

Diamond Drill

Out of the Past

December 25, 1897

Beginning the first of the year cigars will be manufactured by prison labor at the Marquette Branch Prison. The Prison Board has signed a five year contract with Roland & E.W. Swisher Co. of Columbus, Ohio which states that the prison will furnish 100 men at a cost of 50 cents per day for each man for the production of cigars on a per piece system.

The Ann Arbor Ferry Company will move their railroad car ferry business from Gladstone to Manistique. The Chicago Northwestern and Duluth, South Shore & Atlantic railroads will mainly use the facility to serve as an outlet for the western part the Upper Peninsula.

With the close of the shipping season the Republic Mine had shipped 124,000 tons of ore as compared against 127,000 tons for the year 1896. A total of 4.5 million tons has been shipped since beginning production in 1872. The mine currently employs 300 men producing high grade Bessemer ore with many years of life yet in sight.