

exclusive product so depressed, but provisions rose to a very high price. Flour commanded from fifteen to eighteen dollars per barrel, pork thirty dollars per barrel, coffee fifty cents and sugar twenty-five cents per pound. At these ruinous prices for lead and mineral, and high prices for provisions, it required a desperate effort on the part of the miner to secure even a scanty living. It took from four to five thousand pounds of mineral to pay for one barrel of flour; I gave four thousand pounds for a barrel. In consequence of the great depression of the times, many persons became discouraged and left the country, many more gave up business, and the country at that period, and during the years 1830 and 1831, presented a most gloomy and unpromising appearance, and was, in fact, any thing but flattering to inhabitants or strangers.

During all this time, the people were compelled to pursue the uncertain and precarious fortune of mining as a means of livelihood, the cultivation of the soil being expressly prohibited by the laws and regulations governing the mines. But in the spring of 1832, however, the Superintendent of the mining country, seeing the absolute necessity of the thing, signified to the inhabitants, that he would not take any measures to prevent them from cultivating the soil; but could not, under his instructions from the General Government, give them any special permission to do so. Up to this time, it was necessary, under the mining regulations, to procure a permit even to mine. The regulations governing the mines, were of the most rigid character, and they were sometimes rigidly enforced, sending officers with instructions to remove persons from certain localities. An instance of this kind, I believe, occurred, in which Gen. Dodge was the person sought to be removed. He was then mining at Dodgeville, a region to which the Indian title had not been fully extinguished. This was in the year 1828; but these instances were, however, quite rare.

In consequence of the inhabitants being partially permitted to cultivate the soil, there was an evident appearance of increasing