

Mr. M. M. Duncan, Vice-Pres. & Gen. Mgr.,
Ishpeming, Michigan.

Dear Sir:

I beg to submit the following report of the work done in the
Gwinn District for the year ending December 31st, 1923.

The various subjects have been taken up under the following
heads:

GENERAL REMARKS

AUSTIN MINE

STEPHENSON MINE

FRANCIS MINE

GWINN MINE

PRINCETON MINE

GARDNER AND MACKINAW MINES

GENERAL SURFACE.

GENERAL REMARKS

The product of the Gwinn District Mines for the years 1923 and 1922, was as follows:

	<u>1923</u>	<u>1922</u>	<u>INCREASE</u>
Stephenson Mine,	247,212	213,223	33,989
Austin "	82,976	50,905	32,071
Francis "	<u>110,550</u>	<u>98,049</u>	<u>12,501</u>
	440,738	362,177	
INCREASE, 1923,			78,562

The following table gives shipments for 1923, and ore in stock on December 31st, 1923:

	<u>SHIPPED</u>	<u>IN STOCK</u> <u>DEC. 31, 1923</u>
Stephenson Mine,	74,368	413,209 tons
Austin "	94,553	43,233 "
Francis "	0	364,004 "
Princeton "	25,642	191,747 "
Gwinn "	28,529	7,454 "
Gardner-Mackinaw Mine,	<u>10,264</u>	<u>50,562 "</u>
	233,356	
Ore in stock December 31st, 1923,		1,070,209 "
Ore in stock December 31st, 1922,		835,493 "
INCREASE - 1923,		234,716 "

The Stephenson and Francis Mines operated all the year, the Austin Mine from January 1st to November 19th. The Gwinn, Princeton and Gardner-Mackinaw Mines were idle the entire year. Water has been pumped at the Gwinn and Princeton Mines, and all the main levels kept in repair. The Gardner-Mackinaw Mine was kept unwatered until it was decided to pull the pumps the last of November. As the ore at this mine is hard and there is comparatively little timber, water would not damage the underground openings and as the incoming water was only 106 gallons per minute, it would not be a difficult task to unwater it

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when the mine resumed operations. It will be at least four months before the mine is filled with water.

The total product of the Gwinn District Mines, since the company started operations here in 1903, is 7,632,344 tons.

There has been no labor shortage during the past year. There has been a surplus of surface labor, representing largely the sons of employes. This surplus has gone to the automobile plants in Lansing, Detroit and Flint, and to the new Ford industries at Iron Mountain and L'Anse. Some men were laid off when the Austin Mine closed down, but the miners were given employment at the Francis and Stephenson Mines. The surface labor employed at the District Crushing Plant and for loading by steam shovel were laid off and most of the men have left the district to find employment in the cities.

On January 1st, 1923, there were 452 men employed in the district, on December 31st, 1923, there were 400, the decrease for the year being 52. On January 1st, 1922, there were 422 employed, so that the number now employed is less than two years ago.

For the first time in several years there are vacant company houses at Gwinn Townsite and at the Austin and Princeton Locations. Only four houses at the Gardner-Mackinaw were occupied at the end of the year. Due to the decreased program of work at the mines, the population is gradually decreasing.

The Company very generously deeded to Marquette County a small tract of land East of Gwinn, on the East Branch of the Escanaba River, as a County Park site. Work of improving this tract was started in August and continued until early in December. It has been fenced and partially cleared of under-brush, dead timber, etc. The low ground has been ditched, roads tentatively located, camping sites selected, and a general improvement program decided on. The park should be opened to the public next summer and will undoubtedly prove very popular both to Marquette County residents and to tourists.

The Austin School, a four-room building, caught fire on the night of December 13th, and burned to the ground. The building was covered by

insurance, but it was not enough to cover the cost of rebuilding. Work of rebuilding was started immediately and good progress is being made. The School Board decided to rebuild with day labor, sufficient of which was available, without interfering with the operation of the mines. The fire evidently caught from a spark lodged in the belfry and gained good headway before it was discovered. Temporary schools were opened three days after the fire, part of the children going to the Princeton town hall, the balance to the basement of the Methodist Church at Gwinn.

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