the largest in the world, are cutting gaps into the earth banks. Within another year, the mining company officials say, there will be little left of what was the original business section of Hibbing.

Recently fifteen persons residing in the southern end of the business and residential district, the Pillsbury and Southern Additions, and in the townsite of Stuntz, just outside of the village, began an action against the Oliver Company, the Village of Hibbing and the Mesaba Electric Railway Company, to enjoin the village from disposing of its property in the original townsite, enjoining the vacation of streets, enjoining the railway company from removing its tracks and enjoining the Oliver Iron Mining Company from doing certain things which would permit the mining of the northerly forty acres.

They suggested that the Oliver Company purchase their property but it has no interest in the ore underlying the Pillsbury



Why it is necessary to move Hibbing. The old village itself is on the very edge of deep ore pits as shown in the picture. This shows the Sellers open pit iron ore mine and a part of the village dangerously close to its banks.

*What is going to become of that project to give steamers from Chicago, Milwaukee, Duluth, Detroit, Toledo, Cleveland, Buffalo and other cities on the Great Lakes, passage through the St. Lawrence and on to Liverpool and other ocean ports?*

*Many people are for it, but what of New York?*

*You can read about it in the next number of THE DEARBORN INDEPENDENT.*

*There will be also a very interesting article on how 24 workmen in England started a co-operative store which developed into a corporation business of over three hundred million a year. All members get goods at cost and the cost is low.*

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