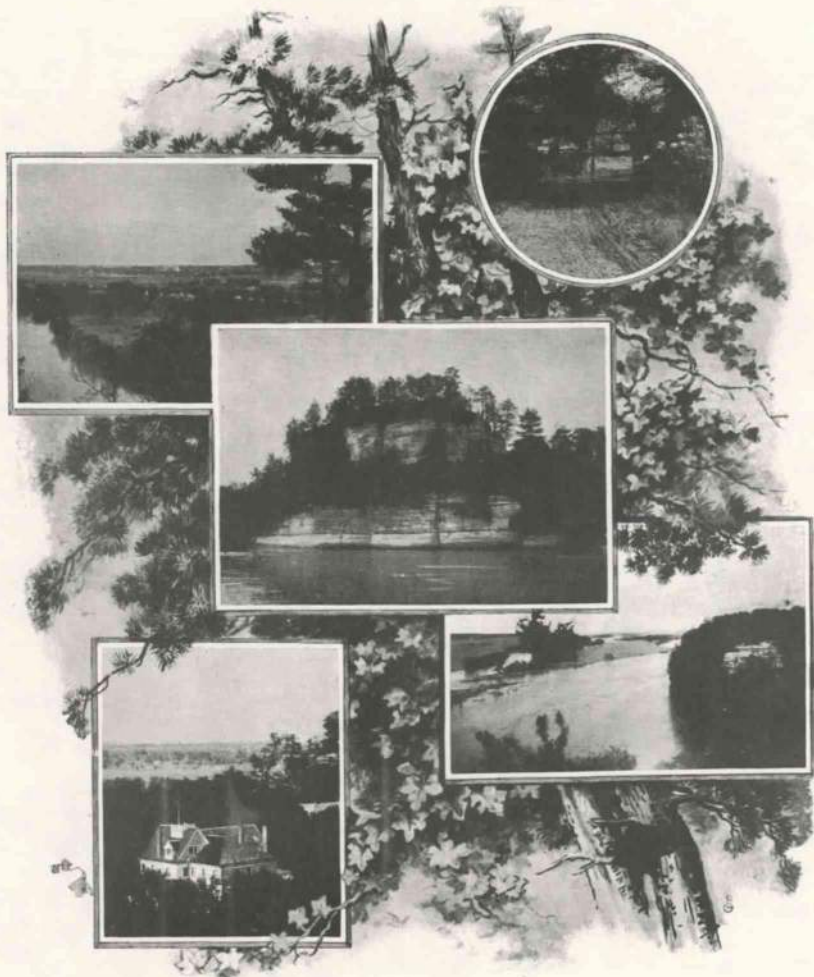


"THE ILLINI TRAIL"





STARVED ROCK.

"THE ILLINI TRAIL"



DESCRIPTIVE OF THE VALLEY OF THE
ILLINOIS . . . POINTS OF SCENIC BEAUTY
AND HISTORICAL INTEREST, INCLUD-
ING THE STORY OF STARVED ROCK

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"THE ILLINI TRAIL"

THE ILLINOIS VALLEY

DECIDEDLY the most attractive spot in the State of Illinois, if not in the entire Mississippi Valley, for industry, for commerce, for pleasure or for mere living, is to be found in the Illinois Valley where the river leaves behind the monotony of the prairie and diverts itself among the crags and cliffs of the most curious and interesting of nature's works this side of the mountains. The valley is particularly delightful during the summer and has many ideal outing places along the entire route of the river, but nowhere in its course has nature been so lavish in providing man with pleasure-places as along the river's course through La Salle county.

The agricultural lands of La Salle county are among the richest in the world and their market value is probably as high as strictly farm lands reach anywhere in the United States, rapidly approaching the unprecedented price of \$200 per acre. This rich farm land, which is much of it also rich coal land, reaches to the very edges of the bold bluffs which prevail along the river and present the magnificent scenery for which the valley at this point is noted, especially in the vicinity of Utica and La Salle.

Into this valley nature seems to have dumped an enormous sample of every good thing known to the great State of Illinois, and in some things nature has given to the Illinois Valley a monopoly for the entire West. Here are inexhaustible mines of coal, unlimited quantities of cement rock, fire clay, and glass sand. The coal is the greatest factor in the industrial prosperity of this section, while abundance of other natural products is a guarantee of the ultimate importance of the manufacturing enterprises of the cities in this vicinity.

The passenger on one of the interurban trains of the Illinois Valley Railway Company, passing up or down the valley through La Salle county, is impressed with the appearance of the valley. It seems

to be city on city, for miles and miles, and here and there between the cities are large manufacturing establishments that suggest prematurely the approach to the great city of Chicago.

The industrial importance of the community seems scarcely less than its remarkable scenic beauty, and these two facts, fine scenery and great industries, are attributed to a common cause. Nature has here heaped a great pile of samples of good things of every description.

The coal supply has attracted to the cities manufacturing establishments which, being unhampered in growth by the conditions which prevail in large cities, have grown to enormous proportions; while clays, cement rock and glass sand are, as a matter of course, the materials for large enterprises. La Salle, Ottawa, Peru, Spring Valley, Utica, Marseilles and Seneca are destined, by the very nature of their advantages, as well as because of the enterprise of the people, who do not fail to encourage every great undertaking, to be an almost continuous city of humming industries and happy homes. The splendid scenery will make this scarcely less one great city of homes than of manufacture.

For such a city nature has furnished ready-made parks, a retreat into which, in its effects, is like an outing in the mountains. Starved Rock, near Utica, is for many reasons the best known of these natural outing places. It rises from the waters of the river to a height of 126 feet and is like a great castle of mediæval grandeur. It is surrounded by natural scenery that is most surprising, being found, as it is, in the Prairie State. The precipitousness of the river's bank is shared by the little tributary at that point, forming a canyon in the fastnesses of which one may find shelter from the heat of the most oppressive weather and imagine he is in the recesses of a high mountain, far away from such a summer climate as that of the Illinois prairies. Or he may bathe in the pure waters of this vicinity and in this delightful sport breathe in the health-giving suggestions that fill the imagination at the seaside and other watering places. Near by, to the west of the great

rock, is the hospitable shelter of "Starved Rock Hotel" whither he may go at the close of a day of communion with nature in her divinest form, and enjoy the conveniences to which he is accustomed in the city.



LOVER'S LEAP.

Not far from Starved Rock, to the southwest about three and one-half miles, is another freak of nature which affords to the eye a delightful picture and to the body sense of new life. This is Deer Park. Here again is scenery in novel contrast to the prevailing prairies round about. The Little Vermillion, which flows into the Illinois near La Salle, here receives a short tributary and the streams are bordered by perpendicular walls of limestone, forming deep canyons, such as the

stranger here has always supposed, until he has seen this, could exist only in a mountainous country. The canyon puts out from a bend in the Little Vermillion and reaches eastward a distance of a quarter of a mile and is in the form of a letter "S." The walls are perpendicular nearly all the way and terminate in a dome, open at the top, about 150 feet in diameter. At the base bubbles up a fine spring of soft water. In wet weather the canyon is entered by a beautiful waterfall through a narrow chasm at the head.

Above Starved Rock, on the same side of the river is Horse Shoe canyon, a spot which, though not so accessible, is equally as delightful.

Farther up the river, this time on the north side, is Buffalo Rock, which stands out in the level valley like an island in a large inland sea. It was an island in fact at one time, when the Illinois was the natural outlet of the great lakes, possibly long before the Niagara had worn its gorge from Lake Ontario to its present location. The wooded heights of Buffalo Rock were doubtless many times the resort of warlike Indians seeking shelter from the enemy, though we have less authentic and interesting history of this than of other places such as Starved Rock.

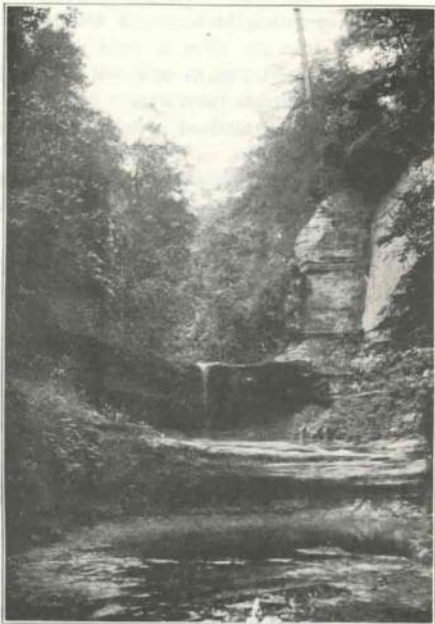
All this is due to the fact that the surface of the earth here, at a time not nearly as remote as the coal-forming period, has been disturbed by some interior force—an earthquake, no doubt. This wrinkle in the earth's crust is most conspicuous at a point called Split Rock, some two miles east of La Salle. By this disturbance strata of rock and coal, which in the western part of the county are several hundred feet under the surface, are here brought to the top; and east of this point these strata remain in the surface, dipping slightly towards the east, and afford easy access to valuable materials which must elsewhere be mined at great expense.

This wrinkle is what geologists call an "anti-clinal axis." This axis strikes the county at a point southwest of Mendota, and, to the unscientific eye, disappears southeast of Deer Park. The most apparent

break in the earth's crust is at Split Rock, where the strata may be observed from the interurban cars which traverse this entire section of the valley. East of Split Rock the strata are observed to be level, but to the west they dip rapidly, some of them at an angle of more than thirty degrees. In fact the dip of the Trenton limestone is said to be forty degrees. So it is that we may see here formations which elsewhere in the state have never been seen by man, owing to their great depth. Elsewhere they are called "bed-rock."

Near Ottawa the visitor sees coal "mined" on the surface of the ground from a vein which, at Peru and Spring Valley, is as deep as 400 feet below the surface. This coal, which at Ottawa lies on the surface, is the lowest, or "third vein" coal of the west part of the county. Near Marseilles this dips enough that the next higher, or "second vein" strikes in. These further east are deep in the earth and are profitably mined, as they are at La Salle, Peru, Spring Valley and Ladd.

Considering the natural advantages of this section of the Illinois Valley, it is not surprising that it is the richest portion of the state; and, considering the beauty of the scenery, it is not surprising that here are the homes of so many thousands of the most wealthy and refined families of the land, as well as homes of the thrifty laboring classes.



IN HORSESHOE CANYON.

filling the cities with cosmopolitan classes representing nearly every country and race of mankind. It is a community such as may be found nowhere else in Illinois, if in America. That the cities of the Illinois Valley are rich and prosperous need not be said, nor that they are growing in size and wealth every year. The business men of these cities are alive to their responsibilities and their opportunities and they spare no pains to extend their influence for the good of the community in which they live.

Of all that is good, La Salle county affords the best, and the cities along the valley lend their aid to every promising enterprise. They have schools that are recognized models, churches that are ministered to by the best talent the pulpit affords, newspapers that are far in advance of their contemporaries of other cities where equally favorable conditions for newspaper enterprise prevail. The newspapers are here the deserving and safe leaders and faithful reflectors of popular opinion.

Probably the greatest enterprise, the most daring, and the one of which the people of the valley are proudest, is the Illinois Valley Railway Company, which has built a line of electric railway from Marseilles on the east to Ladd on the west through Ottawa, Utica, La Salle, Peru and Spring Valley. This railway has been constructed through a section of the valley where the difficulties in the way of the engineer were great, but the work has been done in such a way as to give the most convenient possible service to the greatest possible number of the people, and this is the best guarantee that it is a permanent and profitable improvement. It has developed a large passenger traffic and is developing an express business, affording a new accommodation to the public—all without detracting apparently from the means of transportation already existing. An hourly service is maintained by interurban cars and it is the purpose of the company to make the service at every point all that the traffic will warrant.

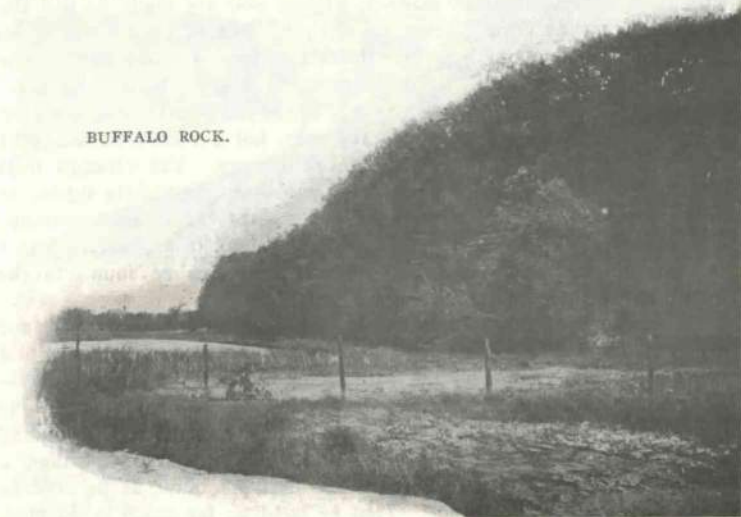
By means of the interurban railway the most interesting points in

the entire valley may be reached, to say nothing of the several artificial parks and attractions along the line. On either side of the river, and near the electric railway, there are scores of delightful spots that afford a suitable outing place. The many shaded ravines and bluffs are always delightful in the warmer seasons when the streets and houses of the town are unbearably hot.

But the point of greatest interest along the line is the famous Starved Rock, which is reached from a point on the interurban east of Utica, where a means of crossing the river is always to be found in the open season, usually by a commodious ferry-boat.

To no spot in the great West cling any more ancient or beautiful legends than to this picturesque rock.

BUFFALO ROCK.



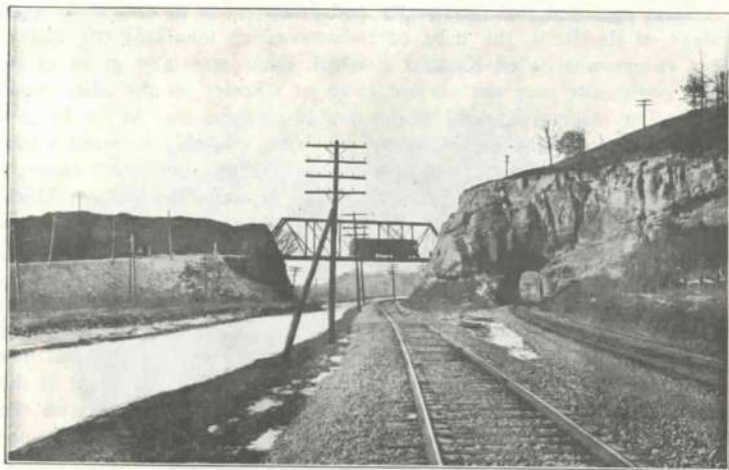
STORY OF STARVED ROCK

If you have been a visitor in New England, you have been impressed with the fact—the New Englander could not let it escape you—that New England is old. You meet with reminders on every turn that these New Englanders, particularly the Bostonians, are descended from people who did things a long time ago. You are impressed with Boston as a city that dotes on its past. The Frenchman's charge that Americans do not know who their grandfathers were does not hold good there. They not only know, but they want you to know and you will not be permitted to forget.

If you have ever been in Washington City you have been impressed with it in a very different manner. There you are made to feel the importance of the present—that never in the history of the world did such great men live as you here behold. Here is enjoyment in the present tense. If Boston lives in the past, Washington lives in the present. And then Chicago. Here is a city where you hear little of the past. In Chicago there is not much of the past, but a record of the most stupendous urban growth in the world's history. Yet Chicago feels that the greatest fact about itself is its future—its immediate future, at that. Chicago, like New York, hangs on the turn of affairs tomorrow, on 'change. But here in the valley of the Illinois is a past as hoary as New England's, a present as enjoyable as can be found in the world, and a future as promising.

The valley of the Illinois has been known by the white man for nearly two and a half centuries. This valley was traversed by the first white man who ever trod the soil of the upper Mississippi valley—Rene-Robert Cavalier, Sieur De La Salle. La Salle approached the Illinois by way of Lake Michigan from the St. Lawrence. He landed at the south end of the lake and found, across a narrow portage, a branch of the river which he descended until he came, as he reports, to the 36th degree of latitude. That he went so far south is doubted,

because of the fact that he did not, until many years afterward, lay claim to the re-discovery of the Mississippi, which, if he went so far, he must have seen. However, he did report that he followed the Illinois



SPLIT ROCK FROM THE EAST.

until he came to another river "flowing from the northwest to south-east," which must have been the Mississippi. This was in 1670.

That the Illinois Valley made a decided impression on La Salle is certain, because later he made of this section which bears his name one of the important points in his planning for future explorations and planted here a post which he named Fort St. Louis, now known as Starved Rock.

The second visit of the white man to the Illinois Valley was by

two explorers whose names are scarcely less distinguished than La Salle's. They were Joliet and Marquette, who descended to the Mississippi by way of the Wisconsin and ascended the Illinois after a voyage far below its mouth. This was in the year 1673.

It is recorded that Marquette and Joliet made a stop at a large village of the Illini, the tribe of Indians which inhabited the valley. This village was called Kaskaskia, which name was later given to an early settlement near the present town of Chester on the Mississippi river. The original Kaskaskia was located on the banks of the Illinois river in front of the present town of Utica, probably between Utica and Starved Rock, on ground now crossed by the interurban railway. Its burying-ground was below the village between the present Utica and the nearest point on the river, where until this day numerous relics of the Indian era are to be found. Thus it appears that Utica should, by rights, be known as Kaskaskia.

Marquette and Joliet were conducted by Illini guides from Kaskaskia to Lake Michigan, then known as the "Lake of the Illini," and it is not recorded that Joliet ever again visited this part of the country. He spent the remainder of his life in the development of the lower St. Lawrence. Marquette, however, was so impressed with the Illinois country and the beautiful scenery of the valley that he at once set his heart on a return to Kaskaskia. He had, as he believed and as history generally relates, been the second discoverer of the Mississippi. (This claim has always conflicted with La Salle's.) Marquette named the "great river" the "River of the Immaculate Conception," and now he proposed to establish a great mission at Kaskaskia on the Illinois, the center of interest among all the tribes of the Illini, a great mission to be known as "The Mission of the Immaculate Conception." Marquette set out to do this in 1674, but owing to his health did not reach the village until the following spring, when he descended the river from near the present site of the city of Chicago via the Des Plaines river. He and his party came down on the tide of the high waters and

he was received by the Illini as "An Angel from Heaven." He passed from one wigwam to another in the village, which then contained some eight thousand souls, teaching the inhabitants concerning his faith. When he thought their minds were prepared, he summoned a great council of all the tribes on the wide meadow which was between



STARVED ROCK HOTEL AND CLUB HOUSE.

the river and the Utica of today. Here were seated in a circle five hundred chiefs and old men, and behind them fifteen hundred youths and warriors, and again behind these were the women and children of the village.

It is related that Marquette, standing in the midst, displayed four large pictures of the Virgin and preached to them the mysteries of

the Faith. His teachings were listened to with eagerness and he was urged to continue his instructions. He remained but a few days and, after Easter, returned to Lake Michigan where he embarked with his companions, Pierre and Jacques, for Mackinack, going along the east shore of the lake. On the 19th of May, as they were passing the mouth of a small river, some distance from the promontory called "Sleeping Bear," Marquette grew fainter and requested a landing. On that night, with holy words upon his lips and with a crucifix before his fading sight, Marquette passed away and was buried the day following.

It is related, that at the grave of Marquette a miracle took place. "One of the Frenchmen, overcome with grief and cholic, bethought him of applying a little of the earth from the grave to the seat of his pain. This at once restored him to health and cheerfulness."

The remains of Marquette were removed from this burying place in the spring of 1676 and buried beneath the floor of the chapel at the Mission of St. Ignace at Mackinack.

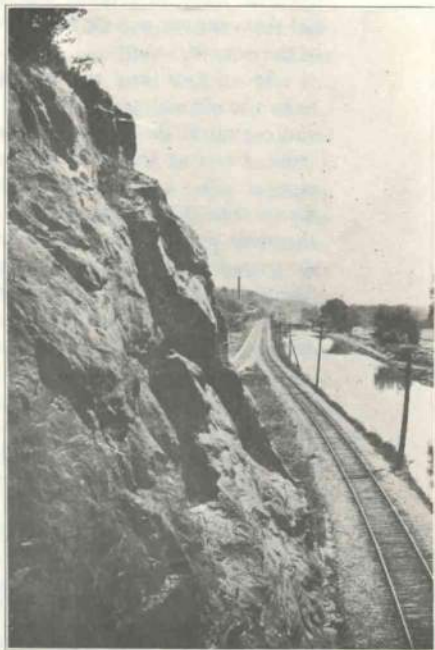
The Illinois Valley has thus closely associated with its earliest history the names of three of the world's most famous explorers, La Salle, Marquette, Joliet, and still another, later, Hennepin. But one of them, La Salle, returns in 1679, this time with Father Hennepin and an Italian named Tonty. On this second trip to the Illinois La Salle came by way of the St. Joseph river which he ascended to the portage to the head of the Kankakee. This journey was attended by great hardships which are described by Father Hennepin himself. The party passed down the river through uninhabited bottom lands, but Hennepin, too, notes the picturesque features of the valley at this point and points out Buffalo Rock, then Starved Rock, then known as Ft. St. Louis, and they land at the village of the Illini, Kaskaskia. Here, according to Hennepin, was a city of 460 lodges, each containing three or four fires and each fire accommodating two families.

Thus Kaskaskia, the capital of the Illini, was the most important

village in the West. It was a veritable city, much larger than the present town in that vicinity, but not nearly so beautiful or wealthy. Its houses were built of a framework of poles in the form of a "prairie schooner" cover, only larger, and covered with mats and rushes closely interwoven.

But though La Salle, Hennepin and Tonty, with their party, found a great village, they found this time no inhabitants. The town had been deserted for the season. It was the hunting season. The men were hunting and the squaws were gone with them and the fires were dead. Their grain was hidden in covered pits and a small quantity was taken by the starving party, hoping to appease the injured natives with presents; and they passed on to the lower end of the wide lake formed by the river, now called Lake Peoria. Here a fort was built, called Crevecoeur. Here the party spent the remainder of the winter.

When La Salle ascended again, early in the spring, Kaskaskia was still deserted. He remained here several days, however, and before his departure his attention was attracted to the great rock on the opposite shore, above the village. He decided that at this rock a score of resolute white men could hold out against a host of savages. He accordingly sent word to Tonty to examine the



LOOKING EAST FROM SPLIT ROCK.

rock and make it a stronghold in case of need. On the 15th of March, 1680, La Salle and party carried their canoes to the rapids, a few miles up the river and, battling with the floating ice, made their way back towards Lake Michigan; but again finding the river impassible, they hid their canoes and made the rest of the journey on foot, wading much of the way in water.

From this time the Illinois Valley was the center of all of La Salle's plans and activities, and Fort St. Louis was his proposed citadel and capital of the West. He sent back two couriers to Tonty at Creve-cœur, directing that the rock be fortified; but the couriers carried back also a tale of disaster to all of La Salle's enterprises such as to discourage the men and cause them to mutiny. While Tonty was at the rock, formulating his plans for fortifying it, his men at Creve-cœur destroyed the works at that place, stole the provisions and deserted. Tonty was thus left with three men and two friars among a hoard of savage and warlike tribes who had been taught to regard him as an enemy. With great show of confidence he took up his abode in the great village of the Illini when the inhabitants began to return in the spring, little suspecting the storm that was brewing over them in the plans of the Iroquois. This great tribe had built up a large trade with the English, while the Illini had been more intimate with the French. The Iroquois were seeking more territory and therefore decided to make war on the Illini.

Where today are gathered some of the greatest industries of the West, where there is the most picturesque scenery in the Mississippi valley, where now is a rich valley traversed by one of the first and most important canals, one of the great main lines of railroad and one of the best equipped electric railways in the country—here, from Starved Rock to Utica and for miles below, beginning at the great village, was the scene of carnage that eclipses all the other Indian warfare known to the white man. Here was the very picture of contentment. In the hidden recesses of the ground were the stores of grain

laid by for famine. This was the national treasury of the Illini. Further down was the burying-ground, where slept many chiefs and braves, awaiting their call to the happy hunting-ground. Half a thousand lodges were in view and these housed several thousand warriors and women. In times of peace, such as this which preceded the carnage, when Tonty lived here, it was a scene of tranquility. When a visitor came he was no intruder. He was welcome. A mat is laid for him and he is offered a pipe. The light comes in from a hole in the top of the lodge where the smoke goes out. There are three or four fires and around each is gathered one or two families; but it is not crowded, for the men are out, some on a hunt, some fishing, some lazily lounging in the sun or shade, and the squaws are at work in the fields or preparing food. Some are making mats or clothing, a warrior is making some implement of war, some are asleep and some sit idly staring into vacancy or chatting in groups about the pale-face who has just come among them.

These were the Kaskaskians. Below them a few miles, also on the river, were the Peorias, their relatives, who also belonged to the Illini. Others of the Illini were the Cahokias, the Tamaroas and the Moin-gonas. Some were across the great river to the west. They all belonged to the great Algonquin family. They were reputed to have



OTTAWA BOAT CLUB AND BRIDGE OVER FOX RIVER.

been a cowardly, licentious and slothful people, addicted to practices, as Hennepin relates, "which are sometimes supposed to be the result of a perverted civilization."

Near by the great village on the bank of the river Tonty took up his abode, but it was a dreary one. There was no war, no feast, no dancing, no gaming, no trading to beguile the languid hours and days until La Salle should return from the East.

Suddenly the armed Iroquois came and filled the forests along the Little Vermillion, across the river. Tonty was in peril, for it had been falsely reported by scouts that there were Frenchmen among the Iroquois—that La Salle himself was with them and that Tonty was a traitor. But Tonty fought for his allies until he saw the wisdom of mediation, secured a cessation of fighting until the Illinois could escape down the river, leaving their village a burning ruin.

Kaskaskia, or rather the site where the village had been, was then fortified by the Iroquois, and on the second day the Illini appeared on the hills behind Utica and hostages were exchanged. By the indiscretion of a youth of the Illini who was sent as one of the hostages the Iroquois learned that their enemy was not nearly so strong as Tonty had represented and Tonty was again in peril. A treaty was concluded, but the Iroquois prepared at once to renew the attack. The Illini were terror-stricken.

Tonty, having failed to secure peace, rejecting proffered presents from the Iroquois, was driven out and a hideous scene was at once enacted. The terrible Iroquois wreaked their fury on the deserted village and the bodies of the dead Illini, throwing the carcasses into the flames of the burning huts, devouring the half-cooked flesh of their victims and throwing the carcasses to the dogs, the wild beasts or the fowls. Placing skulls or scalps on poles as trophies, they pursued the Illini in a bloody rout down the river and across the Mississippi.

Tonty set out for Lake Michigan and Green Bay. La Salle was at his Fort Miami on the St. Joseph.

KASKASKIA IDENTIFIED

Parkman, in his "Discovery of the Great West," which is one of the popular sources, as well as the most reliable, of history of this section, unless we go to the writings of the French explorers themselves, says concerning the site of the ancient village of Kaskaskia:

"The site of the great Illinois town has not until now been determined * * * From a study of contemporary documents and maps I became satisfied, first, that the branch of the river Illinois, called the 'Big Vermillion' was the Aramoni of the French explorers; and, secondly, that the cliff called 'Starved Rock' was that known to the French as 'Le Rocher,' or the Rock of St. Louis. If I was right in this conclusion, then the position of the great village was established. * * * I accordingly went to the village of Utica, which, as I judged by the map, was very near the point in question, and mounted the top of one of the hills behind it, whence I could see the valley of the Illinois for miles, bounded on the further side by a range of hills, in some parts rocky and precipitous, and in others covered with forests. Far on the right was a gap in the hills, through which the Big Vermillion flowed to join the Illinois; and, somewhat towards the left, was a huge cliff, rising perpendicularly from the opposite margin of the river. This I assumed to be Le Rocher of the French, though from



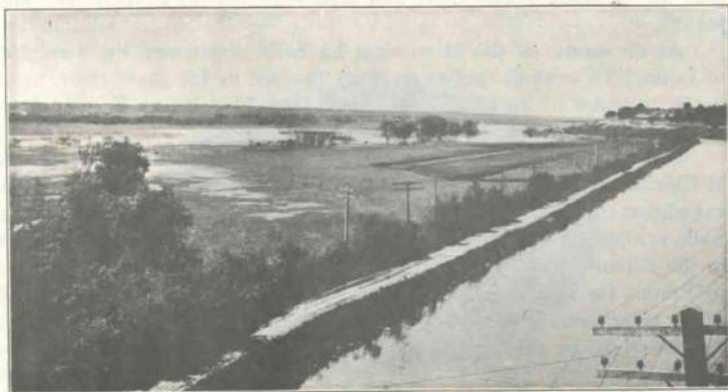
where I stood I was unable to discern the distinctive features which I was prepared to find in it. In every other respect the scene was precisely what I expected to see. There was a meadow on the hither side of the river, on which stood a farm house, and this, as it seemed to me, by its relations with the surrounding objects, might be supposed to stand in the midst of the space once occupied by the Illinois town.

"On the way down the hill I met Mr. James Clark, the principal inhabitant of Utica, and one of the earliest settlers of the region. * * * I asked Mr. Clark if Indian remains were found in the neighborhood. 'Yes,' he replied, 'plenty of them.' * * * 'On my farm, down yonder by the river, my tenant plows up teeth and bones by the peck every spring, besides arrowheads, beads, stone hatchets and other things of that sort.' I replied that this was precisely what I had expected, as I had been led to believe that the principal town of the Illinois Indians once covered that very spot. 'If,' I added, 'I am right in this belief, the great rock beyond the river is the one which the first explorers occupied as a fort, as I can describe it to you from their accounts of it, though I have never seen it except from the top of the hill where the trees on and around it prevented me from seeing any part but the front.' * * * 'The rock,' I continued, 'is nearly a hundred and fifty feet high, and rises directly from the water. The front and two sides are perpendicular and inaccessible, but there is one place where it is possible for a man to climb up, though with difficulty. The top is large enough and level enough for fortifications, * * * 'Then,' I said, 'the Big Vermillion is the river which the French called the Aramoni; Starved Rock is the same on which they built a fort called St. Louis in the year 1682; and your farm is on the site of the great town of the Illinois.'"

This locates the burying-ground, rather than the village itself, which extended probably above and nearer the rock, spreading out, no doubt, over a considerable area, in groups of huts which characterize

the Indian villages or thickly settled communities. So the site of the ancient village is probably crossed by the interurban railroad from Utica to Starved Rock.

In our narrative we left Tonty at Green Bay and La Salle at Ft.



LOOKING SOUTHWEST FROM SPLIT ROCK.

Miami. Hennepin was in the vicinity of the Falls of St. Anthony on the Mississippi.

La Salle now sets about to unite the tribes against the Iroquois, who are in league with his enemies and the English. La Salle, having counseled with a number of the tribes about federating and settling with him in the vicinity of Ft. St. Louis, then sets out for Ft. Frontenac to appease his creditors, rebuff his enemies and secure further loans with which to carry out his scheme of colonizing the Illinois Valley for trade with the French.

In 1861-2 he returns to the West via the Chicago portage and de-

scends the Illinois and Mississippi rivers to the Gulf of Mexico. He was joined by Tonty before leaving the lake region. As they passed the great village they found it tenantless and continued their journey in the mid-winter, passing rapidly into the milder breezes of the south-land and making peace, right and left, with the tribes they met and passed.

At the mouth of the Mississippi La Salle proclaimed the dominion of Louis XIV over the entire territory drained by the great river, naming it, in honor of his king, Louisiana. Thus Illinois was French territory.

On his return up the river he was seized by a dangerous illness at Chickasaw Bluffs and sent Tonty ahead to dispatch the news of the expedition to Canada and France and then return to the Illinois. But La Salle rejoined Tonty at Mackinack in September and ordered him back to the Illinois to build the fort on the rock, while he himself returned to France for means and people to establish his colonies at the mouth of the river and at the Rock. But, hearing that the war of the Iroquois was about to be resumed on the Illinois, he again joined Tonty, this time at the Rock. Fort St. Louis was built by La Salle and Tonty with the hope of being able to prevent the war which would certainly ruin his plans for a great trading colony in the valley by destroying the federation of the tribes as he had already effected it. The tribes had already gathered in this region. It was a beautiful and promising sight which La Salle now beheld. As he stood upon his fortress of nature's building the river valley was spread out before him. His abode was inaccessible from every side but one and that was easily protected. The lodges of all the tribes were scattered in thick clusters throughout the low-lands opposite the fort. At his feet on the left lay a small tract of forest near the level of the river, where now stands Starved Rock Hotel with its beautiful surroundings. Further back was a small lake. Behind the rock was the deep, dense canyon which, to him, served as merely a protection for the fortress, but to us is a

peaceful resort, shaded by a heavy foliage of the oaks, walnuts and elms, cutting out the most oppressive rays of the sun on the hottest summer day.

La Salle and Tonty cut away the trees on the top of the rock and built store-houses and dwellings within the palisades. During the winter of 1682 the natives had gathered in great numbers around the fort



PUBLIC SHELTER AT DEER PARK.

on the rock, in the valley across the river, on the prairie to the south and on Buffalo Rock, up the river, just as in Europe the peasants once gathered about their feudal lords. The Illini and their allies looked upon La Salle as their great chief and champion in the impending struggle. The scene is readily re-created in the imagination today as one stands upon the rock and looks over the valley. It was only a great impossible dream of American commerce as conceived by a great mind of that time.

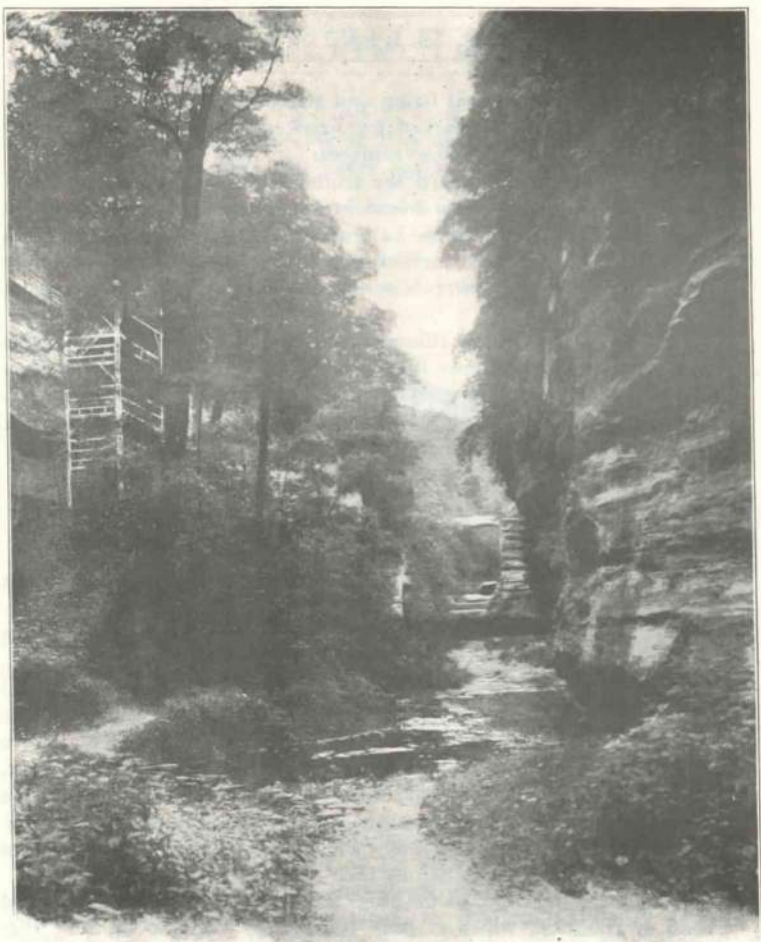
The great village had been restored and showed little trace of the terrible disaster of but a few months before. The Illini to the number of 6,000 had returned, and here were, too, the Shawanoes from the Ohio,

the Abenakis from Maine, the Miamis from Michigan and others from the regions of French influence. Of warriors alone there were some 4,000 gathered in the vicinity of the fort.

Then in the spring La Salle became greatly embarrassed for want of supplies, and merchandise for trade. His enemies had gained the upper hand in Montreal and he was compelled to go to France, whence he sailed to the Gulf of Mexico with a large supply of merchandise and provisions and a colony numbering more than one hundred men and women. In vain he sought to find the mouth of the Mississippi. In the wilds of the region to the west of the great river, having been carried and deserted by an unscrupulous navigator on the shore of Matagorda, he perished at the hands of an assassin, one of his own company, and his body was left to the prey of the gourmands of the forest.

In La Salle's absence the French governor, La Barre, ousted Tonty from the command of Fort St. Louis. Tonty heard of the disaster that had befallen La Salle's colony and started for the mouth of the Mississippi with an expedition from the fort, at his own expense, hoping to meet him. He reached the mouth of the river in the spring of 1686 but there was only solitude. He searched on either side, but found not his friend. He then returned, leaving a post to discover news of La Salle. When his post returned to the fort with part of La Salle's companions Tonty was away fighting the Iroquois. The fact of La Salle's assassination was not made known, but was concealed under statements that he had followed them to the Cenis villages and was in good health when last he had been seen. These men even reported that La Salle was on his way to the fort; whereupon the Jesuit Allouez, who had displaced Tonty, fled, leaving Tonty again in charge.

La Salle's followers endeavored to go to France in the fall of the following year, but on account of the lateness of their start were driven back for the winter. These murderers of La Salle, having shared Tonty's hospitality, borrowed from him on account of his friend whom



IN DEER PARK GLEN.

they had represented as still living and started in the spring for Montreal, where they later embarked for France. When, at last, they revealed their secret they became refugees.

When Tonty at last heard the truth about La Salle he set forth to carry out the plans of his friend in the South, but returned within a year. He then, jointly with La Forest, was granted proprietorship of Fort St. Louis and here carried on a fur business till 1702, when he was transferred to the lower Mississippi, thence to Mobile where he vanishes from history.

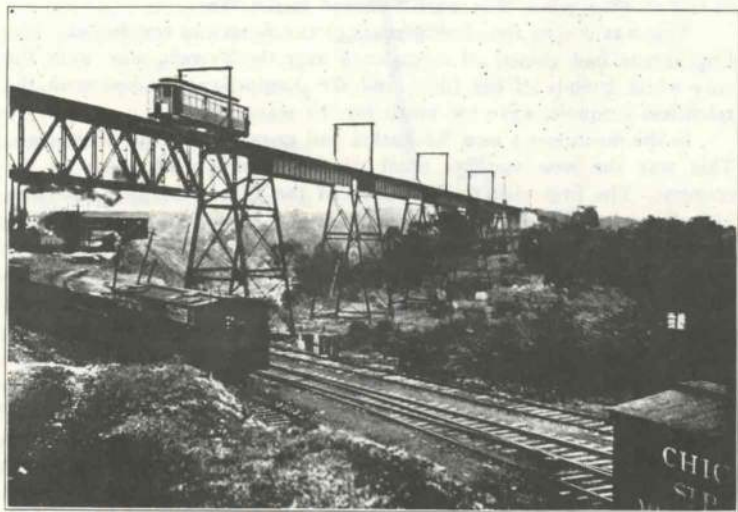
Fort St. Louis of the Illinois was abandoned for a time, but in 1718 a number of Frenchmen were found living there and carrying on trade with the Indians. Two years later the fort was again found to be deserted, and thereafter it was only occasionally used as a trading post or a vantage ground in Indian warfare.

LEGEND OF STARVED ROCK

The story is told in many forms of how this place was the last stand taken by the Illini and that here the tribe was exterminated. These legends are by some pronounced a fiction. It is not true that at this point the last remnant of the tribes of the Illini was wiped out, for there are still living many of the descendants of that once powerful people. It is true that a war party of the Illini took refuge on the rock and were surrounded on all sides by the enemy. They were prevented from securing food or water and starvation did its fatal work. The few survivors made at last a desperate dash in the middle of a dark and stormy night and some of them succeeded in eluding the foe. Most of them, being weakened by their long starvation were unable to fight and were soon dispatched by their sleek and well-fed pursuers.

Among the remnants of the Illini still living there is a well defined legend or tradition, which is fully believed by them to be true, that

this event was the last experience of their people on the east side of the Illinois and that, following it, they abandoned their entire line of defense along the river and never again crossed it. They feared to



I. V. RY. CO. BRIDGE AT SPRING VALLEY.

place its waters between them and the place of their retreat in case of defeat.

It was after the death of Pontiac in 1779, nearly a century after the stirring and bloody scenes of La Salle's time, nearly an hundred years after the great carnage that swept the valley with the Iroquois, that the Illini bid their last farewell to the beloved scenes of their fertile valley. All but the few had gone and these were doomed on the

rock. This siege of the rock, from which it has derived its name, occurred in the year 1780.

Thereafter the Illini were scattered along the Mississippi and further west. There are copies of government treaties made with them as late as 1820, when they were removed to the West.

This was during the closing years of the American revolution. The Englishman had gained all ascendancy over the French, who were the only white friends of the Illini, and the Anglo-Saxon, allied with the relentless Iroquois, were too much for the wavering Illini.

In the meantime a new Kaskaskia had grown up on the Mississippi. This was the new vantage point of the coming civilization of the country. The first visit to the valley of the Illinois by any American citizen was probably in 1773, when a party came up the river from Kaskaskia in search of a copper mine. This party was met by French traders who drove them back after a fruitless search through the entire valley. The American Fur Company established trading posts here in 1816, and it was through the profits of this company that the immense fortune of John Jacob Astor was built up.

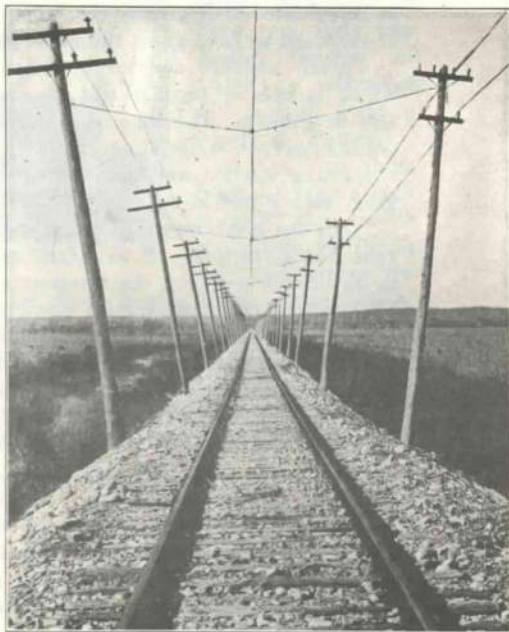
The first white settlements were made about 1823, and thereafter, until the close of the Black Hawk war, these settlements were continually threatened by the savages. But the wave of immigration which followed was such a flood that the red man was swept before it, never again to return. The last encounter, the more familiar Black Hawk war, was fought within the memory of men now living and the white man was never again threatened in his new home.

DEER PARK

For no other one thing is the Illinois Valley Railway Company deserving of more credit than for having brought closer to the homes of the people the many beauty spots of the Illinois river valley. Many of the older residents of the upland prairies hold among their recollections the memory of rising at a very early hour and driving across

the miles of intervening country to Deer Park Glen. Now the inter-urban lands the visitor at Utica or La Salle, where carriage or automobile speedily carries him to this beautiful spot, which certainly is worthy of a visit. Both geologically and historically it is identified with the region of which the historic Starved Rock is the principal landmark. During the period of the occupation of the Indian village near Starved Rock the Indians found that the woods in the neighborhood, and particularly that very rugged strip lying between the Big Vermillion and the Illinois rivers, about two miles in width, and extending from the bluffs near Starved Rock west to the mouth of the Vermillion, abounded in game, and particularly deer. This strip of country, together with the valley of the Vermillion, was their principal hunting ground.

According to tradition the favorite method of hunting in this locality was to drive the game through the narrow valley of the Vermillion from both directions, meeting about the mouth of the rocky canyon of Deer Park. The deer, seeking a mode of escape, would turn up this



I. V. RY. CO. ROAD-BED.

gorge, through which they would be driven for about a mile, where their flight would be stopped by the perpendicular and overhanging walls of the cavern at its end. Trapped in this manner the deer would be slaughtered at leisure by the Indian hunters. This mode of hunting is supposed to have given the name of Deer Park to the locality.

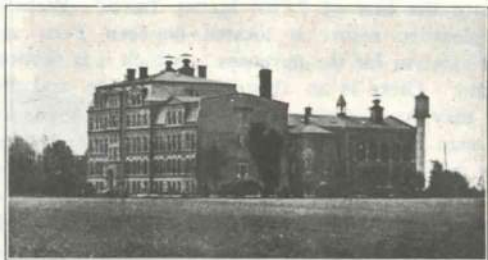
Much romance and tradition are connected with this wild spot, which is one of peculiar and unusual beauty, quite unlike anything else in Illinois. The surprising geological formations, imposing canyons, numerous waterfalls, and the picturesque dells and hills, are of surpassing interest and attractiveness. Trees and shrubs abound in great variety and in almost primeval state.

For the preservation of the beauties of Deer Park too much credit cannot be given to Mr. F. W. Matthiessen, whose property it is. While it is all private property, the interests of the public have been carefully conserved. The most rugged portions of the park have been left as nearly as possible in their native state, access to them being provided by means of carefully graded and graveled paths and drives. Other portions possessing less natural interest have been planted and parked, the improvements being in charge of talented landscape designers of national reputation. In this park is located Mr. Matthiessen's summer residence, and here also are located the club house and grounds of the Deer Park Country Club. Its golf links are the best in all this country round. These portions are not open to the public. But the glen itself and all the great natural park are thrown open to the public by the generous owner, and for the public he has provided beautiful shelter houses and every facility and convenience for spending a pleasant day in this beauty spot.

ST. BEDE'S COLLEGE

One does not have to go as far back as the days of Tonti and La Salle to find great historic names associated with the Illinois valley and the interurban railroad. In passing, attention might be called to

the fact that the Ottawa station is located just two blocks south of the spot where the immortal Lincoln and the great Douglass began their great series of debates. And west of Peru one runs into another section of country identified with a name great in American history.



ST. BEDE'S COLLEGE.

As the line turns from the prairie back towards the timber land along the Illinois river one sees on the

left an imposing structure. It has the look of a scholastic institution. And such it is. This is St. Bede's College. Here on the Illinois prairies the Benedictine Fathers have built up a school that has done good work, and won deserved fame. So much so that extensive additions are even now being made thereto. Should you leave the car and visit the college, this is one of the things that would interest you. As you enter the main portal you would see in the broad corridor a life size bust of a great American statesman—Daniel Webster. The Great Defender of the Constitution was once the owner of these broad acres on which this school has been planted.



I. V. R. Y. CO. SUB-STATION.

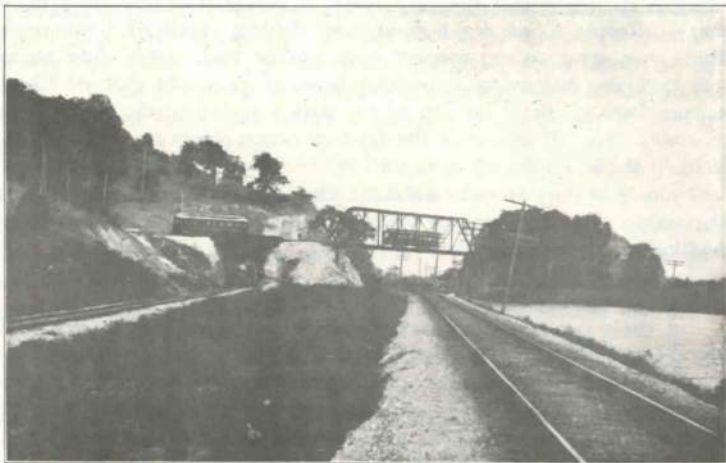
WEBSTER PARK

The name of the great statesman is also associated with another striking institution along the line of "THE ILLINI TRAIL"—Webster Park. This popular pleasure resort is located between Peru and Spring Valley. A finer location for the purposes to which it is devoted it would be hard to find. There is an abundance of shade, and any comfort which nature may have omitted is more than made up by the thoughtfulness of man. Here are summer theaters, refreshment stands and an immense dancing pavillion, the perfection of its polished floor being known to the lovers of Terpsichore for many miles around. A famous orchestra holds forth here. There is an enclosed ball park, where the national game is played, and from time to time there are many special attractions offered. The result is that during the summer season Webster Park is one of the most popular spots along the entire length of "THE ILLINI TRAIL."

SPLIT ROCK

The construction of the interurban road through the Illinois valley had its own peculiar problems, the solution of which reflects no little credit upon the engineers in charge. One of the most striking instances of this is shown at Split Rock. When the Rock Island road was built just east of Utica a big rocky bluff was encountered. Through this rock the road tunneled. Later when a double track was laid the second line of rails was laid by the end of the rocky bluff, between it and another immense detached boulder that served to give the place its name of Split Rock. And here the interurban road was raised above the canal and over the Rock Island tracks. A massive iron bridge diagonally crosses over Split Rock and from the trolley car you can look down upon the western mouth of the tunnel. It is a unique and interesting sight. And the surrounding scenery is rough and romantic in the extreme. On the one hand stretches of lowland and waterscapes

of alluring beauty, on the other wood bluffs, rocky canyons and ravines rich in ferns and mosses of bewitching beauty. And here on



SPLIT ROCK FROM THE WEST.

the hills above Split Rock is located another of those resorts which have sprung up along "THE ILLINI TRAIL."

CHAUTAUQUA PARK

The "Chautauqua idea" is a peculiarly American one. The country is dotted with these resorts at which pleasure and instruction are charmingly and effectively combined. Chautauqua Park is located along the interurban line some two miles west of Ottawa. Here during the great summer assemblies hundreds of people camp during the entire period of

ten days. Here also are heard during that period many of the country's greatest orators and entertainers. And the interurban road has brought all this within the easy reach of people who live many miles away. People living far beyond easy driving reach of Chautauqua Park now drive to the nearest point on the line, stable their teams and take the interurban car which lands them at the gate of Chautauqua Park. Nor is the use of the park confined to the time of the assembly only. It is one of the favorite picnic places on the line. Its verdant shade, its shelter in case of inclement weather, and its exhaustless supply of pure artesian water, all combine to make it that. During the season there are frequent attractions in the shape of band concerts and kindred entertainments.

ELLIS PARK

A short two miles east of Ottawa, on a wooded bluff overhanging the south shore of the Illinois river, is Ellis Park. It is another of the great picnic grounds of this section of country, having every natural and artificial convenience to render it available for such purposes. It is accessible up and down the valley—from Seneca to Ladd—by means of the interurban and a short ride on the local street car line.

FISHING, HUNTING AND BOATING

Up and down the valley of the Illinois there is much to attract the lover of rod and gun. In the rivers and the canal there is fishing to be had, and small game abounds in the surrounding country. With its richness of scenic setting it would be hard to conceive of a more delightful section for boating. Year by year more attention is being given to the latter form of invigorating sport, and a thousand oars ripple the waters and the chug-chug of the pleasure launch is heard at almost every turn in the river. And again the utility of the interurban is shown by carrying people to points where they can take advantage of these short and pleasant jaunts by water.

OTTAWA BOAT CLUB

Aside from being one of the great social centers of the Illinois valley this organization is one of the principal stimulators of interest in all that pertains to boating. Its fine club house at the junction of the Fox and Illinois rivers is deservedly one of the "show places" along the line. From its floating boat house daily goes out a fleet of canoes, row boats, sail boats and launches, carrying many people to nearby points of rest and recreation.

BASE BALL

Residents along "THE ILLINI TRAIL" are certainly well provided with amusement of this kind. Aside from the ball grounds at Webster Park there are fine enclosed grounds at La Salle, Ottawa and Marseilles. And at all these places fine semi-professional teams are maintained.

THE HORSE

In a section of country possessing so many fine drives it is to be expected that much interest should be taken in the light harness driving horse. La Salle and Ottawa are both members of the famous Illinois



Valley Circuit, and each city is possessed of a fine half-mile track. During the season meetings are given at these tracks which attract the finest horses in the west. And the races are always attended by large crowds of interested spectators.

ACTIVITIES OF THE VALLEY

This great Illinois valley is as rich in industrial activity as it is in scenic beauty. From the wonderful water power of Marseilles, on the east, to the great coal mines of Spring Valley and Ladd, on the west, millions of dollars are invested in industrial enterprises—enterprises which give employment to thousands of workmen in factories whose products reach a market so extensive that it is not even ocean-bounded on either side.

At Marseilles the water power gives motive force to the great Boyce paper mills, the large plant of Howe & Davidson, to the Crescent paper mills and other enterprises in kindred lines, as well as to the plant of the Marseilles Manufacturing Company, whose agricultural implements are found wherever seed is sown or crops are garnered.

At Ottawa are the great plants of King & Hamilton, makers of agricultural implements, and S. G. Gay, maker of vehicles. A large proportion of the hay crop of Uncle Sam is handled by the tools whose manufacture constitutes the specialty of the J. E. Porter Company. Here, too, is located the American Hardware Manufacturing Company,



POWER HOUSE
OF I. V. RY. CO.

who, in addition to a great domestic trade, have also a large foreign outlet for many hardware specialties. Two successful piano factories send their products broadcast, and the Pioneer Fire-Proofing Company,



A COAL MINE.

one of the largest plants engaged in the production of the fire-proofing material that has revolutionized modern building, is here located. Along "THE ILLINI TRAIL" is also the Utica Fire Brick Company, one of the controlling factories of the middle west in the manufacture of fire brick.

Millions of dollars are invested in the cement industry, and in the mining and shipping of fine sands for glass making and foundry purposes. The cement industry is represented by some of the largest institutions of their kind in the country and include the German-Ameri-

can Portland Cement Works, the Chicago Portland Cement Company, the Marquette Cement Manufacturing Company, the Utica Cement Manufacturing Company, the Utica Hydraulic Cement Company and the Illinois Hydraulic Cement Manufacturing Company. While in the shipping of sand such works as the Ottawa Silica Company and the United States Silica Company handle this product in immense quantities with most improved machinery and modern facilities.

At La Salle and Peru is located the headquarters of the zinc industry of the United States. Here are to be found the great plants of Matthiessen & Hegeler and the Illinois Zinc Company. The Peru Plow & Wheel Company is one of the big factors in the agricultural implement business of the west, and the Western Clock Manufacturing Company is a leading factory of the country in the manufacture of clocks. Here also are located some of the most important coal mines of North Central Illinois.

Further to the west, at Spring Valley and Ladd, and a half dozen little mining towns that are springing up about them, one finds himself in the very heart of the coal mining industry. In addition to a few of the more important industries just hurriedly mentioned are hundreds of other industries and factories doing a thriving and growing business.

NOTES

Tickets are sold at an office or waiting room in each town, and reduced round trip rates between most of the stations on the line may be obtained by purchasing return trip tickets. The fares are based on a rate of two cents per mile. Commutation books for family use, containing 100 five cent tickets, are sold for \$1.50, with no time limit. The same book is sold to contractor for the use of a large force of men for \$4.00. Mileage books, containing 100 five cent coupons, for individual use, may be rebated in 30 days for \$2.00, in 60 days for \$1.00 and in 90 days fifty cents.

The opportunities for fast express between points on "THE ILLINI TRAIL" are much appreciated by shippers requiring the quick delivery of merchandise and produce. Shipments that are not too bulky to be carried on the front platform of the passenger cars are accepted and delivered to any point along the line or left at any station of the company. Freight and express will be accepted at any point on the road, or will be billed out regularly by agents at the various stations, where receipts may be obtained. For large shipments special express cars are operated. Commercial travelers find it very convenient to ship their trunks this way, as "THE ILLINI TRAIL" passes the large hotels as well as business houses in the various cities.

As this booklet goes to press extensions of "THE ILLINI TRAIL" are in progress of construction from the present eastern terminus, at Marseilles, to Seneca on the east, and from Ladd to Princeton on the west.

Copies of this booklet may be had by sending five two cent postage stamps to

THE ILLINOIS VALLEY RAILWAY CO.
LA SALLE, ILLINOIS.

PUBLISHER'S NOTE:

While the price of this booklet as quoted

TIME TABLE OF THE ILLINOIS VALLEY RAILWAY COMPANY

WEST CAR		Saturday and Sunday Nights Only.													
		AM	AM	AM	AM	AM	PM	PM	PM	PM	PM	PM	PM	M	
Marseilles.....	lv				7 15	8 15	8 15	9 15	10 15	11 20		9 15	10 15	11 15	12 00
City Limits.....	lv				7 30	8 30	8 30	9 30	10 30	11 35		9 30	10 30	11 30	12 15
Ottawa.....	ar				7 35	8 35	8 35	9 35	10 35	11 40		9 35	10 35	11 35	12 20
Ottawa.....	lv			6 40	7 40	8 40	8 40	9 40	11 10			9 40	10 40	11 40	
Gravel Pit.....	lv			7 00	8 00	9 00	9 00	10 00	11 30			10 00	11 00	12 00	
Utica.....	lv			7 12	8 12	9 12	9 12	10 12	11 42			10 12	11 12	12 12	
La Salle.....	ar			7 30	8 30	9 30	9 30	10 30	12 00			10 30	11 30	12 30	
La Salle.....	lv	5 33	6 33	7 33	8 33	9 33	9 33	11 00				10 33	11 33		
Peru.....	lv	5 45	6 45	7 45	8 45	9 45	9 45	11 12				10 45	11 45		
Gravel Pit.....	lv	6 00	7 00	8 00	9 00	10 00	10 00	11 25				11 00	12 00		
Spring Valley.....	lv	6 05	7 05	8 05	9 05	10 05	10 05	11 30				11 05	12 05		
Ladd.....	ar	6 28	7 28	8 28	9 28	10 28	10 28	11 58				11 28	12 28		

EAST CAR		Saturday and Sunday Nights Only.													
		AM	AM	AM	AM	PM	PM	PM	PM	PM	PM	PM	PM	PM	
Ladd.....	lv			6 30	7 30	8 30	9 30	10 30	12 00			8 30	9 30	10 30	12 30
Spring Valley.....	lv			6 55	7 55	8 55	9 55	10 55	12 25			8 55	9 55	10 55	12 55
Gravel Pit.....	lv			7 00	8 00	9 00	10 00	11 00	12 30			9 00	10 00	11 00	12 00
Peru.....	lv			7 10	8 10	9 10	10 10	11 10	12 40			9 10	10 10	11 10	12 10
La Salle.....	ar			7 27	8 27	9 27	10 27	11 27	12 57			9 27	10 27	11 27	12 27
La Salle.....	lv			6 30	7 30	8 30	9 30	11 00				9 30	10 30	11 30	
Utica.....	lv			6 48	7 48	8 48	9 48	11 18				9 48	10 48	11 48	
Gravel Pit.....	lv			7 00	8 00	9 00	10 00	11 30				10 00	11 00	12 00	
Ottawa.....	ar			7 20	8 20	9 20	10 20	11 50				10 20	11 20	12 20	
Ottawa.....	lv	6 35	7 25	8 25	9 25	11 00						10 25	11 25		
City Limits.....	lv	6 40	7 30	8 30	9 30	11 05						10 30	11 30		
Marseilles.....	ar	6 55	7 45	8 45	9 45	11 20						10 45	11 45		

Sunday cars start one hour later in the morning.

LA SALLE-PERU-SPRING VALLEY—Half hour service from 5:30 to 8:30 a. m., and 11:30 a. m. to 8:30 p. m.

LA SALLE LOCAL (BUCKLIN ST. LINE)—Leaves waiting room on the hour and every 20 min.

LA SALLE-PERU LOCAL (JOLIET ST. LINE)—Cars leave waiting room on the 15 min. and 45 min.

