

# Big Mines Owned By Americans

BRITISH COLUMBIA AND ITS GREAT COPPER DEPOSITS

The Phoenix Mines and the Granby Smelters—How Copper is Made—The Kootenay Country and its Gold and Silver—A Mighty Inland Island—Municipal Ownership in the Far West—Towns Which Run Their Street Cars and Telephones at Low Rates and Big Profits

(Special Correspondence of the Desert News by Frank G. Carpenter.)

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**GRAND FORKS, British Columbia.**—I am in British Columbia within a stone's throw of the international boundary. This town of Grand Forks is just over the way from the state of Washington, and about five hours by rail from Spokane. It lies here in the heart of the Rockies. Rugged brown hills rise high above it, and the Kettle river crosses its principal street. The place is only a few years old, but it has now about 2,000 people, with building lots sufficient for a city of 20 times that size. It is a mining town, supported by a smelter owned by Americans, which turns out more copper than any other in the Dominion of Canada.

## THE PHOENIX COPPER MINES.

This whole region is a great treasure house with gold, silver, iron and coal scattered here and there through it. Only an hour's ride away are the Phoenix mines, which are said to be working in one of the biggest copper basins of the world. The ore is taken out with steam shovels. It lies in a great body 200 feet wide and more than half a mile long. The deposit is, in fact, wider than Pennsylvania, and if it could be planned down in Washington it would reach just half way to the Capital. No one knows how far down the ore extends. Diamond drills have been sunk into it for 1,000 feet, and now the shafts is now taking up copper from levels 400 feet below the surface.

## MINING WITH STEAM SHOVELS.

The output of these mines is now 3,000 tons per day, and up to the beginning of last year something like 2,000,000 tons of ore had been shipped. The machinery is altogether modern. The copper is loaded with steam shovels, each of which will pick up a ton at a bite, and it comes to the surface in electric cars. The drills are worked by Westinghouse motors, and electricity moves the crushers. The economies are such that the ore is hardly touched by man from the time the dynamite blasts it out until it is ready for shipment in great bars about as thick as a loaf of bread and as long as a man's arm. These bars are almost pure, each containing 98 per cent of copper, silver and gold.

## A BIG SMELTER OWNED BY AMERICANS.

The biggest copper smelter in British America is situated here at Grand Forks. It is known as the Granby, and is fed by these great Phoenix mines. It lies right on the banks of the Kettle river, shadowed by mighty mountains and washed by that stream. The smelting works are high above the river, and day and night, Sunday and week days, all the time round, the smoke rises from their mighty stacks and the golden slag of their furnaces rolls down into the waters.

## FROM ROCK TO COPPER.

I wish I could take you through this mighty establishment. It surpasses any I have seen in the elimination of human labor and the substitution thereof for economical machinery. The railroad runs high up on the sides of the mountain, and the ore is dropped from the cars into great bins through chutes so arranged that just the right proportion of ore can be dropped into other cars farther down before it goes to the smelters. Each car carries one charge of coke and coal, is filled automatically, it is carried to the furnace by an electric trolley, and it shoots in right over the fires and drops its load.

The furnaces themselves are worth seeing. They are enormous steel vessels, with double walls, in which cold water is always flowing to keep the inner wall from melting. They are supplied with air by blasts from smokestacks so large that the average city parlor would be lost inside them and so high that their tops kiss the sky at the level of the taller Broadway roofs. During my stay I looked into the furnace. The air blew through like a rushing wind, turning the vast pits to a blazing hell of brimstone and molten gold, out of which roll the fumes of yellow sulphur. The sulphur was so strong that I wore a rubber mask containing a sponge over my nose and mouth to withstand it. My cheeks

burned and I could hear the fire roaring with a fury greater than that of the furnace through which Sadrach, Mesbuch and Abednego walked in the days of the Scriptures.

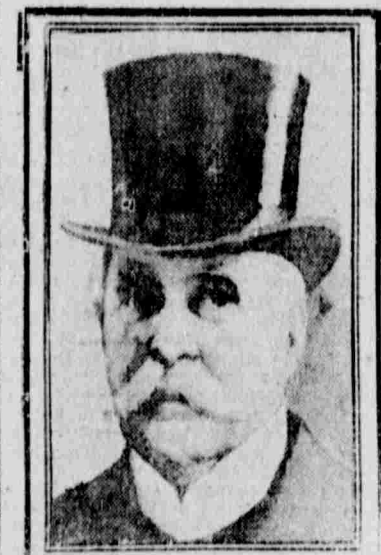
The Granby has eight such furnaces, and the molten stream of copper, gold and silver flows through them day and night, year in and year out. The slag comes forth in a golden stream as big around as your waist. It falls into iron pots, each large enough to hold an ox without cutting off its legs or horns. Each pot is on wheels, and a little dummy engine takes it when full and dumps it in a blazing stream down the hill. The molten comes forth in a smaller stream, flowing into tanks, each of which will hold five tons. As these tanks fill they are caught by a traveling crane and poured into converters. Air is introduced, the sulphur and iron are burnt out and within a few moments the metal has become an almost pure mixture of silver, copper and gold. It is now run off into molds or bricks and it needs only to be refined and the gold and silver removed before it is ready for telephone wires, electric conductors and the other things for which pure copper is used.

## WHERE OUR COPPER COMES FROM.

The most of the copper now produced in Canada comes from the Phoenix mines. There are also mines above Lake Superior and elsewhere, and it is believed that other deposits will be found in British Columbia. The greater part of the copper of the world is mined in the United States. The total production in 1904 was 660,000 tons, of which 372,000 were produced in our country. Our chief copper states are Michigan, Montana, Arizona and Utah, although considerable is mined in California and a less amount in the eastern and southern states. Canada stands comparatively low among the world's copper producers. Her output is between 40,000,000 and 50,000,000 pounds annually, while Chile turns out 70,000,000 pounds, Germany about the same, and Australia 44,000,000. Spain and Portugal produce 114,000,000 pounds and Mexico 107,000,000 pounds per annum. Our product in 1904 was considerably over 750,000,000 pounds.

## THE KOOTENAY MINES.

For the past week I have been traveling through the Kootenay country. This is in British Columbia far below the main line of the Canadian Pacific



HERBERT H. D. PIERCE.  
CONGRESS TO PROBE PIERCE'S CONSULAR TOUR.

Herbert H. D. Pierce, third assistant secretary of state, has sent back to Robert McWade, former consul-general at Canton, the \$500 tiger-skin rug which McWade says he was persuaded to give him while Pierce was in Canton on his tour of inspection of the consulates. On top of this alleged gift, Pierce, in his report, made charges of irregularities against McWade, which resulted in McWade losing his post.

The committee on foreign affairs of the house of representatives, it is probable, will ask for Pierce to appear and explain about the rug; also to go into details about some of the charges he made against McWade. The committee desires also to inquire as to the great number of presents Mr. Pierce is said to have brought home with him from the Orient. Members of the committee have been told that there was more than a cupboard of mementoes presented to Mr. Pierce by consuls and others in the far east.



NELSON, A NEW MINING TOWN OF THE KOOTENAY COUNTY.  
Mr. Carpenter, Who Photographed it for the "News," Tells of Its Growth and Importance.

railway. It is reached by what is known as the Crow's Nest Pass branch of that road, and parts of it are now being surveyed by the engineers of the Great Northern, which evidently intends to fight for Canada and all that is in it. The Great Northern has a branch running from Spokane to Grand Forks, and it is already doing a large part of the hauling of the Phoenix mines. This Kootenay country comprises some of the richest mineral deposits of the Rockies. It has gold, silver, copper, coal, iron and lead. In coming here, I passed the coal mines of the Crow's Nest valley, which are said to have something like 22,000,000,000 tons of coal in sight, and near them by the side of the track I saw a thousand and one more binding away. Not far from these coal deposits are mines of hematite iron, upon which the Canadians expect to build up a manufacturing industry, backed by a high tariff against our goods.

Coming further on into British Columbia, I stopped at the town of Nelson, which has 7,000 population, and also at Fernie, Slovan City and other places. There are about a dozen mining camps in this region and a large number of fine gold properties near Rossland, a town of 8,000. One is the Le Roy, which produced a million and a half dollars worth of ore in 1904, and another, the Center Star, which did about two-thirds as well.

At Nelson I met Bruce White, an American miner, who opened up one of the biggest silver and lead deposits at Slovan. He told me how he happened to make the discovery. Said he: "There had been a rush to that region, and I came in with five other prospectors. When we got to the camp I looked at a mountain across the way and suggested that our party go there to see what we could find. We did so, cutting our way across the valley and through the woods. We had only two days' provisions, and could not hope to stay long. Almost as soon as we started up the hill, however, we struck some float rock which showed signs of silver and lead, and on the following day we discovered a great mass of galena, which was from twenty-five to thirty feet wide. There were boulders of lead ore close to it, and we at once staked our mine. It proved to be a very rich one, and was eventually sold for more than a million dollars. Since that time it has yielded about \$2,500,000 worth of ore and \$500,000 in dividends."

## BEAUTIES OF THE KOOTENAY.

I am surprised at the scenery of this region. I have crossed the Rockies on every one of the great trunk lines, but none of the others passes through a region like this. The Kootenay is filled with long winding lakes walled in by peaks which rise almost straight upward for hundreds

and thousands of feet. The water is so clear that one can stand 1,000 feet above it on the slopes and see the fish swimming in the streams far below. The sides of the hills are covered with fir and tamaracks, and their tops are often capped with snow.

## A GREAT INLAND ISLAND.

Among these mighty hills are the head waters of the Columbia river. Indeed, the Columbia and Kootenay wind in and out among them, now in narrow streams and now in wide winding lakes which make one think of Como and Maggiore on the borders of Switzerland and Italy. The Columbia and Kootenay flow in some places side by side. They turn this way and that and together they have made a mighty island right here in the heart of the continent. If you will imagine two gigantic wish bones, the feet of which are touching each other, enclosing a diamond of mountains and higher than the state of Ohio you will have one of the curious formations which nature has created here. The rivers almost meet, and a short canal has been made to connect them, so that the island is now complete. The island contains something like 20,000,000 acres, and it has, I am told, mineral deposits of extraordinary value.

These mining towns are up to date. Nelson has waterworks, electric lights and a streetcar line. It has seven churches, a public library, and gun, cricket, lacrosse and lawn tennis clubs. Grand Forks is lighted by electricity and so are most of the larger mining camps. In some of the towns the lights and waterworks are owned by the municipalities, and I find a strong sentiment almost everywhere in favor of municipal ownership.

Shortly after I arrived in Nelson I was told that the city owned its waterworks, electric lights and streetcars. I thereupon remarked: "I think I will go and see the mayor." The reply came with some embarrassment: "Stranger, we haven't got no mayor. Our d—n mayor has run off."

Upon inquiry I found that this statement was correct. There had been some trouble about taking over the power plant by the city and the mayor had grown disgusted and left. I suppose he has returned by now or that another has been chosen to take his place.

## GRAFTING IN CANADA.

As to the matter of grafting, I find evidence that it is quite as much of a profession north of the boundary as south of it. Many of the older towns are steadily milked by public officials, and the only trouble with the new settlements is that they are too near the calf age to give milk. The accusations of grafting are by no means confined to the towns, and ex-officials of the dominion government are said to have made fortunes out of their positions. There is considerable talk about certain railroad interests controlling legis-

lating and has a municipal asphalt plant. It now gets a part of the earnings of the street cars and at certain hours of the day insists on a three-cent fare in order to benefit the workmen and school children.

I am told that Toronto has made a contract as to the operation of its street railways which will give a three-cent rate at certain hours of the day and that a certain percentage of the street car earnings is to go into the city treasury. The contract is to run for 20 years, after which the plant goes back to the city at an appraised valuation of its stock and materials.

## CHEAP MUNICIPAL TELEPHONES.

All of these city ownership institutions give cheap telephones. In Port Arthur the city rate is \$1 per month for residences and \$2 a month for business houses, and on these terms the municipal

chally makes money. Fort William expects eventually to cut its residence phones to 50 cents per month and business houses to \$1, while radical reductions have been made in other quarters.

Regina has taken over its electric light plant, has cut the rates 20 per cent and is making money. Medicine Hat owns natural gas works and is furnishing light and heat to that town of four thousand at the lowest rates. The charge is 17 cents for lighting and heating, and all cooking is now done over gas. The town is also offering its gas at 5 cents per thousand for factories, and several woolen mills and brick-making plants have already been started. The city gas works are only a little more than a year old, and even at these low rates they have made a profit of \$25,000.

FRANK G. CARPENTER.



GORGIOUS INDIAN PRINCE TO TOUR AMERICA.

On the Celtic of the White Star line, which sailed from Liverpool for New York on May 5, the most important passenger was his highness, the gorkwar of Baroda. He is accompanied by his wife and daughter and intends to tour the States and Canada in an official visit to friends.

The gorkwar is a Maharaja chief of the highest caste. Baroda, his native state, is in the Bombay presidency, and he ranks as one of the most capable and advanced rulers. If he sees fit on any occasion during his visit to this hemisphere to don his robes of office and his own jewels he will undoubtedly dazzle all beholders. He has a great collection of precious stones, many of which have been in the possession of his family for more than 500 years. He carries a large part of these with him on his travels.

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## A WARNING AGAINST THE DEALER WHO SUBSTITUTES.

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