

LA SALLE FIRST TO USE ILLINOIS COAL

FOUND AT STARVED ROCK

Tradition Tells How Chunk of Bituminous Was Utilized to Heat Forge During Historic Trip

Additional historic interest is given to the lore surrounding Starved Rock, in the announcement of M. M. Leighton, chief of the state geological survey, that it was at this point coal was first discovered on the American continent and first successfully utilized in industry.

The repairing of an iron kettle, or possibly it was a helmet, cracked 244 years ago by some mishance in the American wilderness, resulted in the tapping of one of the richest resources in the New World and has brought about development of industries in the state of Illinois with products of approximately one million dollars for each working day of the year.

Accident Brings Discovery
According to the best authenticated facts, when the French explorer Robert Cavalier Sieur de La Salle, set out in an effort to discover for his king a new route to China—through the Great Lakes and down the Illinois river—he had no thoughts emergency repairs to his outfit would be the starting of modern industries in this section of the world.

But an accident while LaSalle's party was encamped at Fort St. Louis, near Ottawa, in 1683 has led to momentous developments.

Whether it was a helmet or a kettle which was cracked in a fall over the bluffs, and had to be repaired, history does not make clear. It may have been one as well as the other, with equal emergency, for the great Frenchman was not only a gentleman and a soldier, but also a good judge of things to eat.

The loss of a kettle, always a precious necessity to men of taste in the wilderness, would be to LaSalle as great a calamity as the loss of a helmet.

Forge Is Erected
Whether it was a headpiece or a utensil necessary in the preparation of food which suffered damage, a forge was set up in the camp on Starved Rock and preparations were commenced for the slow and wearisome task of welding by means of charcoal.

Then one of the soldiers who had been exploring one of the ravines brought into camp a lump of "charbon de terre," the first piece of coal to be recognized in the New World.

They knew it was coal when it blazed white hot on the primitive forge. And LaSalle was pleased with the welding.

The sharp eyed scout who picked up that original lump of coal and the blacksmith who utilized it in the primitive welding, were really the first to tap the rich resources which have contributed to making Illinois the best balanced industrial state in the union. From the little forge in the wilderness, set up in an emergency, Illinois has become the third state in the union in manufacturing, with a production of 67,837,441 tons of coal during 1926.

The discovery of 244 years ago has led to the development of one of the world's richest stores of mineral wealth, opened mines and blast furnaces, oil fields and refineries, limestone and silica quarries, sand and gravel pits, brick and tile kilns, pottery and cement plants, and countless forges and factories, the product of which is approximately one million dollars for each of the working days of the year.

As a result of the emergency repairs to the kettle—or helmet, if you choose—with the first discovery of coal in the New World, Illinois has risen to seventh among the states of the union in the value of its mineral wealth. From one little lump of "charbon de terre," picked up by the scout in 1683, the production of coal in Illinois has increased to nearly 70,000,000 tons during the past year, and within the confines of the state is located two mines passing the two million ton production mark during the year.

THAT SETTLES IT
Of absolute knowledge I have none; But my Aunt's washerwoman's son: Heard a policeman on his beat Say to a laborer on the street, That he had a letter just last week Hand-written in the finest Greek From a Chinese coolie in Timbuctoo, Who said that a son in Cuba knew Of a colored gent in a Texas town, Who got it straight from a circus clown, That a man in Klondyke got the news From a gang of South American Jews, About some fellow in Borneo Who knew a man who claimed to know A hermit who lived beside a lake, Whose mother-in-law will undertake To prove that a friend's sister's niece Has stated in a nicely written piece That she has a son who knows about The date the new Ford car comes out. —Exchange.

HORSES FOR MOTORISTS
Saint Paul sells horses to the motor mad Northwestern wheat farmers—more horses than are sold in any other city in the United States.—Woman's Home Companion.

MAN WHO GAVE AWAY MILLION GLAD OF IT

Turns Business Worth That Sum Over to Associates and Has No Regrets

One year after he gave away his million dollar business, the Indiana Flooring company of New York, Daniel W. von Bremen, who is well on the road to another fortune, declares he would do it all over again if he had the chance.

On the anniversary of his surprising gift to his associates, von Bremen told the American Magazine that he wanted to prove to himself that the idea that a man at the head of an ordinary business is the business is all wrong. "I am having a great time playing dead and watching my business go on as successfully as when I was 'alive' and at the head of it."

Von Bremen and his associates built up the business to its million dollar value soon after the war. One day he announced in a director's meeting that he was stepping out and turning over his control of the stock to be divided among the members if they conducted the business successfully for six years. "We had tried the bonus plan," he said, "but I found that all were getting a share of the profits whereas all of the workers do not actually build a business. Some just work. I had all that I needed. I had no desire to leave my son riches. I wanted to spend more time with my family and I knew I could not slow down from the pace I had been hitting. I had seen men die and their business live after them, so I realized that I was not essential to the company. But my primary reason was in seeing the people who had worked with me receive what they merited."

Nineteen men shared the controlling interest that von Bremen turned over.

ITALO-AMERICAN CLUB IS ORGANIZED LOCALLY

Purpose to Unite Italian Vote and to Aid in Making Good Citizens of Others

The Italo-American Deerfield Township Political club was organized recently and received articles of incorporation on August 15, according to report of its secretary, Guy VitVi. The purpose of the organization is to knot the Italian-American citizens of Highland Park, Highwood and vicinity in political matters in order to combine their votes; also the plan of the club is to help other Italian residents to become good American citizens. The patriotic aims of the new club are laudable and it is believed that it will have a splendid influence in its sphere. The officers are: President, Sante Pasquesi; vice-president, Egidio Mocogni; secretary, Guy Viti; treasurer, Victor Colombini. The club meets the last Sunday of each month.

Dr. Nicholas Murray Butler says that no great man has appeared as a result of the World war. But he didn't say it while he was visiting Mussolini.

PETER GANSEVOORT REVOLUTIONARY HERO

U. S. "PETER THE GREAT"

Sturdy Dutch-American Who Held Fort for Colonials in Days of Great Conflict 150 Years Ago

Few Americans perhaps know that America herself boasts of a Peter the Great. The American Peter was neither an emperor or empire builder but a sturdy Dutch-American who, one hundred and fifty years ago, gallantly defended a patriot fort against a superior force of British Hessians and Indians. His name was Peter Gansvoort and the flag under which he performed his exploit was made of shirts, cloaks and petticoats.

"The career of Peter Gansvoort forms one of the most interesting chapters of the Revolutionary period of American history," according to the National Republic. "This sturdy Dutch colonel was the hero of Fort Stanwix, New York. The one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of this gallant exploit was celebrated in August.

"Peter had nerve and bravery to spare. He knew not the meaning of retreat or surrender. He would fight anything from a wildcat to an army ten times the size of his own. He could not be bluffed nor bullied.

"When the British had surrounded Fort Stanwix and Col. Barry St. Leger sent a letter to Colonel Gansvoort demanding its surrender, that gentleman savagely dipped his quill pen in ink and, under date of August 9, 1777, wrote:

Writes Letter

"In answer to your letter of this day's date, I have only to say that it is my determined resolution, with the forces under my command, to defend this fort, at every hazard, to the last extremity, in behalf of the United States, who have placed me here to defend it against all their enemies."

Fearing he could not hold on long Peter sent two messengers for aid. These came in contact with Benedict Arnold who was still a brave and loyal officer. Arnold did not have troops sufficient to relieve the fort but he sent out a Tory whom he had captured and sentenced to hang promising to spare his life if the Tory spread the report among the British that a big American army was coming. The Tory did as agreed and the brave defenders of the fort were surprised to see the invading force depart. The Tory's story had spread panic among the Indians and the British officer was unable to hold them.

"Gansvoort hurried a messenger to Arnold apprising him of the retreat. Arnold sent nine hundred men to try to overtake the fleeing enemy, and the next day reached the fort itself. Gansvoort had also dispatched some of his men to harass the stampede. They brought back a number of prisoners and the private papers of St. Leger. Arnold returned to the main army and performed brilliant service in the Battle of Bemis Heights a short time thereafter."

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