

# MOUNTAINS OF JUNK CONTAIN GOLD MINES

*War Increases Demand for Metals to Such an Extent That  
Price Soars in Response.*

Enormous increases in the market values of most metals because of the war have turned mountains of rusty junk, once moderately valuable, into gold mines in disguise.

Duluth, it was estimated yesterday by scrap iron and metal dealers, realizes nearly \$2,000,000 annually in junk as compared with \$1,000,000 several years back.

This does not mean that more money is made by junk dealers in the end, for the prices they pay to the "producer" of junk have increased proportionately.

With the demand for metals of all kinds, not only mines, but junk dealers, have been forced to enlarge their working forces. There are approximately 500 men employed by five large junk firms in Duluth. One company employs nearly 100 men.

On the waterfront are heaps of twisted metal plates and rods, veritable mountains of metal, gathered from all parts of the northwest. Toiling in these mountains are crews of men, sorting the scrap into various grades.

The junk is divided into two classes:

Valuable metals and size. The kind of metal of which a piece of junk is made determines whether it will be broke up or saved whole. Brass, copper, lead and zinc are generally saved whole. Cast iron, steel rods, and all "composition" scraps are broken up by the great motor-operated shears.

Often complete engines are "junked." In this case a great pear-shaped weight, operated by a motor, is used to break up the grates and cast iron pieces. The plates are shipped whole. From seven to eight car loads of junk are shipped from Duluth every day to smelters in various parts of the northwest.

Copper is now 27½ cents per pound as compared with 18 and 20 cents a few years ago. Lead is 6.9 cents per pound. The time was when it was worth 1 and 2 cents. Brass is in the same class with copper; the present price is about 30 cents per pound.

Zinc, a metal used to a great extent in the manufacture of munitions, is now 13 cents per pound, whereas two years ago it sold for 4 cents. Tin is as high as 42 cents per pound.