

# ON ELY'S SHORES

The New Town of Sparta Occupies an Exceptionally Beautiful Location.

## A DENSE FOREST SURROUNDS IT

And In the Tributary Earth Are the Richest of Iron Deposits.

## SEVERAL VERY LARGE MINES

The Young City Has Railroad Facilities and Many Other Advantages.

On the shores of Ely lake is the site of the new town of Sparta and a more beautiful location for a town, or a more advantageous one from a business point of view, would be very hard to find upon the Mesala range, or in any other part of the mining regions of St. Louis county. Three weeks ago the forest principal reached from the right of way of the Duluth and Iron Range railroad on the north of the town to the northeastern corner of Ely lake, broken only by the cleared right way and track of the Duluth, Missabe and Northern rail-

and the deer as they cross from island to island or from shore to shore, and bear, lie in the recesses of the woods, the muffled boom of the drumming partridge, Ely lake is about three and one half miles long and averages about a mile in width and it is an ideal sheet of water for pleasure boating. At the east end of the lake, adjoining the townsite, Michael Cronin is building a very complete and spacious modern bathhouse, which will be fitted with every convenience for hunters, fishers or pleasure parties. The site is a well chosen one being in a sheltered spot at the foot of a high bank, which commands a magnificent view of a part of the lake. There is already quite a fleet of boats for hire in Ely lake owned by another rest-

and of great depth. On the northern boundary of the townsite runs the Fayal branch of the Duluth and Iron Range road, while through the center of the town, east and west runs the Duluth, Missabe and Northern railroad. All the mines around Sparta will be deep shaft mines and of this kind are of an advantage over towns that have only

open pit mines to depend upon. The weather this spring has settled that question for all time. The heavy rains have interrupted so seriously the working of the open pit mines, that the men, of their own accord, petitioned the superintendent in more than one case to be allowed to work in rainy weather, to the end that they might get in enough time to earn sufficient to keep themselves and their families. Where this state of affairs exists the business of the towns must suffer, but where nearly all of the work of the mine is done underground, the men are able to work steadily and earn wages for full time labor.

The Genoa is at the present time the principal mine, working many men in the immediate vicinity of Sparta. The site is owned and operated by the Minnesota Iron company and is situated just outside the townsite in the southeast quarter of section 21-28-17. Ore is being hoisted from No. 1 shaft and another shaft is being sunk. The mine buildings are

MODELS OF THEIR KIND and Superintendent Channing is having a handsome street of cottages built on the hill south of the mine for the use of the employees of the company. The buildings at present consist of a two story warehouse, the upper part of which is now used for an office and the sleeping quarters for the company's officials, the office proper not yet being completed. West of the warehouse stand the change house and dry house and between shaft No. 1 and the new office, is the few engine and power houses. There is a small stock pile at present, but as soon as the new hoisting machinery is in running order the Genoa will become a shipping mine. The Duluth and Iron Range is grading sidetracks in from their Fayal branch. East of the Genoa is the Edna mine. This mine is also owned by the Minnesota Iron company and will soon be developed. At present, no preparatory work is being done which is requisite to put any location in shape so that the process of developing a

perfect mine can be successfully carried on. In section 24-28-17, the same section in which the townsite of Sparta is situated, lie the lands known as the Edna and Edna mines. The latter body that has been explored thoroughly and which has been found to extend about 1500 feet with an average width of 85 feet and depth of over 50 feet. At a distance of 600 feet from the 1500 foot stake, a test pit was sunk and some drill holes put down and the results show that there is every probability that this same ore body extends through the whole distance of over 2000 feet. There are negotiations said to be on foot whereby by this deposit will be worked within a short time.

In section 26 there is another large deposit of ore, besides that known as the Edna, which, however, will probably become part of the Edna mine. In section 25, about two and a half miles from Sparta, Captain Harry Roberts has been exploring for ore for some Duluth parties and most encouraging results have rewarded his efforts. There will be a big mine in section 25 before long and it will also be tributary to Sparta. In the northwest quarter of section 33-28-17 there is a good body of ore, the same as the Robinson and Flynn forty and west of Sparta, close to the line of the Duluth, Missabe and Northern. Captain Archie McConaughy will drill outfit at work. He has struck ore in every hole and as soon as he has ascertained the location of the ore he will continue his borings to test the depth of the find. Thus it will be seen that Sparta lies in the heart of what will become one of the most important groups of deep shaft mines upon the Mesala range.

Another great advantage that Sparta possesses is in the contour of the ground composing the townsite. From the northern boundary of the townsite to the shore of Ely lake the land slopes gradually. The surface of the land being gently rolling, and the trend of the swales and rises being towards the lake, a splendid opportunity for effective drainage is afforded. The soil is a sandy clay gravel free from rock and easy to grade and dig.

THE WATER SUPPLY is excellent, many fine never-falling streams being found upon and adjacent to the townsite. There are also some springs near by that show traces of sulphur, but are mineralized and it is by no means improbable that some valuable medicinal qualities may exist in these waters. The townsite lies on a high and is surrounded by the primeval forest, stretching for hundreds of miles to the north and giving to every breeze the balsamic breath of the northern pine. It is sheltered by a range of spruce pine upon oak wood jittu

and a direct southerly exposure, thus possessing every requisite for a health resort; pure water, a gravelly soil, fresh forest breezes, picturesque scenery, fishing, hunting and shooting and ample railway facilities. As a commercial proposition the location of the townsite of Sparta is a fortunate one. On the west side runs the county road from Eveleth, which is distant about five miles. Not long ago the people of St. Louis county voted to build the county for \$100,000 for the purpose of building roads. The building of a main artery, as it were, through the center of the county is one of the principal features of the proposed new road system and this piece of road from Ely lake to Eveleth forms the connecting link between the end of the southerly system of county roads and the Mesala range system. The idea is to commence building north from a point on the Swan lake road direct to Ely lake to connect with the Eveleth road. This would bring the new county road direct to Sparta, as the town is upon the south half of the southeast quarter of section 24-28-17 and the northern extremity of Ely lake, around which the new road will have to pass. This of itself is a more important advantage to the town of Sparta than would appear at first glance. Reference has already been to the character of the woods that surround the town, south and west of the town. They are largely composed of hardwood trees and this is a positive and safe indication of a soil suitable for farm-

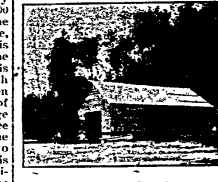
ing. It is along the line of the new road that farms will be taken up and as soon as the road is built, intending settlers will not fail to note the fine character of the soil along the road running to Sparta. Thus the grade of the town will be materially aided, by the settling up of the country to a greater degree than the trade of almost any other range town, from the fact that Sparta will be the nearest market on the Mesala range for a fore noon night at a small expense to the new road from Duluth to the range. To this can also be added the advantage of being located upon both of the ore carrying railroads of the Mesala range. Every other town on the range can be reached

IN ONE DAY AND ANY produce marketed there in the morning could be distributed along the whole of the range before night at a small expense to the handler. Thus the farmer would get an extensive market for his produce, and the handler at Sparta would be enabled to test and sell his produce while they were fresh. This may probably be thought a long look ahead, but it is not. Already, as stated above, there are several very flourishing farms upon the shores of Ely lake, and the gradual opening of these shores affords a better market for the produce at the same time the presence of so many lakes in the surrounding country, together with the character of the forest insures sufficient moisture for the crops at all seasons. The spring has been so wet and in-

element that most of the farmers in this part of the country have been seriously delayed in their spring planting, but those lucky enough to have chosen homesteads on the shores of Ely lake are already beginning to see their crops spring up undamaged by wet or frost. It may seem to many to be a strange statement to make that Ely lake are already beginning to say that in their opinion there are better profits to be derived from farming lands than from mining lands, due allowance for the capital employed being made, but to those who know what it costs to freight in hay, vegetables, domestic animals and agricultural products, this statement will appear very strongly. Thus owing to the good producing quality of the soil around her, Sparta may yet become as much a farming as she must become a mining center.

To build up any new town a good hotel, well kept and economically run, is a prerequisite, and this is what Sparta will have. Mr. Malone, whose pretty chalet is such a charming feature of one of the beautiful bays on Ely lake, is a hotel man of long experience and his experience is figuratively speaking, "from the ground up." He has at various times filled about every position that can be found in a modern hotel, his last being that of manager of one of the summer hotels at Lake Minne-

gonka. Having cast his lot in Sparta, like a good citizen Mr. Malone has determined to do his best to aid in building up the town, and to this end he has entered into negotiations with the townsite company with the idea of putting up a hotel second to none in St. Louis county outside of Duluth. Mr. Malone besides his firm belief in the business future of Sparta, has au-



M. Cronin's Bathhouse.

other incentive to enter into this enterprise. From his long experience as a hotel man in various parts of the West and Northwest he has learned to regard critically the advantages of any town from every point of view, and he is convinced that the location of Sparta is per excellence the proper location for a hotel to accommodate summer visitors, hunters, fishermen and those seeking rest and recreation. Already the white tents of a score of

summer campers dot the shores of Ely lake and scarcely a train stops at Sparta that does not put off or take on a party laden with piscatorial spoils. Seeing all this, knowing of the great mineral wealth lying concealed in the adjacent lands, and recognizing the

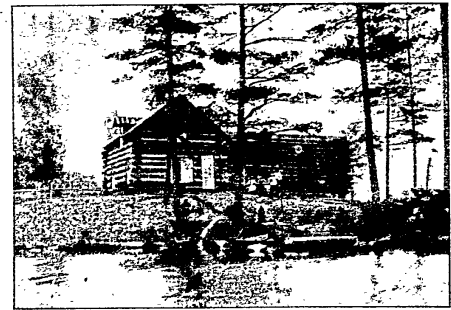
VALUE OF THE SOIL of the surrounding country, Mr. Malone decided to once more enter into active hotel business and he will at once proceed to erect a hotel that will be a credit, not only to Sparta, but to the whole county of St. Louis.

The enterprise displayed by Mr. Malone was doubtless stimulated by the active operations of the townsite company, James Dowling, the well known contractor of Eveleth, was given a contract to clear the townsite and grade the streets a few weeks ago. Mr. Dowling with characteristic push and energy went to work and in a marvellously short period of time he had every tree down, the brush burned, and has a large force of men and graders grading the streets and preparing choos to order. Mouser and Bender, the Virginia stockkeepers, have a west front building, the Hotel Edna, a boarding house, and a regular Dill boarding house, and the Hotel Sparta, are turning people away nightly and Sparta is rapidly taking the air of an old settled town. The Moon and Kerr Lumber company are putting in a lumber yard on the line of the Duluth, Missabi and Northern,

and Duluth on the south. The excellent railroad facilities of Sparta also deserve special attention as there is scarcely a town on the range that excels her in this respect. All these advantages are being quickly recognized and so many people are purchasing lots that it keeps the company's agent, Hon. Neil McInnis, busy locating them.

and Colin and Robt of Bivalbio, are putting in another on the Duluth and Iron Range. About a dozen residences are in course of erection and more than one summer cottage has already been planned for and the site selected. Hon. Neil McInnis is having a summer house built on the banks of the lake in the extreme southeastern portion of the townsite. It will be a regular old fashioned log cabin, 20 by 20 feet, one story and a half high and will be located on a beautiful point upon which the timber has been allowed to remain, which when thinned out, will make a delightful grove. Several other citizens of Eveleth have also signified their intention of following Mr. McInnis' lead in building summer cottages.

To sum up briefly, the advantages of the town of Sparta are first and foremost, its location in the heart of a great iron ore district; second, its supremely beautiful location upon the banks of one of the loveliest lakes in Minnesota; third, the health-giving properties of its pure spring and iron bearing waters; its fresh piney breezes, its sheltered position and wholesome gravelly soil; fourth, the value of the surrounding country for farming purposes and last but not least, its commanding position in respect to the great future highway that will run from the International boundary on the north to Lake Superior



A Pioneer Farm House.

read. Today not a tree is standing upon the 60 and odd acres, comprising the township of Sparta, and in their place have sprung up stores, hotels, boarding houses, lumber yards and residences surrounded by graded streets.

Sparta is a town which derives many and great advantages from nature. Ely lake, upon the banks of

which the town is laid out, is a particularly beautiful sheet of water. The shores are high, sloping gently to the water, which is deep and clear. Many clumps, clad with verdure, stand out admirably with the darker shades of the attractive looking points of land just out from its shores. One pleasing feature in the scenery is the diversified foliage of the overhanging woods, which is reflected in the clear waters of the lake. Nearly all Northern Min-

nesota lakes are surrounded by forests of resinous and coniferous trees, the evergreen foliage of which is dark and heavy, giving a peculiarly scintillating tinge to the landscape. It is not so at Ely lake, for there the forest is largely composed of deciduous trees and the bright green birch contrasts admirably with the darker shades of the basswood and poplar, which in their turn serve as a setting to the scattered pine clumps that rear their feathery tops high above their neighbors. The waters of the lake teem with fine gamey fish, such as the small-mouthed green bass, black bass, catfish, bass, croppies, pike, pickerel and perch. The woods are full of game and the settlers on the shores of the lake, of whom there are several, often see in the evening the shining wake left in the water by the moose

ing squared log houses and barns. One some of the larger islands settlers are to be found, but they have for the most part refrained from making their clearings upon the islands, preferring to do so upon the main shore, while they make their homes where they have numerous birch and poplar trees. Ely lake is already a most popular summer resort for the Mesala range people and now that Sparta is springing up on its shores, people will come from far and wide to enjoy the fishing and scenery.

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A View of Ely Lake Looking South From Sparta.

