

Diamond Drill

Out of the Past

July 32, 1896

Coroner Aberle's investigation of the death of Barney Mehan, whose lifeless body was found in Railroad Lake near the railroad tracks was brought to a close. The verdict returned was to the effect that Mehan came to his death in a manner unknown to the jury. Four witnesses testified at the inquest but no sufficient evidence warranted suspicion as to who perpetrated the murder. The condition of the decomposed body and details leading up to the discovery point to the theory that foul play was involved. Mehan (25) had been employed on the project to divert the Michigamme River at the Mansfield Mine site and came to Crystal Falls on July 9th accompanied by two companions, whose names have not yet be ascertained, after drawing \$15 for wages due. He is said to have left Crystal Falls for Iron Mountain on July 10th, walking down the Chicago & Northwestern railroad track. There are certain facts connected to the case which are better left unpublished at this time. Investigation of the mysterious case continues which may yet develop the details of Mehan's death.