

A WONDERFUL IRON MINE.

What the gold reefs of Johannesburg are to the Transvaal, the Wabana iron beds are to Newfoundland, says a correspondent of the New York Tribune.

They form immense deposits of rich red hematite ore, three miles long and several

hundred feet wide, and showing 34,000,000 tons in sight above the water. The beds dip down at a about an angle of eight degrees, and it is believed that they extend below the sea in practically unlimited quantity, though what is now in sight will suffice for a generation's work. To all intents and purposes the mine is open quarry. The ore is got at by chopping off a surface covering of earth and rock and then loosening the hematite with charges of dynamite.

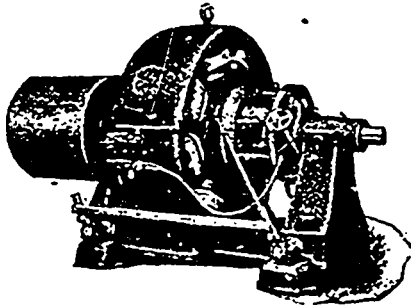
The deposit is one of nature's freaks. It is a perfect reproduction of a tiled floor. Countless millions of cubes of mineral are laid out with rectangular precision, following the trend of the stratification, and these seem to have been cemented and forced to-

gether by some giant machinery in prehistoric days. Layer upon layer of these cubes is seen in a vertical section of the mine, and the lines of cleavage are as clearly defined and the general arrangement is as perfect as a child's box of blocks. The only difference is that one cannot lift out one of these mineral cubes with the fingers, but a charge of dynamite fixed in a portion of the deposit by a steam drill shatters it for an area of many feet in every direction and separates the solid mass into its thousands of little bricks, each about three inches square, and as perfect in alignment as if produced by an artist. No mining, in the customary sense, is needed. The deposit lies open to the sun, and all the work involved is the loosen-

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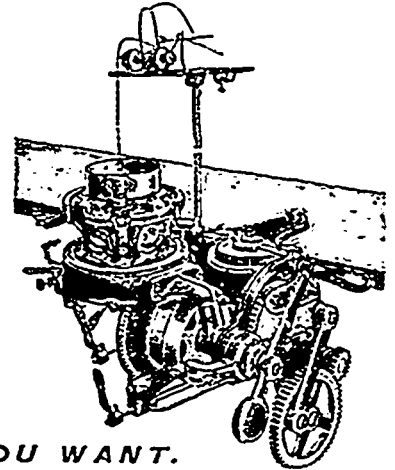
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