

HUNTER'S ISLAND IN DISPUTE.

THE BOUNDARY LINE BETWEEN CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES.

ST. PAUL, June 7.—The row between the United States and Canada over Hunter's Island, lying directly north of Lake County, Minn., is exciting a great deal of attention, owing to the millions of tons of iron ore which the island contains. Among the claimants are many St. Paul, Minneapolis, and Duluth capitalists, who will at once homestead the island and raise an issue between the United States and Great Britain as to the boundary line between Canada and Minnesota.

Heretofore it has been claimed by Canada that the entire island belonged to the British possessions, and all American maps show it to be on the Canadian side of the line. Speaking of the matter to-day, Prof. N. H. Winchell, State Geologist, said:

Neither the United States nor Canada has ever surveyed the eastern portion of Hunter's Island. We have been wrong in placing the boundary line where it is at present, on the south side of the eastern portion of the island, for the treaty plainly says that it must run through Cypress Lake, which is on the north side; then to reach Lac Du Bois Blanc or Basswood Lake it would have to run almost south through Pseudo Messer Lake and the other bodies lying between Cypress Lake and Basswood Lake. I cannot see how it could run anywhere else according to the terms of the Webster-Ashburton treaty. The men who have taken up claims on the eastern portion of Hunter's Island seem to have a good case, as apparently the land they are on belongs to the United States and not to the English Government. Practically, all of the iron ore is on this part of the island."

THE BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS.

The Bureau of Vital Statistics of the Health Department, as its name implies, is the place where all the deaths, marriages, and births are supposed to be reported and placed on record.

While, as might be expected, all deaths occurring in this city are reported, because no person can be buried without a permit from this bureau, the full number of births or marriages which occur are not reported. Although ministers and others are required by law to make reports of the marriages solemnized by them, and all doctors and midwives are required by the provisions of the Sanitary Code to report all births at which they officiate, the law is often disobeyed, and there are many secret marriages and many births which are not placed on record.

For various reasons the persons interested desire privacy and not publicity, and it is not until they desire to establish facts of marriage or birth by legal testimony that they discover they have made this very difficult by their failure to report to the Bureau of Vital Statistics.

From this bureau are issued all transcripts of deaths, marriages, and births as recorded, and under the seal of the department they are accepted in the courts of the United States and in foreign countries as prima facie evidence of the recorded event.