

**FORTUNES WON OR LOST.**

**RICHES YIELDED BY MINNESOTA LANDS TO PRESENT OWNERS.**

Despoiled Tract of Pine Land Found to Contain Ore; with Millions—Luck Abroad of Minnesota men Who Failed to Gain Wealth at Home.

In 1894, township 57 20, Duluth Mint, was offered at public sale by the Government. A little of it was bought by lumbermen, but most of it remained unsold. Shortly afterward M. H. Alworth bought a large tract of land for the pine thereon and having no money, obtained the necessary cash from a Detroit man who gave him a third interest in all he selected and bought for the work of selection. A tract of 160 acres lying close to what is now the town of Hibbing was bought by Alworth for \$1.25 an acre, \$200 in all. Recently one-half of this tract was sold for \$400,000 cash to John D. Rockefeller and his associates in the Lake Superior Consolidated Mines. Alworth's share was \$133,000. From other sales to mining companies of lands in the same locality bought at the same time and in the same way, Mr. Alworth is a millionaire.

Two years ago the Chapin mine, which with its ships was sold a few days ago for \$3,750,000, was offered to a mining corporation of this city for \$200,000 and was refused.

Ten years ago John Helmer, of Duluth, took up a homestead of what is now Mountain Iron on the Mesaba range. When it came time to commute and pay \$125 an acre for the land, he was short of funds and one tract of forty acres had so little pine that he decided to give it up. It would have taken \$50 to keep it. To-day that forty acres is the Mountain Iron mine from which so much ore will be shipped this year that its owner, Mr. Rockefeller, will net about \$375,000, and his railroad will receive more than that sum. Fifteen million dollars would be cheap for the ore deposits and traffic contracts of this \$50 tract that Mr. Helmer dropped.

A few years ago a big logging company of this district abandoned some of its islands for taxes. The pine had been cut off and there was no visible value to the ground. One of its members thought there might be value in the land for farming or something else by and by and paid the taxes, taking the land in his own name. Last spring he sold out to the American Steel and Wire Company for \$800,000, and that company would not sell to-day for twice that sum.

A large interest in the Chandler mine, which last year paid a dividend of 40 per cent. on its \$1,000,000 capital, was once sold by a Duluth man for \$2,700. Scores of mines of iron, copper, gold and silver, in this vicinity which were sold for a few dollars, or for a grub stake, have since brought their tens and hundreds of thousands. The list might be multiplied indefinitely, and with striking examples as any of those noted. Is it any wonder that Duluth men are interested in mines widely scattered over the world.

Three notable instances of enormous profits coming to Duluth men from discoveries of mines and their operations have just come to light. Five years ago John McKinley was a mine operator on the Mesaba range in this county.

He discovered the McKinley mine, said to be one of the finest than on that range, and he soon sold to Mr. Rockefeller for more than \$10,000,000. Something happened and Mr. McKinley found himself worth not much more than enough money to pay his debts. In 1897 he saw a future in copper and spent his time in the Michigan copper region. He made money easily in lands in the Keweenaw formation around Houghton and the Ontonagon country, but was after something still better and finally went to the Sudbury region, east of Lake Superior in Canada. There about all the nickel of the world, except that from New Caledonia, is mined. The Canadian Copper Company, a creation of the Rockefellers and other standard Oil men, had the entire field. Last year it is said to have produced metal worth about \$11,000,000, and at a labor cost of less than \$1,000,000.

By careful prospecting Mr. McKinley found what he believed to be a bigger property than that of the Standard Oil people. He secured more than 4,000 acres of mineral lands, including what were known as Mount Nickel, Mount Etna and Trillabelle. The Mount Etna has three distinct veins from 15 to 1,000 feet wide at surface and more than 17,000 feet long. The Trillabelle has a deposit 10,000 feet long and 1,000 feet wide containing copper, nickel, gold, silver, lead, and cobalt, with a total value of more than \$40 a ton. The Mount Nickel has a rich deposit of rock containing all these mineral running for a miles across it. At a depth of thirty feet the mineral is ninety feet wide and at all points it is 300 feet wide. On this a reduction plant is now going up

which will be at work in about a month. It is predicted by experts that the concern will have its stock on a dividend basis in a shorter time than any copper mine ever opened.

The Mesaba range in northern Minnesota, which is now the chief source of iron ore in the United States, was discovered by the Merritt brothers of Duluth in 1891, only eight years. They branched out rapidly, and when the panic struck them they were unable to meet their obligations and the property, went into the hands of Rockefeller. The Merritts did not sit down and bemoan their losses. They went to Mexico, and there within the past year have opened mines they are said to be among the most wonderful of that rich region. They have now 300 men at work day and night digging silver and gold ore.

That is a second instance. Another has just been developed by the reports made by the Oxford Copper Company, smelters of New York. Their reports show that from a shipment of two carloads of copper ore from Parry Sound, Ontario, there was obtained for the Parry Sound Copper Company the sum of \$2163 net profit above all smelter tolls and freight charges from Parry Sound to New York. The Parry Sound Copper Company is a new thing, and its organizer and head was two years ago a starving and struggling lawyer of Duluth. He was starving for the reason that all his time was spent in the study of copper and in travelling to mining districts from the coasts of Alaska to the far East.

To-day the company which he is the head refused an offer \$1,000,000 for one of its many properties. Robert Forbes went to Parry Sound on the east shore of Georgian Bay, two years ago, and soon convinced himself that the copper veins were the richest he had ever seen. The region was settled by French Canadian farmers, and Mr. Forbes was able to get options on more than 12,000 acres of land of his own selection for a trifling sum. The company that controls the land is a close corporation, composed of Mr. Forbes

two or three Duluth men, and several living in St Paul and Minneapolis. The first purchase money on the properties was paid last March. The six first cars of ore shipped to New York netted the company \$7,957, or \$53 a ton after paying all the heavy transportation charges and the profits of the smelters. The company is now sinking a permanent working shaft, is down 55 feet in solid pyrites and bornite, and expects to catch the main vein at 90 feet.

Some 4,000 tons of as good ore as has been shipped is already on the dumps, and every ton of stuff handled so far has been pay rock. There is a vein traceable for eleven miles, and the company is sinking shafts as fast as it can find men to do the work. A smelter to handle 150 tons a day will be erected to treat rock that runs from ten to fifty-five per cent mineral. The rock is a good deal like that of the McKinley properties, in the minerals it carries, and in many cases the veins are from 200 to 500 feet wide. Parry Sound has been settled for years, and in the early days some exploration was done for copper with good results, but everybody seemed to have forgotten about it till Mr. Forbes and his associates learned of it, secured all the lands they wanted and began to show the riches of the region. Now every farmer for miles around thinks that if he holds on to his lands for a little while copper "will grow there, too."

**New Field of Work.**

Mary E. Wilkins has for years enjoyed the distinction of being one of the most popular writers in America. Many of her stories of New England life read as if they were designed for ultimate stage use, but so far as I have been able to learn none of them has ever been dramatized. At last, however, the long expected is to happen. Her novel, 'Jerome, a Poor Man,' will be turned into a play, in which the title role will be impersonated by Walter E. Perkins, the brilliant young actor who made 'My Friend From India' and its author, Harry A. Du Souchet, famous almost in a night.

In the new play Perkins will make a radical departure from his recent field of effort. For a number of years he has been prominently and successfully identified with the Du Souchet farces, and in that line of work he has earned such a reputation that most theatre goers have

**Let no one be Deceived.**

Many of the business colleges are now adopting various imitative schemes of our "Actual Business System." None of these imitations, however, bear any real resemblance to our laboratory system. None of them, like it, provides for a facsimile business community where the students perform face-to-face transactions among one another from the time they enter school. All of them use the same old bookkeeping sets of the text-book, disguised with a little so-called "business practice" or "office practice" which consists merely in making out a few fictitious "transactions." As a matter of fact there is no actual business about them, as any one can see who will take the trouble to compare them with the work of our school.

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lost sight of the fact that but a few years ago he was attached to some of the most prominent companies in this country and was playing legitimate comedy roles. From what I am able to glean of the fourth-coming enterprise, "Jerome" will not be produced before well along towards the middle of the season. "My Friend from India," being used in the meantime. The dramatists of "Jerome" wish to keep their names secret up to the time of production, but it may be said that one of them is a woman who is a newcomer of great promise. In fact it was she who discovered in the Wilkins story the possibilities of a successful play of the type usually effected by Sol Smith Russell. Perkins has the ability, and if the dramatists do their work well there is no reason why "Jerome, a Poor Man," should not be one of the big hits of the coming season. At any rate, the introduction of the work of such a prominent novelist as Miss Wilkins to the stage will be a matter of importance in literary and theatrical circles and the outcome of the experiment will be watched with great interest.

**His Close Call.**

'Ah,' he cried when she had accused him of not loving her as she wished to be loved, 'put me to the test. Ask me to travel to the ends of the earth, and I will do so for your sake. Ask me to labor night and day, and I will do so gladly. The only recompense I would ask would be the knowledge that it made you happy.'

Ask me to climb the highest Alp, and I—  
'Nay,' she interrupted, 'I would not have you attempt the impossible. All I ask is that you take out a policy with our company. You see, I have gone into the life insurance business. A \$2,000 policy will cost you—'  
But while she was drawing her books out of a secret pocket he escaped and is supposed to be running yet.—Chicago Times-Herald.

**HAD TO BE CAREFUL.**

Meandering Mike Displays Commendable Self Restraint.  
'Madam,' said Meandering Mike, with a low bow, 'don't ask me.'  
'Don't ask you what?' asked the women who was sweeping off the front porch.  
'To cut no grass nor to beat no carpets. Just gimme a piece of pie or anything that happens to be handy an lemme go on my way.'

'So you are afraid of work, are you?'  
'Yes lady that's what I am. I'm honestly and truly afraid of it. I'm trying to be good.'

'Well, so far as I can judge, you're not making a success of it.'

'Yer eyes deceive you, lady. I'm doin' fus' rate. But temptation besets me. It's all I kin do to keep from grabbin that broom out o' your hands an raisin such a dust wit' it dat folks ud come from de bouse down de road to ask about de tornado. You don't know the effort it takes to restrain meself.'

'Well, I'll lay the broom right down on the steps and watch you grab.'

'I wouldn't dast.'

'There isn't anybody hypnotizing you, is there?'

'No, lady. It's de danger of physical culture. You know what exercise'll do. It'll swell a man's biceps up till his arm looks like a roast o' spring lamb.'

'Well, what of it?'  
'Lady, I've got such a bad temper dat I have to look out fur it constantly. I wouldn't dare trust meself among me fellow creatures wit' so much muscle.'—Washington Star.

**CLAY SAVINGS BANK.**

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Such banks are sold for the ordinary purposes of a child's savings bank. They are always pretty certain to be among the things offered for sale in five cent stores or in stocks or lines of goods in which everything is offered at a uniform price of five cents, that being the retail price of the clay saving banks, and they are often used to collect money in for charitable and benevolent and other purposes. Sometimes the breaking of the jugs used for charitable purposes and the counting of what they contain are done in public. For such uses as these the clay banks are sold by the hundred. These clay savings banks are made in this country and are sold in considerable quantities.

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