

extract all the matter. This matter, falling into the basin, forms a lump, which they afterward melt over again into bars weighing from sixty to eighty pounds, in order to facilitate the transportation to Kaskaskia. This is done with horses, who are quite vigorous in the country. One horse carries generally four or five of these bars. It is worthy of remark, gentlemen, that in spite of the bad system these men have to work, there has been taken out of the La Motte mine 2,500 of these bars in 1741, 2,228 in 1742, and these men work only four or five months in the year at most."

Up to November 3, 1762, France held possession of both sides of the Mississippi, but she then ceded the eastern half of the valley to Great Britain, who did not, however, take possession until April 21, 1764. In the same year of the cession to Great Britain, France made a secret treaty with Spain, by which the country west of the river was handed over to the latter power, which, however, allowed six years to elapse before she assumed charge.

In 1763, Francis Benton made finds of lead near Potosi, Missouri, and had, for a time, extensive workings there.

The map made by Jonathan Carver, as a result of his Northwestern travels in 1766, places lead mines at Blue Mounds, just south of the Wisconsin River. He found ore in the streets of "the Great Town of the Saukies," about the site of the present Prairie du Sac, and appears to have ascended the principal mound, which he says "abounded in lead."¹

In Capt. Henry Gordon's *Journal*, written the same year (1766),² occurs the following passage, showing that there was at that time a considerable lead industry in progress among the French on the west side of the Mississippi: "The French have large boats of 20 tons, rowed with 20 oars, which will go in *seventy odd days* from New Orleans to the Illinois. These boats go to the Illinois twice a year, and are not half loaded on their return; was there any

¹ Carver, *Travels* (London, 1778), pp. 47, 48.

² In Pownall, *Topographical Description of North America* (London, 1776).