This tract of country upon the high lands is gently rolling, but as you approach the larger water-courses it becomes more and more hilly, terminating in high alluvial bluffs along their margins. About one third of the land is fertile farming land. Not more than a fifth is covered with timber, which grows in detached groves, the balance prairie. Springs of the purest water are to be found in abundance. The interior is healthy; no local causes of fever exist except immediately on the Mississippi. The climate is pleasant & desirable except during the spring months. Snow seldom exceeds 18 inches in depth during winter. All the fruits, vegetables and grain which grow in the same latitude in our Eastern States would succeed equally well here.

The lands delineated on the map are natural formations rising several hundred feet above the level of the country, some one of which may be seen from almost every part of the mines, serving as natural beacons to direct the traveler in his course.

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Crawford Co.

The United States have the Fee Simple in part, and the right to occupy the whole of the country between the Wisconsin and the surveyed lands north of Rock river; and the line marked along eagle creek to the Mississippi. Commissioners are appointed for the purpose of extinguishing the Indian title to the whole in the course of the ceremonies for the sale of which the Government has made provision except a section upon which stands the town of Galena.

The mines are worked by private individuals, who pay the Government for such privilege, a tenth of all the lead manufactured. The Superintendent has the power of prescribing such rates as will prevent disputes and secure the Government against waste and fraud, to which all who engage in mining are bound to subscribe.

A lot of property is allowed to every miner, and one in addition for every two hands employed (to be located & staked off by the miner in any unoccupied ground,) which may be abandoned at pleasure and another taken. The occupants have the exclusive benefit of their own discoveries, but are restricted in the sale of their mineral to a licensed miner, who is obliged to give bond in a penalty of $100 to pay the Government 1/5 of all the lead he manufactures. Losses in half a section for three years, may be obtained on bonds of State with a like condition.

Miners are entitled to the river and timber in building and that. Streams are allowed without carrying over their works. Licenses are only used for mining on the half sections, but if there should be no timber, they must sell all their minerals in a month.

The same person may either mine, locate, or smelt all together.

Mining is permitted free of rent, where ever it can be done without interfering with the timber needed at the mining purpose. Mining is in the same manner as the common method of digging wells.

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Galena is the seat of industries of the leaden ore & principal depot of the mines. Contains about 300 houses & 500 inhabitants. The coal runs nearly in Peggs Run, Illinois & private hands receive. Galena is in every part of the mining district.

In 1851 there were 60 vessels of Steam boats & 800 men at the port of Galena. Moreover the Indian name for the river on which Galena is situated, and when translated into English means -

Small Fish, or more literally a River that Rows. It was so named from the air currents at certain hour of the day, giving rise to that sound, and those being no characteristics to precisely naming a River, it was named as it pleased.

Copper now (1839) has been found in a clift of stone exposed in each gourmand and over such an amount of material as to justify the reputation of that metal being produced in considerable quantities.

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Map of the United States

Lead Mines On The Upper Mississippi River

Drawn & Published by
R.W. Chandler of Galena.

1829.

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