

## LAKE SUPERIOR MINES.



THE following is from the historical introduction to the "Annual Review of the Iron Mining and Other Industries of the Upper Peninsula," published by A. P. Swineford & Co., Marquette,

Michigan :

The Jesuit Fathers were the first in modern times to intimate to the world the existence of native copper on the shores of Lake Superior. In the seventeenth century—more than 200 years ago—impelled by a burning zeal for the salvation of souls, these devoted and intelligent Frenchmen, cross in hand, pushed boldly out into the savage North West. These men were something more than mere zealots ; they were good geographers, topographers and naturalists ; they were apt observers and possessed the skill and industries necessary to render their discoveries of value to mankind. Among other things, they carefully noted, as they navigated the great lake in their frail canoes, copper lying on the shores and in the possession of the superstitious savages, but it is doubtful whether these holy Fathers understood much about geology or whence the float copper came. The Indians seem never to have made practical use of this valuable metal, but regarded the copper in their possession as something sacred. At a very late day, since mining became an industry on the lake the same superstition prevailed. In this respect they were far inferior in intelligence to that prehistoric race known as the ancient miners.

The first published account of the existence and other mineral on Lake Superior, is to be found in "Lagarde's" book, which appeared in Paris in 1636 ; it contained many things which would be of interest to the general reader at this time, but we shall have to be content with a few brief quotations. All the information concerning the existence of copper and other minerals on Lake Superior given by