

THE HECLA POWDER COMPANY

by Mark Bohannon
Oro Grande, California

Early in 1880, two brothers, Charles A. and George Franklin Morse, and their cousin, Lieutenant Jerome Edward Morse organized the Hecla Powder Company. The company was incorporated in 1880 with an authorized capital of \$100,000.

A general office was established at 239 Broadway, New York City, and the location for a small factory was purchased north of Rahway in New Jersey. The Hecla Powder Company manufactured regular dynamite under the trade name of "Miner's Friend."

In 1883, Lamont du Pont of the Repauno Chemical Company acquired an interest in the Hecla Powder Company. A year or two later, when the large profits did not materialize, and additional capital became necessary, the issuance of another \$100,000 in stock was authorized. Acting for the owners of the Repauno Chemical Company, William du Pont purchased all of this

stock, giving the Repauno Chemical Company a majority interest in the Hecla Powder Company.

In 1886, after arrangements had been made to manufacture the Hecla Powder Company's dynamite at Kenil, New Jersey, all dynamite manufacturing at Rahway ceased.

In 1896, after the Repauno Chemical Company had acquired the remaining stock of the Hecla Powder Company, the small factory at Rahway was dismantled. At this time, the company's name was changed to the Hecla Dynamite Company and was operated as a selling concern.

On September 30, 1905, the corporation was dissolved.¹

The advertisement shown here, from a January 3, 1891, issue of *The Engineering and Mining Journal*, is the only item known at this time from the Hecla Powder Company.

1. Arthur P. Van Gelder and Hugo Schlatter,
History of the Explosives Industry in America,



MINER'S FRIEND.

The Safest, Strongest, Best Dynamite