

EFFECT OF MORALS ON MINING.

In an interview in the daily press Mr Julius Moersch, an inspector of the Minnesota state labor bureau, says of the Minnesota iron mining districts:

"The lives of the miners are made far from inviting by their surroundings. Grog shops are furnished with all sorts of devices to entice miners and lumberjacks. Gambling machines, slot machines and immoral pictures abound. Sanitary conditions are also far from satisfactory."

This sorry arraignment of the Minnesota mining districts applies even stronger to many of the western mining camps. The mine owners and the local authorities seem to utterly disregard the social and moral needs of the miners.

A recent novel by Frank Lewis Nason entitled "The Blue Goose," points out the evil effects upon a mining property of saloons and debasing social conditions. The story is with a moral and relates the troubles of a young mining engineer in a western gold mine. The title is taken from the sign board of a saloon in the camp, a meeting place for the dissatisfied and a means by which the rich ore and concentrates plundered from the mines were converted into money and bad whiskey—principally the latter. In this saloon, inspired by the dishonest saloon keeper and his thieving patrons, a strike was hatched which resulted in the destruction of property and the loss of life.

Of course, in the story here is a love tale, and the hero wins out in both affairs of heart and of business; but he who runs can read the moral of the story. Every man engaged in practical mining knows that the way the men spend their time and money, too, when off duty has much to do with their efficiency and a great deal with the general sentiment of the employes toward an enterprise. With these self-evident facts ever present in mining districts, it would seem that the mine owners and the mine managers would have a special reason to endeavor to abolish these trouble sources and generally give consideration to the welfare of the men employed. Down in Mexico several companies in remote districts have out of the company funds built houses and schools for their employes, in order to keep them satisfied and to remove temptation and trouble. There are several American instances of the adoption of such a far sighted policy, but too often the opposite is the case. In one instance we have in mind, the mine manager has an interest in a saloon in which his men squander their time and money. The regulation of these matters is with the local public authorities, but very often in mining camps the mine is a power in politics, or by tact the policy of the administration can be influenced. The issue between the United States navy department and the authorities of the village near which the government navy yard on Puget Sound is located is an illustration both of a way to better local conditions and of the official recognition of the evil of neighborhood low grog shops on a body of workmen. The navy department actually closed down all work until the lax village officials enacted

laws to close the saloon dives at the gates of the navy yard.

The mining operator, aside from any consideration of duty to the public, is concerned in having a stricter control of the dives and a regulation of the sanitary conditions of the mining village in which his mine is located.

The Minnesota inspector is on the right track.

This is not a moral spasm, but a business suggestion to business men.—Mining World.

DONE TO DEATH BY SLANDEROUS TONGUES.

In Edgar A. Poe's poem, "Lenore," the following lines occur: How shall the ritual then be read? the requiem how be sung, By you, by yours, the evil eye—by yours, the slanderous tongue, That did to death the innocence, that died, and died so young?

Recently the New York World had an account of the suicide of a modest and highly sensitive young woman who "was done to death" by the tongue of slander and detraction. Her parents had been wealthy, and her father left her a competence, but her brother got possession of it and lost it and she had to work to live. She secured a position as a stenographer, and would have earned a living honorably, but some of her fellow employes made contemptuous remarks about her clothing, which was the best she could afford. Under their cruel and unjust criticisms she became morbidly despondent, took poison and died. "The slanderous tongue" murdered her.

Only a few weeks ago the world was shocked at the suicide of General Sir Hector McDonald, one of the most brilliant soldiers of the English army, who had won renown and promotion to high position for his services in many campaigns. Certain disparaging statements made about him so wrought on his sensitive spirit that he thought himself disgraced and took his own life. Subsequent disclosures proved beyond doubt that he was entirely guiltless of any wrong and that the statements made about him were base slanders. "The slanderous tongue" was again a murderer.

These two instances might be multiplied many times, but we have referred to them because they were so recent. They are examples of what thoughtlessness of malice can accomplish when a highly sensitive nature is the victim. There are those who can endure danger, hardship and all manner of privation without giving way, but who will sink and die under harsh or unjust criticism. There are some who care nothing for the opinions of others, and on whom no criticism, false or true, has any effect, but all are not that way. A sensitive woman or a highly strung man may prefer death to unfavorable comment, and may choose suicide rather than live under unjust or slanderous charges. Shakespeare alludes to one who was "done to death by slanderous tongues," an expression more poetically expressed in Poe's "Lenore," but the great dramatist in another place speaks of slander—

Whose edge is sharper than the sword, whose tongue
Outvenoms all the worms of Nile,
whose breath
Rides on the posting winds, and doth belie
All corners of the world.
—Montgomery, Alabama, Advertiser.

MONUMENT TO INDIAN GIRL WHO GUIDED LEWIS AND CLARK

Mrs. Eva Emery Dye, of Oregon City, Oregon, whose historic romances "McLoughlin and Old Oregon" and "The Conquest" have brought her national fame, urges the erection at Portland, Oregon of a statue to Sacajawea, the Indian girl, who guided Lewis and Clark through the Rocky mountains in 1805.

Lewis and Clark wintered on their western journey among the Mandan Indians in Dakota. There they learned of the presence of Sacajawea, a slave girl of sixteen, who had been captured by the Blackfeet in one of their predatory expeditions against the Shoshones, held by them as a slave, and became the wife of Chabonneau, a French half-breed interpreter. They induced Sacajawea and her husband to join their expedition, and the Shoshone girl wife rendered invaluable service in piloting the expedition through the Rocky mountains to her former home, and establishing friendly relations, not only with the Shoshones, but also with the Flatheads and the Nez Percés.

It is the purpose to erect this statue, at a cost of about \$6,000, with contributions from the women of Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana and the Dakotas. The undertaking is most commendable. The statue would stand an enduring monument to this remarkable girl and

would also, in a measure, serve as a memorial to a host of Indian women in the Pacific northwest who rendered kindly aid and service to the pioneers.

Savage though she is, the Indian woman possesses many of the virtues which ennoble the heart and mind of her civilized sisters. Sacajawea possessed these virtues in high degree, and the romance of her life is indissolubly blended with one of the most stirring and important chapters of our national history.—Spokesman Review.

Will Bore Artesian Well.

W. J. Patterson, of the Queen City Furniture company, and Mr. Tom Proffitt, the well known stockman, have just completed their purchase of a \$3,500 drill and machinery for boring artesian wells. The apparatus will arrive here January 1, and the first experiment will be made on Mr. Proffitt's ranch near this city. The drill has a capacity of 3,000 feet, and it is the intention of these gentlemen to bore a number of wells for the purpose of demonstrating the feasibility of irrigating the arid lands of this county by a series of artesian wells. Government geologists have positively stated that plenty of water can be obtained in this valley through artesian wells at no great depth. With a little more water we can take care of 50,000 more people in this county.—Democrat.

How to Get Interest

If you wish to deposit money for a specified time and get interest, bring it to this bank and take one of our Time Certificates.....

BANK OF SUMPTER SUMPTER, OREGON

A. P. GOSS, President and Cashier

SYDNEY S. FOSTER, Asst. Cashier

His First Complaint

"The writer regrets the necessity of lodging complaint concerning your usual excellent service, but in a friendly spirit begs to submit the following: Yesterday you sold me lower nine, car three, on The Pioneer Limited. But you neglected to advise me that it would be necessary to have the porter waken me in the morning, and as there was so little motion to the car, I overslept. I have covered a large area on some of the famous trains of the United States and this is the first complaint of this character I have made. I trust you will see to it in the future that passengers are advised."

The Pioneer Limited runs daily from St. Paul to Chicago via the

Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway

H. S. ROWE
General Agent 134 Third St., Portland, Ore.