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Accompanying a Message from the President of the United States, November 8th, 1864.

A summary description of the Lead Mines in Upper Louisiana: also an estimate of their produce for three years past.

[Continued from our last.]

6. Mine la Plate, situate on a river of that name, about two miles from its junction with Grand river, and eighteen miles E. S. E. from the Mine a Burton, was discovered in October, 1799, by an American; but the injustice done the settlers at Grand river, in the affair of the Mine a Mott, discouraged those concerned in the discovery from making any great attempts to open and improve it. In 1800 thirty thousand pounds weight of mineral was drawn from the mine by two Americans; obtained near the surface. The mineral assumes the appearance of regular veins, and there is not a doubt but this mine will be very productive. A silver colored fossil is found at this mine, but not in such quantities as at the Mine a Burton. The mine, at present, is unoccupied for the reasons before mentioned, and will remain so until a more favorable moment.

The land carriage from the mine to St. Genevieve, is about 20 miles. The mine may be considered as the property of the public.

7. Mine a Joe on Grand river, about 4 miles from the Mine a la Plate, and 14 south-east of the Mine a Burton, was discovered by Messrs. Baker and Ally, American settlers at Grand river, in September 1801, but was taken from them 1802, by one of those acts of injustice, not uncommon in absolute governments. While Messrs. Baker and Ally were suffered to work the mine, they obtained mineral in abundance; but since it has been in the hands of the present holders, it has produced but little. This mine is said to be private property, which renders it difficult to ascertain its extent and richness; but from circumstances it is supposed not to be very extensive. The mineral is found in pieces of several hundred pounds weight pure and solid.

8. Mine a Lany. This mine is situated six miles west of the mine a Joe, and 16 south-east of the Mine a Burton. It was discovered about the year 1795, and bears the name of its discoverer. The mine has not been much wrought, and from what I can learn, never produced any large quantity of mineral. It is not in much repute, and at present is unoccupied.

9. Mine a la Mott is situated on the waters of the river St. Francis, six miles from the main river, and thirty-four south-west of St. Genevieve; was discovered by Mr. Ranault, about the year 1723 or 24, who made an exploration, but finding no silver ore, he abandoned it. About the year 1723, a man by the name of a la Mott, opened and wrought the mine, after whom it is called.

Mine a la Mott differs in every respect from the mines on Grand river and its vicinity. The situation is flat, low; the water bad and unwholesome. The mineral is found in regular veins, from two to four feet solid. Five of those veins have been opened and wrought. They are found within four or five feet of the surface, with a declination of about forty-five degrees, but cannot be mined deeper (on account of water) than twenty-five feet, and to that depth only in the dry season. The mineral is of a fine steel grain, said to contain fifty ounces of silver to a ton of lead, and is highly charged with sulphur. Notwithstanding the French inhabitants of this country have followed the mining business upwards of 80 years, yet they have not advanced in the art of smelting a step beyond their ancestors. The methods they pursue bespeak their surprising ignorance. As the Mine a la Mott differs from those already described, so does their mode of smelting. The first process is by depositing the mineral in a pile of logs, after the manner sea shells are burnt to lime; the piles being set on fire and consumed, the quantity of lead produced is five per cent. It is then put into a furnace of stone, such as before described; from this process, if well attended, is produced fifteen per cent. more. After this second burning, they consider the mineral in a proper state for smelting. Therefore, collecting it from the ashes, they again put it into the furnace, arranged with logs at bottom and sides, and make an end of smelting. From the last process they commonly obtained about

fifteen per cent. making thirty-five per cent. the greatest quantity obtained.

At Mine a la Mott is also found, in beds, what the miners call gravel mineral because it is found intermixed with the soil, like fine gravel in particles from the size of a pin's head to that of a hickory nut. This mineral, after an imperfect washing, is put into a furnace, where it is suffered to melt into a slag, no attempt being made to create a fluxity of the metal from the dross. It is then put into a furnace, not unlike a miller's hopper with a grate at bottom underneath a fire is lighted, and continued until the slags are all melted, and a partial fusion effected. This mode of smelting produces about two hundred and fifty pounds of lead to a thousand of mineral. Notwithstanding the immense loss in smelting, the richness of the mines, and the small expense in obtaining the mineral, leaves an astonishing profit to the proprietors. I found by experiments, that the mineral, in the hands of skilful smelters, will produce sixty, and some of the veins seventy per cent. About the year 1738-40, the Mine a la Mott was considered as public property, and the people in general were allowed to work at it; at that time it furnished almost all the lead exported from the Illinois. But soon after the discovery and opening of the Mine a Burton, the Mine a la Mott was in a great measure abandoned; the mineral at the mine a Burton being much easier melted. The Mine a la Mott is at this time claimed as private property, in consequence of which the inhabitants in general are denied the privilege of working; therefore the annual quantity of lead is greatly reduced. For the year 1802 and 1803, the quantity of lead made at the Mine a la Mott, did not exceed two hundred thousand pound weight, although about thirty men were employed from four to six months in each year. It is evident that fifty men, under a proper manager, with a good smelting furnace, might produce five or six hundred thousand pounds weight of lead per annum.

It is difficult to say what part of the mine is private property, but from the best information, about fifty or sixty acres have been granted at different times. The mine, although not so extensive as the Mine a Burton, is supposed to comprehend a much larger boundary than what is granted to individuals, and may be of consequence to the public. The river St. Francis will not admit of navigation for an hundred miles below the mines therefore the produce of the mines must be transported by land to St. Genevieve, which is the nearest to water carriage.

10. Mine a Gerboire, on the waters of the river St. Francis, eighteen miles north of the Mine a la Mott, is also a discovery of Ranault, who made an exploration in 1745; but not finding silver ore, the principal object of his researches, he abandoned it. After which it was wrought by a Mr. Aura and others, until the Mine a Burton was discovered, when it was again abandoned. The old workings are extensive, but the quantity of lead produced, I have not been able to ascertain. It is said to be equal to any of the mines in the country. The commandant of New Bourbon, has a concession of a league in superface, comprehending the mines.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

Within twelve months past, several discoveries have been made near the Mine a Burton. Valuable lead mines have been likewise discovered about two hundred miles up the river Mettrimak; some of the mineral I have seen, which is of a good quality. In short, the country for twelve or fifteen miles round the Mine a Burton, exhibits strong appearances of mineral. In all the small creeks mineral is found washed down from the hills, and it is not uncommon to find in the draughts leading to creeks and rivers, and in gullies made by spring rains, mineral in pieces from ten to fifty pounds weight, brought down by the torrents. Some hundreds have been collected in this way. No country yet known furnishes greater indications of an inexhaustible quantity of lead mineral, and so easily obtained. One motive to render the mining business generally advantageous is, that every farmer may be a miner, and when unemployed on his farm, may, by a few weeks labour, almost at his own door, dig as much mineral as will furnish his family with all imported articles. From a view of the lead mines in Upper Louisiana, it may be seen that nothing is wanting but an increase of population to augment their produce to

a surprising degree. It is also evident, there are valuable discoveries yet to be made. It may therefore be matter of consideration with the government, whether the donation of four acres in superface to the discoverers of mines, would not be advantageous to be continued. The Spanish government has also allowed the inhabitants to work on public lands free from any kind of tax. A continuation of this privilege will exhaust both the mines and timber, without the least advantage to the public. On the other hand if a heavy imposition is imposed, it may discourage the mining business; yet, the man who can with his pick and shovel, make thirty, forty, and sometimes his hundred dollars per month, may well afford to pay a small tax to government.

The country about the mines is broken but not mountainous, and furnishes the best of land for cultivation, and streams of water sufficient for all kinds of water works. Grand river rises ten miles south-west of the Mine a Burton, and in its course forms nearly three parts of a circle round the mines and loses its name in the Fouché Ranault, which is navigable to the Mississippi: they unite ten miles north of the Mine a Burton, and it is remarkable, that in forming this circle, its distance from the mines does not exceed fourteen miles in any one place. It also furnishes both land and water, of a superior quality, sufficient for eight or nine hundred families.

Thus situated, the time cannot be far distant, when this country will furnish lead sufficient, not only for the consumption of the United States, but all Europe, if moderate encouragement is given by government, and protection against the Osage Indians, who yearly plunder the inhabitants.

The mines on the Waters of the St. Francis, are capable of furnishing great quantities of lead. The Mine a la Mott has been styled the Gold Mine, as descriptive of its wealth; and if under proper management would verify the observation.

From the annexed estimate it will be found, that the gross produce of all the mines now occupied, amounts to thirty-six thousand five hundred dollars. The whole number of workmen employed, including miners, smelters, wood cutters and carters, has not exceeded one hundred and fifty men, of which number one hundred and twenty may be supposed to work four months, and the remaining thirty, the year round. From this calculation, it will be found that each man employed in the business averages forty-three dollars per month.

To this may be added the increased value on one hundred and twenty thousand pounds weight, manufactured at the Mine a Burton into shot and sheets, which makes the export valuation forty thousand and one hundred dollars per annum, the average produce for three years past, admitting one thousand men to be employed the year round, at the different mines now known, and the quantity of lead produced to be in proportion to what is now obtained by one hundred and fifty men, a supposition by no means extravagant, the proceeds are found to amount to five hundred thousand dollars and upwards. This calculation, perhaps, by some, may be deemed incredible, but the riches and extent of the mines justify the calculation.

An estimate of the produce of the several Mines.

Mine a Burton—550,000 lbs. mineral, estimated to produce 66 2-3 is 366,666 2-3 lbs. lead at dols. 5, is 18,333 33	
To which add dols. 30 (on 120,000 lbs. manu. factured) to each thousand is 3,600 00	21,933 33
Old Mines—200,000 lbs. mineral, estimated to produce 66 2-3, is 133,333 1-3 lbs lead at dols. 5, per cwt. is 6,666 67	
Mine a la Mott—200,000 lbs. lead at dols. 5, per cwt. is 10,000 00	
Suppose at all the other mines 30,000 lbs. lead, at dols. 5, is 1,500 00	18,166 67
Total amount dols.	40,100
When the manufacture of white and red lead is put into operation, the export	

valuation will be considerably augmented on the same quantity of lead.

The following table will show the present population of the Mine a Burton and its vicinity.

Division of Settlements	Displaced by the Mine a Burton	American Families.	French Families.	Whole number of inhabitants.
Mine a Burton, including several plantations.		14	12	
B-View	10	20		
Old Mines	5		15	
Gr. River	12	30		
Total	64	27		

In June, 1799, when I removed my family to the Mine a Burton, the whole number of inhabitants settled on Grand river and its waters, did not exceed fifty, three or four persons, consisting of eight families.

N. B. Some late transactions, by order of the governor of St. Louis, if valid, will entirely change the situation of the public property within ten miles of the Mine a Burton. Surveys of all the lands worthy of notice, have been made with an intention to include every spot of land supposed to contain mineral. These surveys amount to thirty or forty thousand acres, and have been made except in a few instances, since the birth of the present month.

The above observations and estimates are as accurate as the nature of things would admit, and the shortness of time I have had to collect information. All of which are submitted with respect.

MOSES AUSTIN.

February 13, 1864.

SICKNESS IN NEW-ORLEANS.

An extract of a letter from New-Orleans, dated the 28th of September.

"It is with indescribable regret that I am compelled to communicate the most distressing intelligence of the death of the Lady of Governor Claiborne, and also of her amiable little daughter. They both died on the evening of the 25th ult. within a few hours of each other. Mrs. Claiborne died of the complicated disease, which has so long afflicted her. Miss Tennessee unquestionably died of a most malignant yellow-fever with which she was sick about five days. They were both buried the day before yesterday in the same grave, and at the same time amidst every expression of the most universal heart-felt sorrow of every class and description of citizens.

"The funeral was attended by a vast concourse of people, a numerous collection of ladies, which in the procession was formed were preceded by all the magistrates and public functionaries of the city, foreign officers and officers of the United States, troops and militia, all of whom seemed anxious of paying their last respect to the memory of her who was universally loved and esteemed, and of evincing by every ceremonial of grief, their lamentation at this most distressing event. The loss of the Governor is great indeed, and his afflictions most severe. But it gives me happiness to say that he supports his situation with a fortitude and equanimity of mind worthy of him. He has one consolation in a superior degree, that no person who knew Mrs. Claiborne for a single hour, does not feel and sympathize with him in this most severe misfortune. Society here is deeply sensible of the irreparable loss which is sustained. I will venture to say, that no woman was ever in this country more highly beloved and respected, and no one ever in her situation so much the theme of universal eulogium. All who knew her were her friends and she had not an enemy.

"You can scarcely have an idea of the dreadful ravages which the disease of this climate has made here the present season. It is supposed that two-thirds of all those who have arrived here the present year have fallen victims. At present we are permitted to hope that our calamities are at an end, as no new cases have occurred for these some days."

The hostile disposition between our Court and that of Spain, appears to be in a certain degree, compromised. The Spanish minister M. D'Anduaga, has returned to town, after escorting his family to the coast. The hon. Mr. Wellesley, report says, is to replace Mr. Frere at the Court of Madrid.

Capt. Rooke, of the ship Betsey, arrived at New-York, from Batavia, informs, that the produce of the Island of Java, was extravagantly high; which was the cause of a number of vessels leaving thence, for other ports to obtain cargoes.