

## THE LAKE ORE SITUATION.

SINCE it is the key to the situation in the steel trade, the developments in the Mesaba ore range are watched with the keenest interest by producers all over the country, says Iron Age. In magnitude the resources of the range have grown steadily, until now it seems certain that the manufacturers west of the Allegheny Mountains and north of the Ohio River will have relatively cheap ores for many years to come. It has been asserted by men who are closely identified with one of the leading Mesaba interests that prices for ore for next year will be about at the level at which they now are. That seems to indicate that the tremendous struggle for supremacy now going on between some of the great interests will continue for some time to come.

One point has been raised in connection with the Mesaba ore supply which has been the subject of much controversy among furnacemen. It relates to the percentage in the burden which the fine ores of the Mesaba may be allowed rise to. By some of the furnace interests identified with mining enterprises records have been brought forward of successful furnace work with 75 per cent. up to all Mesaba ore. One of the largest plants in the country was known to have placed the limit at 25 per cent. of the ore mixture. But it is understood that new experiments are going on with a percentage rising considerably above 30 per cent. Of course, it takes a protracted period of work to get at data which will allow of safe comparisons, and they could not be available in the case referred to until the close of the year. One of the best managed group of two furnaces in the Pittsburgh district is reported to be doing successful work on a mixture carrying over 32 per cent. of Mesaba ore.

The question is one of the most serious import. It determines how wide the market for this class of ore is to be in the near future, and to what extent this grade will control the situation. The ores of the Gogebic, Menominee and Marquette ranges cannot be sold at anything like the figures at which the product of the new range can be landed at the furnaces. A certain quantity must be mined. It will not be taken out of the ground unless the producers get a little more than cost. Every ton more of Mesaba ore which the furnacemen can use displaces so much of the dearer product of the other ranges and narrows down the number of mines in them who can live. Every addition to the percentage of the cheaper ores which the pig iron makers can make lowers the cost of the producers in that section of the country which employs Lake ores and Connellsville and West Virginia cokes as raw material. It means that the steel works of the Central West have an enormous advantage over their rivals east of the Allegheny Mountains, and confirms the

dominating position which they now occupy. To the Eastern steel makers there could be no greater blessing than a cessation of hostilities on the Mesaba range and a smart advance in the prices of Lake ores.

## YE ANCIENT BALLAD OF JACK AND JILL.

Jack and Jill went up the hill  
To fetch a pail of water,  
Jack had great admiration for  
Jill's mother's blue-eyed daughter.  
"How tiresome it used to be,"  
Quoth lovely, laughing Jill,  
"To carry those old wooden pails  
For water up this hill.  
That pail! with cracks twixt every stave,  
We could not pause a minute,  
But had to hurry all the time  
To save the water in it.  
So badly balanced! If you gave,  
A single glance at me,  
A dreadful spill upon the hill!  
There straightway sure would be.  
Until that day! that happy day,"  
Here Jill gave way to laughter,  
"When you fell down and broke your crown,  
And I came tumbling after.  
Then mother bought an Eddy's pail  
Of Indurated Ware,  
A perfect dream! No hoop or seam,  
And balanced true with care."  
"Why, yes," quoth Jack, "my darling Jill,  
In June when we are mated,  
We'll buy with care our household ware,  
Of Eddy's Indurated."  
An American firm is negotiating with  
the C.P.R. officials with a view to establish  
a creamery in Arnprior.

Evanville has a bunch of potato onions  
containing seventeen separate ones all  
growing from one seed sown.

Tell me not in mournful numbers  
That I mustn't eat green fruit;  
What is life without cucumbers,  
Salt and vinegar to suit!  
For enjoyment, and not sorrow,  
Is our destined end and way;  
Just to eat, that each to-morrow  
Finds us fatter than to-day.

In one part of England recently wheat  
had reached a point the lowest it had  
touched in 200 years.

## COST OF PATTERN BOOKS.

Few ironmongers, I fancy, have any idea  
of the cost of some of the pattern books  
which are sent out by manufacturers. I was  
shown the other day a handsomely-got-up  
volume, in which all the goods were repre-  
sented in their natural colors, and I was told  
that its production had cost not less than  
£2,500, being at the rate of 10s. each copy.  
To this must be added the postage, and what

this would be can be imagined when I tell  
my readers that the total weight of the books  
was nine tons, and that over four miles of  
tape were used to tie up the volumes. No  
wonder manufacturers are anxious that great  
care should be taken of their patterns, and  
hesitate about issuing new editions.—Vulcan,  
in Ironmonger.

## AN ELECTROSTATIC PAIR.

He was the gallant engineer  
Of a giant dynamo;  
She sang to the wires all day long,  
With the chorus of "Hello!"  
He loved this telephonic maid,  
Till his heart's vibrating plate  
Was magnetized and polarized  
At milliamperic rate.  
His love he expressed in ohms,  
And amperes, or even in volts;  
In voltaic expressions, and dynamo figures,  
Or currents, and arc-lights, and bolts.  
Said he: "By the great broken circuit,  
Or more, by the Ruhmkorff coil,  
Your negative answers will drive me  
To some subway under the soil.  
"Not a spark of inductive affection—  
Not a positive 'Yes' have I had;  
I'm afraid the wires have grounded  
In favor of some other lad."  
Then regret, like a galvanometer,  
Or an astatic needle, it smote her,  
And she said: "Of love I have ions  
As strong as an Edison motor."  
So he opened the circuit, and clasped her  
In arm-ature, and held her there—  
And she was the belle electric  
Of this thermo-electric pair.

J. H. K. in N. Y. Hardware.

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