

where he saw the Indians smelting lead in rude furnaces. At one time he bought seventy tons of metal from them, "and still left much at the furnace."¹

Nicholas Boilvin does not appear to have broken up the French-Canadian trade in the lead district, for we find that up to 1819 several American traders, who attempted to go among the Sac and Fox miners and run opposition to the Canadians, had been killed. One of these Americans is said to have thus lost his life in 1813, on Sinsiniwa creek.

In the immediate neighborhood of where Galena came to be planted, there were, in 1815, about twenty rude Indian furnaces, the product being bought almost entirely by French-Canadian traders, who are reported to have rated a peck of ore as worth a peck of corn. The same year, a crew of American boatmen attempted to go up Fever River by water, but the Indians prevented them, fearing the cupidity of the Americans, who might become excited by the richness of the mines, and attempt to dispossess the natives.

In 1816, Col. George Davenport, agent of the American Fur Company, and engaged in trade with the Sacs and Foxes, erected a trading post on the portage between the Mississippi and the Fever, near the mouth of the latter; but he left soon after, and went to Rock Island, where he settled. Davenport is credited with shipping to St. Louis, in 1816, the first flat-boat cargo of lead ever avowedly emanating from the Fever River mines; it was used in payment for Indian goods. Lead in those days was, like fur, quite as useful as currency in the financial operations of the country.

By a treaty concluded August 24, 1816, at St. Louis, all lands lying north of a line drawn due west of the southern extremity of Lake Michigan to the Mississippi, were granted to the Indians,² except a tract five leagues square

¹ *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, viii., p. 250. See Shaw's personal narrative in *Id.*, ii., pp. 197 *et seq.*

² To the Ottawas, Chippewas, and Pottawattomies. In a letter of Gov. Ninian Edwards, of Illinois, dated Belleville, Sept. 13, 1827 (Washburne,