

LAKE FREIGHT RATES.

Lake freight rates on iron ore from upper lake ports to Lake Erie, during the past four years have been as follows, in cents per ton:—

	1914.	1915.	1916.	1917.
From Escanaba, Mich.	35c.	25c.	35c.	75c.
" Marquette, Minn.	45	35	45	90
" the head of the Lakes.	50	40	50	100

The Marquette rate which covers shipments from Michipicoten fell from a maximum of 94 cents in 1900 to a minimum of 35 cents in 1915. The 1917 rate approaches very closely to the record.

Shipments from Key Harbour (Moose Mountain ore), have been at the Escanaba rate or 10 to 15 cents lower than Michipicoten.

The above rates are quoted net, there is an additional unloading charge of 10 cents per ton.

IRON ORE PRODUCTION IN THE UNITED STATES.

The total shipments of iron ore from the Lake Superior district during 1916, including both rail and water shipments, were 66,658,466 gross tons, as compared with 47,272,751 tons shipped in 1915, an increase of 41 per cent. The shipments in 1914 were 32,729,726 tons; in 1913, 49,947,116 tons; and in 1912, 48,221,546 tons.

The total production of iron ore in the United States from all sources was in 1916, 75,500,000 gross tons as compared with 55,493,100 gross tons in 1915; 41,439,761 gross tons in 1914, and 61,980,437 gross tons in 1913.

During the past twenty years the Lake Superior district has supplied from 80 to 85 per cent of the total United States production.