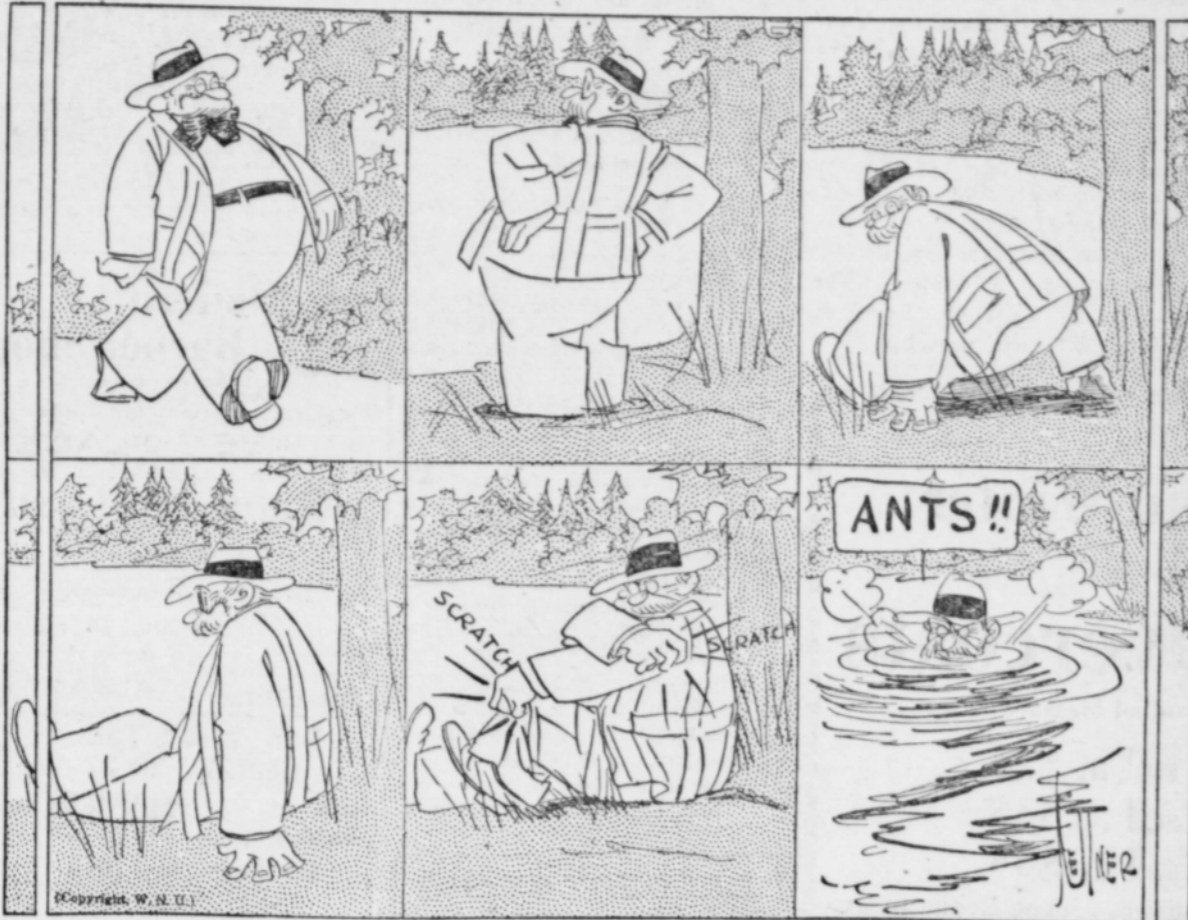


OUR COMIC SECTION

Our Pet Peeve



THE FEATHERHEADS

Oscar Proves His Point!



FINNEY OF THE FORCE

Sundial and Clock—Two-time Mama



FAMOUS MINING STRIKES

By THOMAS E. STEWARD

Discovery of Big Deposits in Minnesota

BEGINNING in the late Sixties there was intermittent prospecting for iron ore in northern Minnesota. Geologists considered the formations to be more than likely to contain large deposits. Exploration went ahead chiefly between Embarras lake and Birch lake, on the eastern end of the range. Yet not a single deposit of iron ore of such size and character as to warrant mining had been turned in, according to Leith. In fact, the range had been rejected by many mining men who had examined it. This was largely due to the fact that they paid more attention to the eastern end, which contains "magnetite," an ore in such close association with other rocks that it is extremely difficult to work.

Among the most persistent of the Mesabi prospectors were the celebrated Merritt family of Duluth. These were eight brothers—Lon, perhaps the best known; Alfred, L. J., C. C., T. B., A. R., J. E., and W. J. Merritt. Their faith in the range was the first to be rewarded in 1890, although the biggest strikes came in the year following. On November 16, 1890, one of their test pit crews, in charge of Capt. J. A. Nichols of Duluth, struck ore just north of what is now the famous Mountain Iron mine. This was followed in 1891 by the discovery of ore in what is now the territory of the Biwabik and Cinnabarr mines.

John McCaskill, an explorer, observed iron ore clinging to the roots of an upturned tree on what is now the Biwabik property. This led to test pitting, and test pitting by the Merritts on the area of the Biwabik mine, under charge of W. J. Merritt, led to the discovery of this mine in August, 1891. The Cinnabarr mine was opened the same fall and several others followed in 1892.

The discovery of ore near what are now known as the towns of Virginia, Eveleth and Hibbing followed in rapid succession. The excitement that followed the original strike at Mountain Iron was greatly increased by each succeeding find and in 1892 there came the inevitable rush of prospectors and adventurers. The old days of western mining camps were re-enacted in northern Minnesota.

The hardships of early prospectors who followed the big strikes on the Mesabi range were those of travel rather than of hardship in far distant regions. Leaving the railroad at what was called Mesabi Station, they were compelled to travel 12 to 50 miles along "fote" roads that were all but impassable. And when they plunged into the wilderness they were confronted by a succession of fallen trees, huge boulders and deep swamps that made their lives wretched. Notwithstanding these hardships they covered the area and with the explorers of rich mining companies discovered most of the famous deposits of iron ore in northern Minnesota. The sum that these discoveries have added to the national wealth must be measured in billions.

The American Radium Strike

RADIUM was "discovered," or rather isolated from other chemical elements in 1898 by the famous Polish scientist, Madame Curie, working in her laboratory in Paris.

For many years prior to that time western prospectors had been noticing the peculiar deposits of a substance known geologically as carnotite that existed in considerable quantities in the Colorado mountains. Following the discovery of radium and the revelation that carnotite was a mineral from which radium could be extracted, once a commercial process was found that would separate the radium at a cost that was not prohibitive, new value was placed on these Colorado claims.

It remained for a Pittsburgh family by the name of Flannery to make the plunge. Headed by one of the brothers, Joseph Flannery, they bought up a large number of Colorado carnotite claims and began spending money in research that would show a way to get out the radium.

As the years passed they came several times almost to the point of abandoning this venture and are said actually to have been in meeting, planning to stop work, when, in 1913, a technical man burst into the room with the announcement that a process had been perfected.

Extraction of radium from carnotite became an important American industry, measured on the minute scale that governs where radium is concerned. America began to produce about 25 to 30 grams of pure radium annually.

From 1913 until 1923 the Flannery radium concern dominated not only the American market but practically the world market for radium. In 1923, however, came more important discoveries of radium in the Belgian Congo. There radium was produced at a cost much below the American and in quantities approximately twice as large, four grams a month or nearly fifty a year. Since the Congo deposits, which come from a different ore from carnotite, have been worked the production of this rare and mysterious element has stopped in the United States.

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Standards of Living Highest in America

In one or two points there is a difference between actual conditions in the average American home and the general impression concerning them. On the whole a survey substantiates what had been generally believed. Bathrooms and sanitary plumbing are everywhere. Thirty-six towns from Maine to California have submitted to scrutiny. It is revealed that in villages, towns and cities standards of living are about equal, all being high. Americans are rightly proud of the physical comforts and conveniences put into almost every home by American mechanical ingenuity and American salesmanship. It is splendid to be able to keep clean easily, to talk to a relative a thousand miles away, to prepare a guaranteed pure-food meal in 15 minutes from sanitary cans, to motor, to keep a house dustless with an electric cleaner. But we may be missing some of the blessings of a more leisurely day, a writer in the New York Times comments. The pleasures of conversation about books, art, people or music are not catalogued. Perhaps they could not be made the subject of a scientific survey.

Long Enough

The young man's patience was nearly worn to a frazzle. For nearly an hour he had stood on the corner waiting for her. Finally she came up. "Oh, John," she began, "I'm sorry I'm late, but do you mind waiting just a minute more until I can run in the store here?"

For a moment the faithful John only looked at her.

"Why, you don't really mind, do you, John?" the girl asked in surprise.

"No, I suppose not," he answered. "But I've been standing on this corner so long already, people think I'm a recruiting officer."

Better Than Gas or Ether

In Chicago the other day a hypnotist put a patient to sleep in a dentist's chair and the dentist performed a long and painful operation on four teeth. The patient obeyed the instructions of the dentist, opening and closing her mouth on the proper schedule. She felt no pain. Plenty of things can be done with the mind when we develop more experts who know how to use it.—Capper's Weekly.

Record Reduced

The first record for traveling around the world was made by Magellan's expedition, which completed the circuit September 8, 1522, having been gone 12 days less than three years. The present record is 28 days, 14 hours, 36 minutes and 5 seconds.

The Exchanger

Mrs. A.—My husband says I shop on the S. B. O. D. plan.
Mrs. B.—The S. B. O. D. plan?
Mrs. A.—Yes; Send Back on Delivery.—Boston Transcript.



Feel Stiff and Achy?

TO feel constantly lame and achy is too often a sign of sluggish kidneys. Sluggish action permits waste poisons to remain in the blood and is apt to make one languid, tired and achy, with dull headaches, dizziness and often a nagging backache. A common warning that the kidneys are not acting right is scanty or burning secretions.

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