

CURRENT EVENTS.

**NEW IRON MINES AT MICHIPICOTEN,
CANADA.**

By W. Frank M'Clure.

That the vast iron ore resources of the Lake Superior districts of the United States should find their counterpart just across in Canada is not altogether an unlooked-for development. It has long been a matter of wonderment in this country that Canada has been so slow to investigate the mineral resources of Algoma, in view of the favorable topography of the land and the existence of the great ore bodies as near as Minnesota and Michigan.

To-day the same capital from the United States that is building up the giant industries about Sault Ste. Marie, including the water-power canals, is opening rich mines at Michipicoten. This will result in Canada becoming the location of her own steel and iron industries. Already this evolution is rapidly progressing, and the Midland, Hamilton and Buffalo furnaces are using ore from the Helen mine, the first of the newly-discovered properties. The new steel mill at the Sault St. Marie, when completed, will use the Canadian product exclusively, and four vessels of the Algoma Steamship Company are bringing Helen ore to Ohio ports, from whence it reaches the Pittsburg furnaces. Some 350,000 tons have already been shipped to the United States at a profit in spite of the duty of forty cents a ton.

For shipping the product of these new mines a harbor with extensive dockage has been established at Michipicoten, twelve miles from the Helen mine, and about 130 miles from Sault Ste Marie.

The Helen iron mine is situated on Boyer Lake. The ore deposit has been exposed to the extent of 28,000,000 tons and the limit has not yet been found in two directions. The Josephine mine, more recently opened, is in the same belt but on Park Lake. This mine is also very promising. Then there are the Frances and Brotherton mines, on the same range. The output of the new Canadian mines is about 5,000 tons daily, but this will be greatly increased next season. The mining facilities are of the best.

Mr. E. V. Clergue, a brother of Francis H. Clergue, the promotor of all the giant industries in Algoma, is in charge of the ore mining. He found, early in the mining operation, that the bulk of the ore taken from the Helen mine contained an average of about 61 per cent. metallic iron, and 0.08 phosphorus, also that at the point where the ore body comes to the lake a Bessemer ore is found running as low as .02 to .03 per cent. in phosphorus and in sulphur from a trace to .05 per cent. The ore has a high grade in the market, also, on account of its low percentage of water.

The following from a report of Dr. Bell, of the Canadian Geological Survey, concerning the Helen mine, is comprehensive: "The