

GENERAL REMARKS:

The product of the several producing mines for the year was as follows:

Stephenson Mine,	253,266 tons	
Gwinn Mine,	161,963 "	
Austin Mine,	51,659 "	
Francis Mine,	1,778 "	
Princeton Mine,	<u>492</u> "	
Total Product for the Year,		469,158 tons
" " " 1916,		<u>469,104</u> "
Increase, 1917,		54 "

During 1917 the Stephenson and Gwinn Mines have been the main producers. The Austin was operated from April 23rd to December 21st, and produced more than twice as much ore as in 1916. A small amount of ore was obtained from development work at the Francis. Sinking and drifting has been continued at the Mackinaw, and in September sinking was started at the Gardner. After the flooding of the Stephenson Mine in December the work of re-opening the Princeton was started. At the close of the year work was being carried on at the Gwinn, Princeton, Francis, Jopling, Mackinaw and Gardner Mines, while the Austin and Stephenson were idle on account of water.

There has been a shortage of labor throughout the year which has greatly curtailed surface work and other improvements which it had been planned to make. The production of the Stephenson Mine is much lower than it would have been if more miners had been available. At the close of the year, however, there was quite an increase in the number of men employed in the district, as compared with 1916, there being 714 men employed as against 573 in the previous year. This was due, in a large measure, to the re-opening of the Gardner and Mackinaw Mines.

During the past year there has been considerable building activity in the District. Five double houses and two single cottages have been erected at Gwinn, and five double houses at the Mackinaw-Gardner Location. At the end of the year all the houses at the Mackinaw-Gardner Location were occupied and there are now sufficient applications to fill at least five more double houses. At the close of the year there were four vacant houses in Gwinn. This condition is only temporary, and it is expected that all available houses will soon be

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occupied. One lot was sold and a cottage erected on Pine Street; another lot was sold and a building started on Maple Street. Both sides of Pine Street have been macadamized, and this is now the main thoroughfare thru the town. The addition to the High School, which was started in the Fall of 1917, was completed this year, and the ground graded around it.

The shipment of 879,577 tons in 1917 from the Gwim District were the largest ever made in one year. The Cambridge pile at Princeton No. 2, which contained over 156,000 tons, has been shipped, with the exception of about 3,800 tons. The large pile of Stephenson No. 2 ore south of the shaft has been shipped. There is, however, 71,118 tons of Stephenson #2 ore remaining in stock on the low ground North of the rock pile. What promised to be a most successful year for the District was destroyed by the breaking of the hanging at the Stephenson Mine on December 4th, which resulted in the flooding of the Stephenson Mine. All underground work had to be abandoned at once, and in spite of all efforts the mine rapidly filled with water. The Austin Mine was operated on double shift a short time in order to give the men employment, but the Austin had to be abandoned on the 21st of December as the water penetrated the mine through the caved ground.

The work of preparing the Princeton for re-opening was started with as large a crew as it was possible to work, and a double shift was also put on at the Gwim Mine.

Up to the close of the year there had been two volunteers to the Army, seven to the Navy, two to the Aviation Corps, three to the Medical Corps, five to the Engineers and twenty-two men drafted, making a total of 41 men which have left this District on account of the war. There were 363 men registered on June 5th, of which there are probably seventy-five in Class 1, some of whom have already gone; the balance will probably leave by June, 1918. There was a severe shortage of surface labor during 1917; this will be much more pronounced in 1918, as the draft did not start until in the Fall.