

Pénicaud, after speaking of the rapids in the Mississippi at Rock Island, says: "We found both on the right and left bank the lead mines, called to this day the mines of Nicholas Perrot, the name of the discoverer. Twenty leagues [39 English miles, by U. S. land survey] from there on the right, was found the mouth of a large river, the Ouisconsin."<sup>1</sup> It was the 13th of August, 1700, when they arrived opposite Fever River, which Pénicaud calls "Rivière a la Mine." He reports that up this little river, a league and a half, there was "a lead mine in the prairie." They passed up the Mississippi, Pénicaud mentioning two streams which correspond to the Platte and Grant rivers, in Wisconsin, and says that Le Sueur "took notice of a lead mine at which he supplied himself,"—supposed to be what afterwards came to be known as "Snake diggings," near Potosi, Wisconsin. After making note of the Black, Buffalo, Chippewa, and St. Croix rivers, in Wisconsin, Le Sueur passed the winter on the Blue River, in what is now Minnesota. He does not, except for his immediate necessities, appear to have utilized the lead mines he had discovered. The following summer he abandoned his post, and returned to France.<sup>2</sup>

On William de l'Isle's chart of Louisiana, issued in 1703, in which he was assisted by the observations of Le Sueur, the Galena lead mines are plainly indicated, as are also the Dubuque mines, on the west side.<sup>3</sup>

September 14, 1712, Louis XIV. granted to Sieur Anthony Crozat, for a term of fifteen years, a monopoly of trade and mining privileges in Louisiana. The mines were granted in perpetuity, subject to a royalty, and to forfeiture if abandoned. While Crozat's men found none of the

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<sup>1</sup> Margry, v., p. 412.

<sup>2</sup> In this same year (1700), Father Gravier made a trip down the Mississippi, and wrote: "I do not know what our court will decide about the Mississippi, if no silver mines are found, for our government does not seek land to cultivate. They care little for mines of lead, which are very abundant near the Illinois."—Winsor, *Cartier to Frontenac* (Boston, 1894), p. 365.

<sup>3</sup> Neill, *Minnesota*, p. xlv.