

**The Knowledge Bank at The Ohio State University**  
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**Abstract:** Excursion to the Bessie Furnace, Lost Run Mines, and Hocking Valley Clay works

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## THE WINTER EXCURSION.

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Through the kindness of President C. C. Waite, of the C., H. V. & T. R. R., two extra coaches were attached to the regular train on Friday morning. These were assigned to the members of the Institute and their friends. At Logan the excursionists were provided with an engine and crew to take them through the mining regions of Hocking county. The first stop was made at the Bessie, the only furnace of the great number located in the valley in operation. A cast was made while there, a sight new to many of the visitors. This furnace is of the type of thirty years ago. The burden consisted of raw coal and native ore from which they were making a grade of iron very high in silicon, and sold under the name "Ferro Silicon." It is said to be the only plant in the United States where this grade of iron is being produced. The Bessie is one of a group of furnaces owned by the Columbus & Hocking Coal & Iron Co. After a halt of half an hour the excursionists were taken to the mines of the Lost Run Coal Co., located near the village of New Straitsville. Upon their arrival the surface plans of hauling and handling the coal, were first inspected. Soon after our arrival the party were invited to lunch. Mr. Slater and his associates having temporarily converted their store-room into a dining hall, where they served to the excursionists a most substantial and palatable meal, the serving of which developed strong evidence that each one had brought his appetite with him. After dinner the party was divided into squads and by means of two or more openings entered the mines, where they spent the greater part of the afternoon in a most pleasant and profitable manner. On the return trip a short stop was made at the works of the Logan Fire Clay Co. and the Hocking Clay Co.; both plants were found idle and after a hasty examination of the machinery and the method of treating the clays, the party was taken to Logan, where their cars were attached to the

regular train, which arrived in Columbus at 7:45 that evening. The excursionists felt that they had enjoyed both a pleasant and profitable day among the hills of the Hocking valley, for which they are under lasting obligations to President C. C. Waite and the officers of the C., H. V. & T. R. R., to Mr. Joseph Slater and the Lost Run Coal Co., the C. & H. C. & I. Co., the Hocking Clay Co. and the Logan Fire Clay Co. for the many favors extended and the kind and courteous treatment received at their hands, for which they will always hold them in grateful remembrance.