

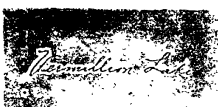
# Gems in Tower's Crown of Beauty

Seventy-eight miles north of Duluth as the crow flies, by 94 miles from Duluth via the Duluth and Iron Range railway is the town of Tower, one of the chief range towns, and altogether lovely in its picturesque surroundings. Tower has been styled "Queen of the Vermilion," and in the regal splendor of her setting, 'midst hills rich in mineral wealth, and with a score or more of lakes adorning her as precious jewels, she is fittingly termed.

Perhaps the most beautiful lake in the state is the Vermilion, 20 miles long, of any and all widths, very irregular in outline, here a bay, there an inlet, and 20 or more islands rising from its clear waters. Nature was in her most generous and graceful mood when she bestowed the Vermilion fort, certainly, for scenic beauty it cannot be surpassed. And then what glorious possibilities in fishing it affords. It abounds in almost all the fresh water fish known to lakes. There are bass, muskellunge, and pike and perch, and muskallunge. The element of patiently waiting for a bite does not enter in the sport. The lakes that are told of big catches made in short hours in the Vermilion irrefutable and marvelous.

Almost on the shore of this lovely Lake

there is in existence. The miners live in Soudan, a village two miles from Tower. But Soudan is simply and solely a residence town for there are no business houses there. The business men of Tower get the Soudan trade. They put the businesskeeper of Soudan to no inconvenience, however, as they go over after the orders and later deliver the goods.



lies Tower, and stretching away from it farther along the shore and overlooking the shimmering lake are the vast mountain glass-houses of iron ore. A thousand men are at work in their depths mining ore of the highest quality. All these lands rich in inexhaustible ore are the property of the Minnesota Iron company. The mining plant is probably the best

The principal industries of Tower are mining and lumbering, which together afford employment to almost 1,200 men. When the mines are running in full blast it makes a reliant trade so that Tower has a number of very excellent business houses.

Since the recent rich discoveries of gold in the Itatny lake and Seine river fields

Tower has come in considerable demand, or it can be utilized in laying in such supplies as may be wanted.

In the region 'round about Tower there is also much to make the hunter rejoice.



There are deer, moose, caribou, duck, grouse and partridge.

luth and these gold fields.

It is rightly claimed for the Tower route that it is the shortest, cheapest and best. The journey may be made from Duluth in 20 hours of actual travel, though naturally more time than that is spent on the road. Leaving Duluth at 3:15 p. m. in less than four hours the traveler is in Tower. The next morning at 5 he leaves over Vermilion lake by steamer for the Vermilion dam, 20 miles away, and which is reached in about two hours. Then a transfer is made to the stage for a portage of 25 miles. Ten thousand dollars is expending in the improving of this road. For the greater part it is along the valley of the Vermilion river, quite a pleasing drive. It takes about five hours to cross it. The stage lands you at Harding on Crane lake, where transfer is made to steamer for a 20 mile ride to Kettle Falls. Arriving at Kettle Falls the last change is made for Itatny Lake city or the Seine river. The leisure in Tower will be employed as may be the bent of the traveler—in visiting the mines, viewing the fine scenery surround-

ing, or it can be utilized in laying in such supplies as may be wanted. In the region 'round about Tower there is also much to make the hunter rejoice.

Tower is scarcely in her teens. It was in 1883 that the ground was broken for her first business building. The old timers or pioneers there are J. D. Murphy, C. C. Appel, Axel Melniss and Charles McNamara. It now has a population of 4,000 to 5,000, including Soudan; has a fine union school building, a Lutheran, Episcopal, Presbyterian and Catholic church buildings, a good town hall, water works and electric light, good streets, good sidewalks, is situated on the shore of the finest lake in Minnesota, and in the presence of the greatest iron mine in the country. What more does anybody want? One of the chief charms of Tower is the Vermilion hotel, so exceedingly well managed by the general landlord, E. E. Harbridge. Few there are that traverse the range country but appreciate the merits of this hotel and the accommodating characteristics of its proprietor. It is commandingly situated at the head of Main street, on the banks of East Two Rivers, and is pleasing and inviting in architecture. The general neatness that pervades the interior both in furnishing and service is suggestive of the tasteful oversight of the wife of the proprietor. The rooms are all comfortably furnished, are kept scrupulously clean, the parlors are cheerful and pretty and all within conduces to contentment. Surrounding scenes give zest to appetite which is fully met in the plenty that abounds from the menu well prepared and neatly served. All possible is done to welcome the coming guest, make him happy

while there, and to ensure the thorough and pleasing reconstructions of the Vermilion hotel. Night Clerk George Kinney leaves nothing to be desired in this capacity.

Ole C. Seale is a dealer in fresh and Salt meats, game and fish in season, and fills orders with the very best that is obtainable, thus guaranteeing to patrons the fullest satisfaction. He is ever careful to have the choicest and best, and as a consequence his business is growing from day to day.

No commercial man, hunter or fisher-

of course to those wishing times Tower would not be without his bicycle livery and repair shop and it is a good one conducted by A. L. Knaf, formerly of the Twentieth avenue west like livery in Duluth. He has a full complement of ladies' and gentlemen's wheels for rent by the hour or day, and if a wheel needs repairing he will do it promptly and satisfactorily.

One of the best known residents of

has mining properties that promise well, but that does not deter him from looking carefully after his jewelry store,

number is cut thick enough to find favor with the Eastern trade. Logs come in by lake or rail, and all the vast country



Pioneer Hotel.

man thinks of visiting Tower without calling at the resort of Joseph Hanco. Its quaintness and simplicity, the uniform excellence of the wet goods that he dispenses, are the leading attraction. While other places in the world might have cost more in fitting and furnishing more good cheer and hospitality abounds at Hancock's.

Known to every miner on both ranges is Matt Nettall, a pioneer in this locality. He came to Tower March 17, 1884. He has a neat confectionery, fruit and cigar store, stocked with the very best the market affords. In the rear of this is a good pool table where the boys try their skill. Mr. Nettall assists in looking after the store, as both are of kindly disposition, the store does a nice business.

Right opposite the Duluth and Iron Range depot and next to the Pioneer hotel is the sample room of J. J. Stone

Tower is Charles Johnson and he has recently reopened his saloon in the central part of the town. He has it freshly stocked with the old standard whiskies, fine wines, a favorite brew of beer, and the best brands of cigars. Nothing is too good to be served over this bar, and its patrons always rely on getting the very best of goods in the market. All the travelers and all the range people know Johnson and as a result he always has a liberal share of trade.

Hork & Lundeen, formerly of Virginia, have recently opened a merchant tailoring store in Tower, forming a welcome addition to the commercial interests. Both are experienced tailors, careful and successful cutters, and they turn out suits that will give the fullest satisfaction in both quality, fit and price. They have come to Tower to stay and if good work and the earnest effort to please all cus-



Saw Mill and Log Booms of Howe Lumber Co.

which is kept fully stocked and abreast of the requirements of a town of this size. He supplements his general line with a complete stock of compasses, prospectors' magnifiers and such articles as are needed in prospecting trips and mine work.

The pioneer store in Tower—established in 1884—is that of C. H. Appel & Sons. It is sufficient to say for this firm that in its stock of general merchandise there is everything needed for the household, and everything needed in the way of supplies for the prospector or for a mining outfit. The brothers that have charge of the store are progressive citizens, and are enthusiasts on the beauties of the lakes that surround Tower. To them The News Tribune is indebted for a number of the views given.

Tower has excellent and reliable banking facilities in the First State bank, which

tributary to the Vermilion lake must pay tribute in logs. A distinctive feature is noted in the 2,000,000 feet of logs lying in the waters of Lake Vermilion waiting to be saved. Great pockets extend out in the lake, each much wider at the outer end. As the logs are floated in they are assorted as to length from 18 feet to 50 feet, being boomed in their respective pockets. This greatly facilitates the sawing of special orders for certain lengths.

The officers of the Howe Lumber company are: E. D. Graff, president; M. J. Woodard, vice president; F. L. Murray, secretary and treasurer; J. Howard, superintendent, and J. G. Ketchum, general manager.

An organization of which Tower is particularly proud is its gun club, which was organized in 1891. It has been in 19 matches, and won 17 of the number. This is a pretty clear score. The officers are:



The Opera House.

was organized a few years ago. Its cashier and manager is J. B. Williams, and it is conducted in a conservative and judicious manner. It occupies a good brick building on one of the principal corners.

Here is situated the Howe Lumber company, one of the strongest in the Northwest, having an annual output of 35,000,000 feet of lumber, 2,000,000 lath and 2,000,000 shingles. It gives employment to 125 or more men, and operates circular, gang and hand saws. Three-quarters of its products goes to the east trade, the rest by water to Eastern markets. All its

M. F. Marlon, president; A. Rohrer, secretary; Ed Cummings, treasurer, and W. H. Appel, manager. A portrait of the members of the club appears in this sketch.

A man who takes an active interest in the welfare of Tower, and is earnest in good works, is Very Rev. Joseph F. Buh, who is the priest in charge of the churches at Tower and Ely, in which service he has been engaged eight years. In 1891 Father Buh established the Amerik Slovener, a weekly publication in the Austrian language, of American teachings and calculated to be of much benefit to



Two Hours' Catch in Vermilion Lake, May 20, 1897, by J. G. Ketchum and H. Woodward.

stocked with the choicest liquors, the best and most palatable of beers, and the best brands of cigars. Travelers to and from the gold fields find this a popular resort not only because of its convenience, but because they receive courteous treatment and the best there is to be had.

Very centrally located is the Hotel Sheridan which has recently undergone a change in the management. Mrs. H. Olson now has it in charge and she has made noticeable improvement in new furnishings and in adding to the table service. She will furnish good rooms and good meals at a moderate price. Special

tomers will win they are sure to succeed.

Among the many clever citizens of Tower none are better known than W. H. McQuade, whose meat market is headquarters for the best that can be supplied. It is fully stocked with the best of fresh and salt meats and in season you will find all kinds of fish and game here. Mr. McQuade is always ready to say a good word and do something for Tower.

A citizen that has taken active interest in Tower, and especially its importance in relation to the gold field development, is A. Rohrer, the leading jeweler,



Robinson & Williams' Livery Stable.

his people. The St. Cyril's Method and Aid society is the name of the church organization at Tower. The society owns the opera house there, which is managed by Father Buh.

The popular place of rendezvous for lumbermen, miners and prospectors is the good old reliable Pioneer hotel, just

opposite the Duluth & Iron Range depot. It is headquarters not only for a comfortable stopping place, but headquarters as well for a fund of valuable information to the traveler on his way to the gold districts, or eager for good hunting or fishing. Charles Winchester is the clever and accommodating landlord, and seeks at all times to have his guests feel entirely at home, and bids them success and safety on their way. He is interested in the gold fields, and familiar with water routes, locations, requirements and methods, which it is his pleasure to impart. His mother, Mrs. Winchester, looks carefully after the details of management and sees that all that sojourn at the Pioneer are well fed. Free bus runs to the boat landing. No bus is needed to the depot, it is so near. The popular low rate of \$1 a day prevails at the Pioneer. An excellent bar stocked with the best goods in the market regales guests and other eaters.

Big and brainy Tom Reed has a host of admirers and followers all over the



E. L. Burnside, Proprietor of Vermillion Hotel.

Unlon. He is a leader among men, possessing all the essential qualities to the best type of manhood. Any goods or article named in his honor should be of the best. The cigar, "Tom Reed," made by Mr. Simon, of Tower, meets this re-

quirement. It has a host of admirers—and these want no other—all over the ranges. It possesses all the essential qualities to the best type of cigar. It is a leader among cigars. It is a clear Havana filler, with Sumatra wrapper, made from a carefully selected tobacco, graceful in shape, and always depend-

able for a clear, pleasing, refreshing smoke. Mr. Simon began making them in March last, and since then they have met with the highest possible favor, not only at home but in all surrounding towns. They are 10 cent cigars, not only in name but in quality. To smoke a poor cigar is an abomination; to smoke a

firm of sterling worth, strict integrity, low prices, good goods and fair dealing is that of J. C. Savde & Co., composed of two brothers, J. C. and C. C. They have been at Tower 12 years and have established a strong and growing trade. They have a complete stock of general merchandise, embracing dry goods, domestics,

boats carry the mail, except on 25 miles of portage, but during the closed season the stages of Robinson & Williams will make the trip clear through over frozen lake and river and snowy portage to Koochehling. If you want good livery service in Tower, see this firm.

His stock is complete, his prices are low, and as might be expected he has a good trade. Those in Tower or passing through that need anything in his line will do well to call on him.

The Vermillion Cigar factory has been established five years and is owned by M. J. Segal. He is the originator and sole

manufacturer of the popular "Tower Bell" cigars, which has won such high favor as to cause it to be imitated. None are genuine without the portrait of Mr. Segal in corner of the box label. This cigar factory also makes "The Victor," which bear a portrait of the Vermillion Gun club—as given elsewhere. Another fine cigar is the "M. J. Segal," which has a portrait of Mr. Segal as the distinctive feature of box label. There are no better cigars in the northwest than are produced by this factory.

In the basement of the Vermillion hotel is its bar, billiard and pool room, large and well fitted and furnished. Its proprietor is William Matt, and "Billy" as he is well known to the traveling public and in town keeps a full stock of the choicest liquors, beer and cigars. It is a popular resort—one that is well known and well liked.



The Vermilion Hotel.

Just at the left of the Vermillion hotel on Main street is the livery stable of Robinson & Williams, which takes the lead in that line in the town. It is fully equipped with an array of first class vehicles, from a splendid coupe to an ordinary cart. Whether the rig be wanted for business or pleasure, style or comfort, or to accommodate one or a score of people, it can be had here, with speedy and safe horses ready to be hitched. This livery firm makes all trains and boats, and looks carefully after the transfer of passengers and baggage. It has the government contract for carrying the mail from Tower to Koochehling, which goes on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays of each week. In the summer season the

loots and shoes, clothing, crockery and groceries. They give special attention to the outfitting of miners, prospectors and lumbermen. Buyers here will receive courteous treatment and low prices.

J. G. Horkey runs the only harness and saddlery establishment in Tower. He carries a stock of driving and draft harness, and gives prompt and careful attention to repairing.

The only exclusive dry goods store is owned by G. L. Ryan, who carries a very complete stock of dress goods, domestics and notions, which are sold at reasonable prices. Giving attention only to dry goods Mr. Ryan carries a fuller and more varied stock than if he had many other lines.

A clever gentleman, owning a neat and attractive place of business, is L. Bentson, proprietor of the Boston Clothing House. He carries a full stock of clothing, furnishing goods, shoes and valises.