

A BRIEF HISTORY
OF
BUTTE, MONTANA

THE WORLD'S
GREATEST MINING CAMP

INCLUDING A STORY OF
THE EXTRACTION AND
TREATMENT OF ORES
FROM ITS GIGANTIC
COPPER PROPERTIES

Illustrated

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BUTTE, MONTANA



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vanced with considerable reason that it presented untold opportunities complete in themselves. Many of those most actively interested in its future feel that a great economic benefit may be worked by converting the institution into an industrial home. In so doing opportunity will be given many worthy persons for fitting themselves to become independent, thereby carrying out on a larger scale the idea of "helping the worthy poor to help themselves." Even this course, however, would not deprive the Associated Charities of the benefits originally sought in the erection of the Home, the only result gained being a broadening of the institution's possibilities.

A feature which will be adopted in any case will serve as a great blessing to many dependent women of large families, who at present are restrained from earning the means necessary for

their support. A nursery has been provided for the care of the children of these women who are of too tender an age to be left at their homes, and by this means their mothers will be enabled to seek employment otherwise denied them, thereby being relieved of "next week's misery." Even within the institution, if present plans are carried out, opportunity will be granted a limited number of these mothers to gain a livelihood by performing work from which the institution may derive a revenue, and, so far as possible, the children will be given an opportunity to learn vocations whereby they may make themselves self-supporting. It is a grand work and both the donors of the institution and those most closely interested in its direction may be sure of a full measure of reward for their liberality and Christian charity.

MINING.

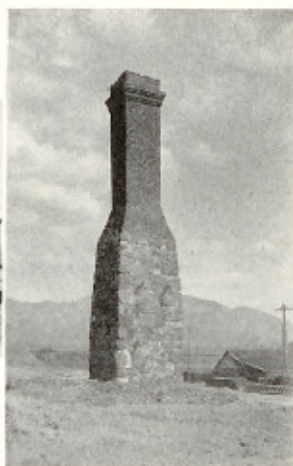
The widespread growth encountered throughout every other portion of Butte is multiplied by a much larger number with respect to the mines. True, the old Travona district, the first active scene of quartz-mining, to the southwest of the

same uncouth desolation in which the last pick left it — eloquently pleads for reverence.

Walkerville, to the extreme north, too, has its mournful tale. There, gaunt in their deserted grandeur, stand the gigantic mine and smelter



"Travona," the first paying silver mine.



Stack of Centennial Smelter.



"Star West."

CRUMBLING RELICS OF THE TRAVONA DISTRICT.

city, is deserted. An occasional weed-grown shack sheds the elements for some wayfarer, but mining is dead, and the old surface structures, fast crumbling to decay, are uncanny in the memories they conjure in the mind. Missoula Gulch, though fast losing its identity northward under the hand of new improvements, here — in the

structures of the Lexington, Moulton and Alice, the two former never to resume their lives of usefulness, and the latter probably doomed to the same destiny. The Magna Charta, Valdemere, and other once important, though less noted, mines, also, in their crumbling state, but add to the truth that mining in this section is fast



Lexington Mine.
 Alice Mine.
 Valdemere.

Moulton Mine and Smelter.

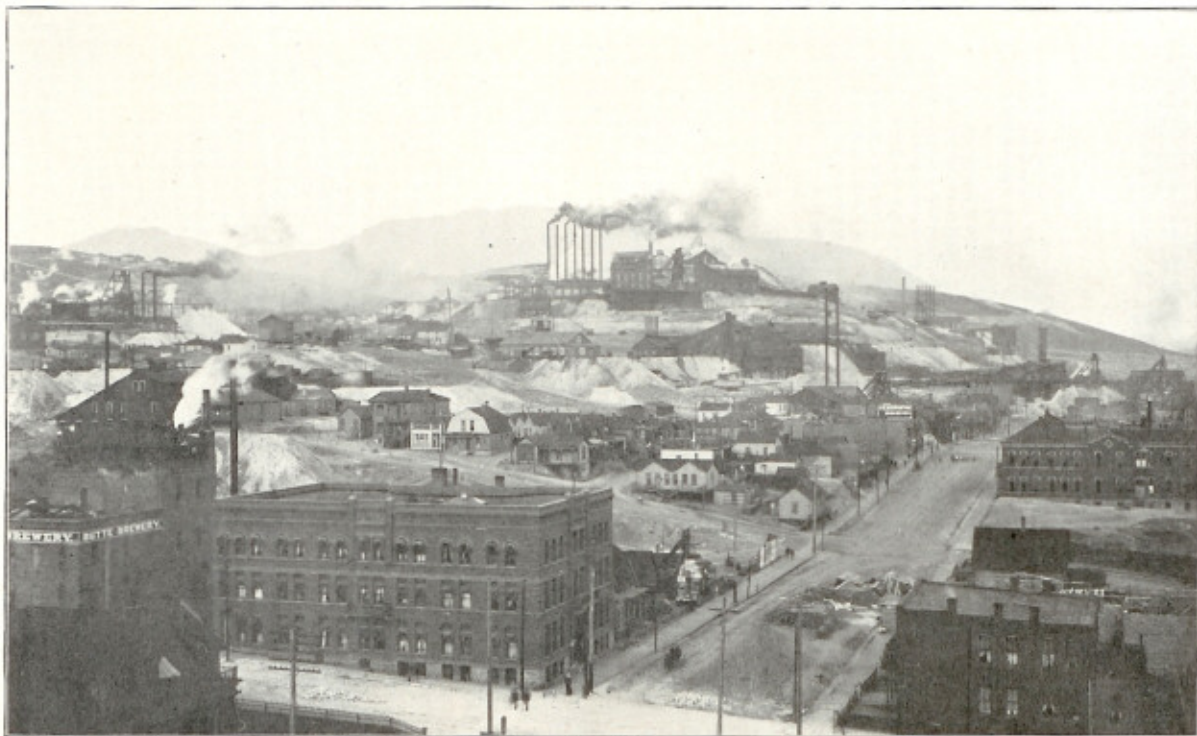
Lexington Smelter.
 Alice Smelter.
 Magna Charta.

ABANDONED SILVER PROPERTIES AT WALKERVILLE.

becoming a lost industry. Some three miles west from the city's limits, the Blue Bird and other noted silver properties, contemporaries and lusty rivals of the larger ones in Walkerville, have yielded up the ghost and are being demolished.

But here ends the list of decline and decay. Overwhelmingly outbalancing it, is the list of increase and growth in mining activity elsewhere. "The hill" is the old hill still, but a greater mys-

into the respective valleys. So well grounded is this idea that there are many who hold that, as the many leads are extended under the hill, they will take their owners completely under the city to the south or across the valley to the east and into the main range of the Rockies. Color is given this theory by discoveries, while excavating, of several most important leads in the very heart of the business and residence sections of the city, as well



RICHEST MINING SPOT ON EARTH.

Famous "Anaconda Hill," showing different mines of the Parrot lode, the scene of early-day mining.

tery. Hundreds of claims, under the control of a few owners, cover every available inch of this wonderful spot from a point immediately southeast of Walkerville to Meaderville. But the list does not stop here. Not a square inch of ground is there within the city's limits and running beyond, to east, south and west, but what is a prospective mining claim, titles to which are almost universally exempted in all deeds of conveyance transferring surface rights. In other words, the instance is rare indeed where a transfer of surface rights by sale does not exclude the mineral deposits beneath such surface, so impressed is the whole community with the idea that copper deposits on "the hill" do not end at its borders, but extend downward on either side of the same, and

as in the lowest levels of the valley to the east. Even beyond and along the opposite side thereof and up the main pass through the divide, some five miles east, important operations are being prosecuted. The Homestake property is an important member of this group and promises new and important fields in entirely new quarters.

Not one of the dozens of mines which honeycomb "the hill" from either side has failed to retain its "lead" at whatever depth it has sunk its shaft and the general tendency of such lead is to widen as greater depth is reached. As previously stated, copper is the ore primarily sought in the whole Butte district, and the precious metals are but by-products. In some cases these latter furnish sufficient revenue to maintain the opera-

tions of the entire property and the copper becomes a net profit to its owners.

In all there are some 225 mines in the immediate environments of the city, though many, it is true, are but infantile in their proportions and their owners are only performing their legal "representation" work. In the neighborhood of 13,000 men are employed in these mines and smelters of this city. It may be added, in this connection, that two other cities — Anaconda and Great Falls — owe their existence to the smelters, which are owned and operated at those points by the mine owners of Butte. The largest institutions of

district today is the most important, from a mining view, of any district on earth. For Montana's reputation as a great mining State, Butte is almost wholly responsible. In fact, the statement is often made that "Butte is Montana." Though increased mining activity is beginning to develop throughout other portions of the State and many old sections are holding their own, the gross output therefrom at present is insignificant compared with the Butte section.

The relation of this section to outside sections is shown in the following table of outputs for 1899:

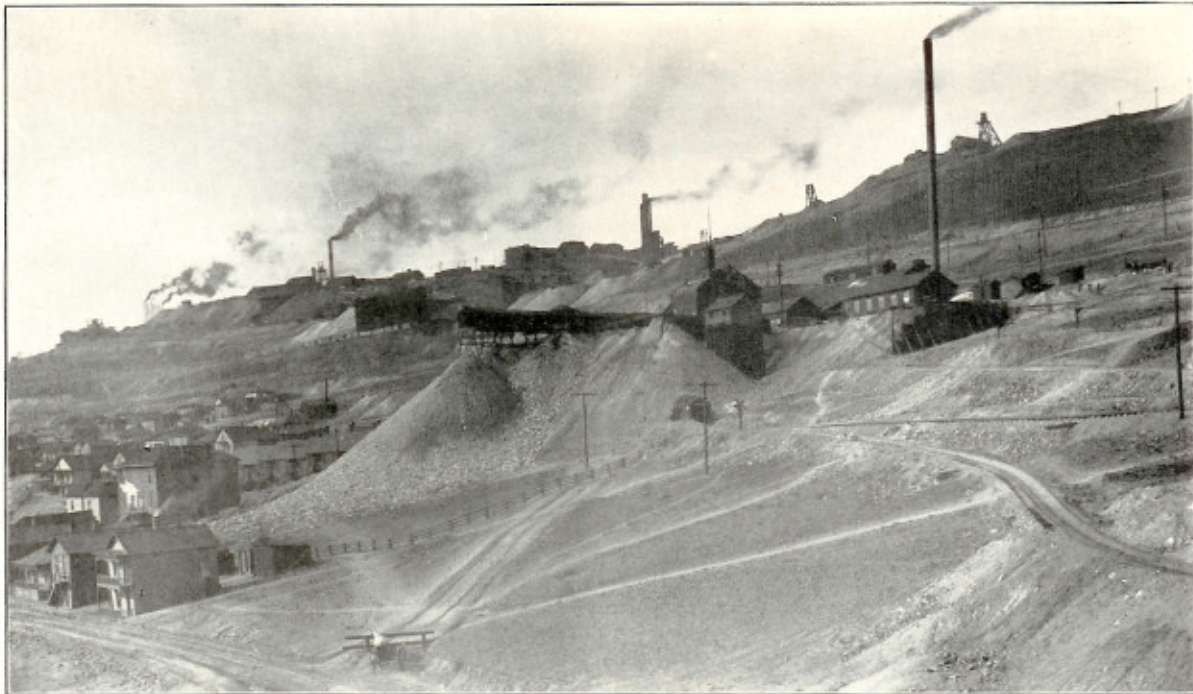
	COPPER.	SILVER.	GOLD.	LEAD.	TOTAL.
Silver Bow.....	\$40,882,492	\$12,742,893	\$1,292,447	\$54,917,833
Outside.....	59,414	9,043,942	3,526,710	\$909,410	13,539,476
Totals.....	\$40,941,906	\$21,786,835	\$4,819,157	\$909,410	\$68,457,309

which this country at least can boast of that character are situated in these three cities and give employment to thousands of men.

To enumerate in detail all of the numberless phases of the mining conditions existing throughout the district would be in turn an endless task and a tiresome repetition. Suffice to say that the

Too much importance can not be attached to the fact that in this year the output of the State increased just thirty-three per cent over the previous year.

With Butte's mineral preëminence in Montana established, its relation to the entire country and to the world as a copper-producer is worthy of



"THE HILL" FROM SOUTH SIDE.

consideration. Perhaps nothing that could be said upon the subject would speak more eloquently than a short excerpt from the annual report of Hon. E. B. Braden, United States Assayer in Charge for Montana, which reads as follows:

"Previous to 1882, 80 per cent of all the copper of the United States came from the mines bordering on Lake Superior. In the following year the Lake Superior region produced 51.6 per cent, Arizona 27 per cent, and Butte 21.4 per cent of the domestic copper. The percentage of the Butte output continued to increase steadily, and in 1887 it became greater than the yield from the Lake Superior district. This lead has ever since been advanced until, in 1898, when 60 per cent of all the world's copper was supplied by the United States, Butte furnished 41 per cent, Lake Superior 30 per cent, and Arizona 21 per cent of all the domestic production. Butte thus practically furnishes a quarter of the copper product of the world."

The ratio of growth in mineral output in Silver Bow district during the period of 1882-1899 is shown in the subjoined table from Mr. Braden's report:

Year.	Gold, Fine Ounces.	Silver, Fine Ounces.	Copper, Fine Pounds.
1882.....	12,093,750	2,699,296	9,058,284
1883.....	14,560,875	3,480,468	24,664,346
1884.....	21,776,006	4,481,180	43,093,054
1885.....	13,838,297	4,126,677	67,797,864
1886.....	31,223,450	5,924,180	57,611,485
1887.....	48,175,743	6,958,822	78,700,000
1888.....	44,320,062	8,275,768	98,504,000
1889.....	31,652,325	6,560,038	104,589,000
1890.....	25,704,730	7,500,000	112,700,000
1891.....	29,395,356	7,985,089	112,385,420
1892.....	36,222,560	8,311,130	158,413,284
1893.....	33,807,877	6,668,730	159,875,490
1894.....	36,768,015	7,561,124	185,194,385
1895.....	41,493,363	10,051,760	197,190,650
1896.....	59,815,755	11,120,731	228,886,962
1897.....	54,198,037	10,710,815	236,826,597
1898.....	55,038,589	8,996,555	216,648,077
1899.....	62,038,377	9,855,831	245,245,908
Total.....	652,368,167	131,268,203	2,337,382,824

To the above may be added the fact that the world's output for the following year, or 1899, showed a slight increase over the preceding one, so divided as to maintain the percentage deduced by Mr. Braden.

Figuring copper at the price prevailing during the year of its production, the revenue from this commodity represents a gross sum of \$284,531-

746. If the same price had been enjoyed during these years, as will doubtless maintain, if not increase, in the future, the copper output to date would have represented a gross revenue of about \$400,000,000.

It is doubtful if the people of this, or any other, section fully comprehend the importance of Montana as a mining State. It has been more generally classed as one of the States of the "mining West," many other States enjoying the same general reputation that should specifically apply to Montana first — placing even the much boasted Colorado mineral wealth well into second position. From the table shown on page 6 it is



THE "SMOKEHOUSE."

Discovered within the year in heart of city, while excavating, and sold for half a million.

believed that the true relation of Montana to the mining industry, not only of the West, but to the whole country, will be universally recognized for the first time. In this table it is impossible to show the precise value of iron production. This

kind of ore is treated or reduced to pig iron at points foreign to the mine, and no credits are given to the producing section, values being placed upon the pig iron after treatment of the ore. Of the three sections producing iron ore, the Lake Superior region produces approximately three-fourths, the Southern States two-thirds of the remainder, and all other States but one-third. As the Lake Superior region undoubtedly is synonymous with Upper Michigan as regards the iron industry, for purposes of calculation, Michi-

only leads the entire West, but will be a competitor for first place as the greatest mining State of the Union.

As for Butte's part in the State's great future, precise prediction would appear presumptive. That it will continue its present tremendous lead no competent authority doubts. That it will enjoy the steady growth of the past, trebled and quadrupled by virtue of increased mining activity, aided no little by a logical growth along commercial and manufacturing lines, seems modest



LOOKING EAST FROM MEADERVILLE.
Showing extension of operations across valley toward Rockies.

gan is credited with three-fourths of the total value of pig iron production in the table. This, no doubt, is greatly in excess of the true value of the crude ore, but hardly sufficient to change the relative positions of the States as named.

It will be seen that Montana is easily the third wealthiest in point of production of all the mining States of the country, Michigan leading, with Pennsylvania second. In copper production Montana leads all other States, approximately 40 per cent of the nation's output coming from Butte. First place in silver production also belongs to Montana, the greater percentage of which comes from Butte as a by-product in copper mining. Gold, coal and lead make a most creditable showing, especially in the two latter, considering the brevity of operations in those fields.

With the prestige thus enjoyed and with the prosecution of extensive development work all along the line throughout the whole State, the prediction seems quite permissible that Montana will not only continue to hold her own, but will forge ahead each succeeding year, until she not

enough to predict; but, without infallibility, a prediction less optimistic would seem absurd, and every sign but reinforces its truth.

A more detailed reference to the principal mines of the city, located, without exception, upon or contiguous to "the hill," together with smelters operated in connection therewith, lying along the valley to the south, follows, and verifies eloquently many statements preceding, which, but for such corroboration, may have been open to the charge of too much zeal.

It has been shown elsewhere that the large majority of the mines and smelters of the Butte district are controlled by a few large mining corporations. These companies control in overwhelming proportions all of the mineral rights underlying "the hill" on either side from Walkerville to Meaderville and, in most cases, the surface rights as well.

The corporations thus referred to are the Anaconda Copper Mining Company, Colusa Parrot Mining Company (Clark interests), Boston and Montana Mining Company, Butte and Boston Mining Company, Montana Ore Purchasing

Company, Colorado Mining and Smelting Company, Parrot Mining Company and the Largey estate interests.

Smelters are operated in Butte in connection with the Colusa Parrot, Butte and Boston, Montana Ore Purchasing, Colorado Mining and Smelting and Parrot Mining Companies' properties, while the Anaconda mines send their ores to their smelters at Anaconda over their own railroad—the Butte, Anaconda & Pacific—and those of the Boston and Montana are sent to their Great Falls works over the Montana Central Railroad for reduction.

In addition to these corporations there are any number of smaller ones and, in many cases, of individual owners whose properties are scat-

terly a work of twice the thickness would be required.

All through the area most generously endowed are hundreds of shafts, marked by gallows frames and dumps of various sizes, which mark the varying progress of different claims, all of such an identical appearance that no distinctive feature could be shown, save in the name. This is true of many sections of the city itself, and the instance is not rare of mining operations on a limited scale being conducted in vacant lots lying between two dwellings, stores, etc.

The order observed in the following illustrations, it is thought, will give a clearer idea of the general mining situation in connection with the distribution of the mines according to district



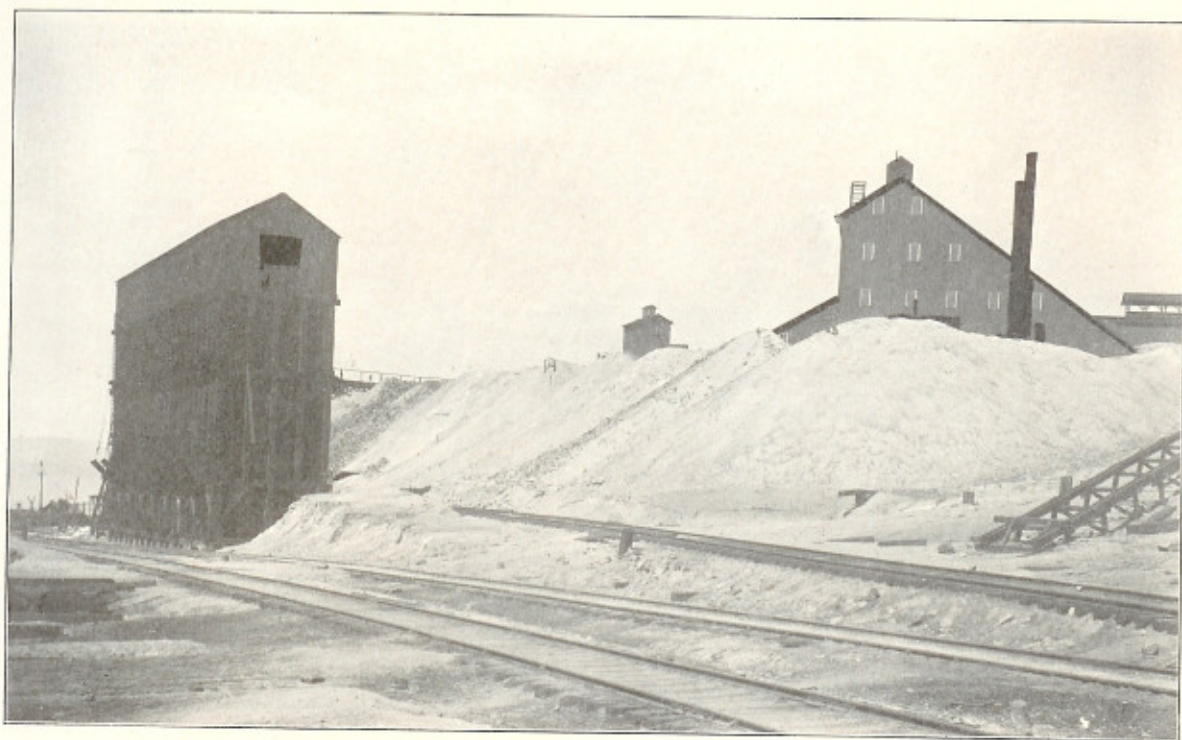
MOOSE.

B. & M. Co's property. Crest of Hill, east of Walkerville. Depth, 300 feet. Employs 30 men.

tered throughout the same area covered by the larger corporations and which are developing into first-class propositions. The ores from these mines are sent to the various smelters above enumerated for reduction.

In making specific reference to the mines of Butte by means of illustration, the method thus employed of reinforcing Butte's claims to first position among the mining districts of the world presented such an endless task, so characterized by a seemingly tireless repetition, that the necessity of confining the list to the larger interests appeared mandatory. If taken through to a

than if classification were made under heads of the various corporations. The idea has been to pick up the thread of the earlier portion of this chapter, and by illustration show where active mining operations begin as compared to the decay in other sections. It will thus be seen what is meant by the overwhelming increase of the new over the old. The list begins at Walkerville, proceeds thence to Centerville along the southern and western slopes of "the hill" as it zig-zags in its southeasterly direction until Meaderville is reached, and thence north along the eastern slope until operations practically cease.



PAULIN.

Washoe property. Extreme southwestern slope of Hill. Centerville district. Operations suspended pending completion of Washoe smelters at Anaconda. Employed 100 men. Depth, 1,200 feet.



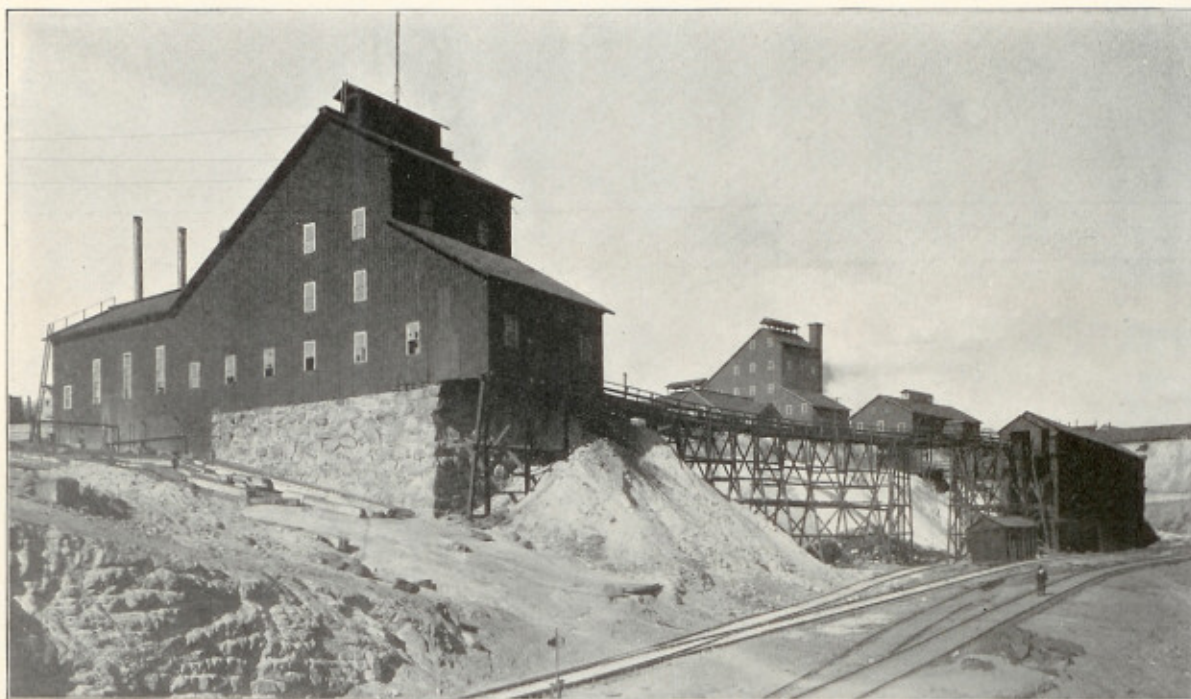
BUFFALO.

Anaconda property. Southwest slope of Hill. Centerville district. Depth, 1,600 feet. Employs 100 men. Weekly output, 500 tons.



LITTLE MINAH.

Parrot property. South slope of Hill. Centerville district. Depth, 700 feet. Employs 35 men.



MOUNTAIN CONSOLIDATED. NO. 2.

Anaconda property. South slope of Hill. Centerville district. Depth, 1,800 feet. Employs 300 men. Weekly output, 2,500 tons.



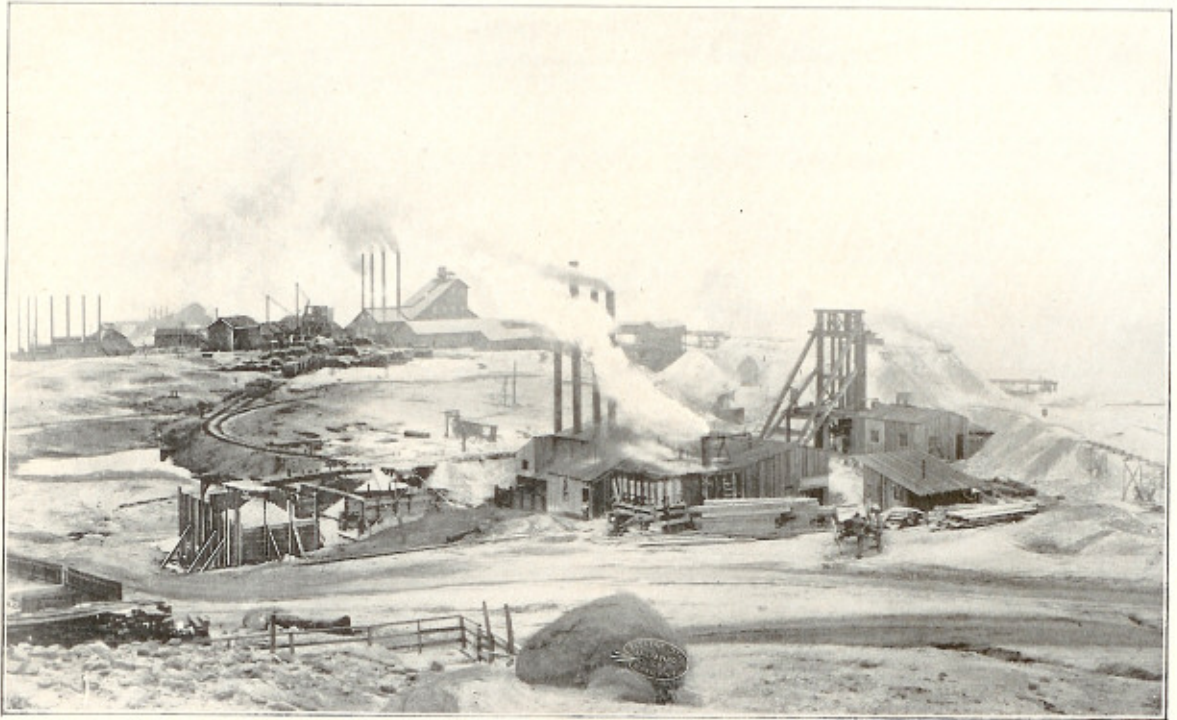
MOUNTAIN CONSOLIDATED, No. 1.

Anaconda property. South slope of Hill. Centerville district. Depth, 2,000 feet. Employs 550 men. Weekly output, 4,000 tons.
Has 17 exits.



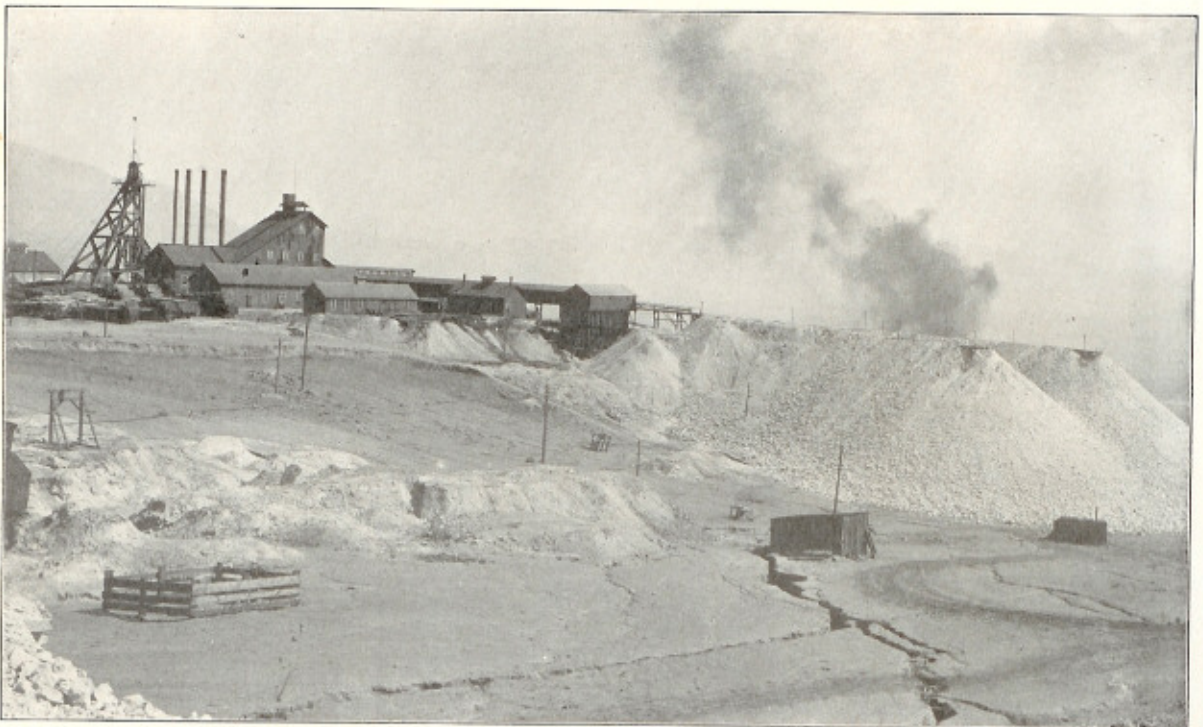
WEST GRAY ROCK.

B. & B. property. South side of Hill. Centerville district. Depth, 700 feet. Employs 50 men.



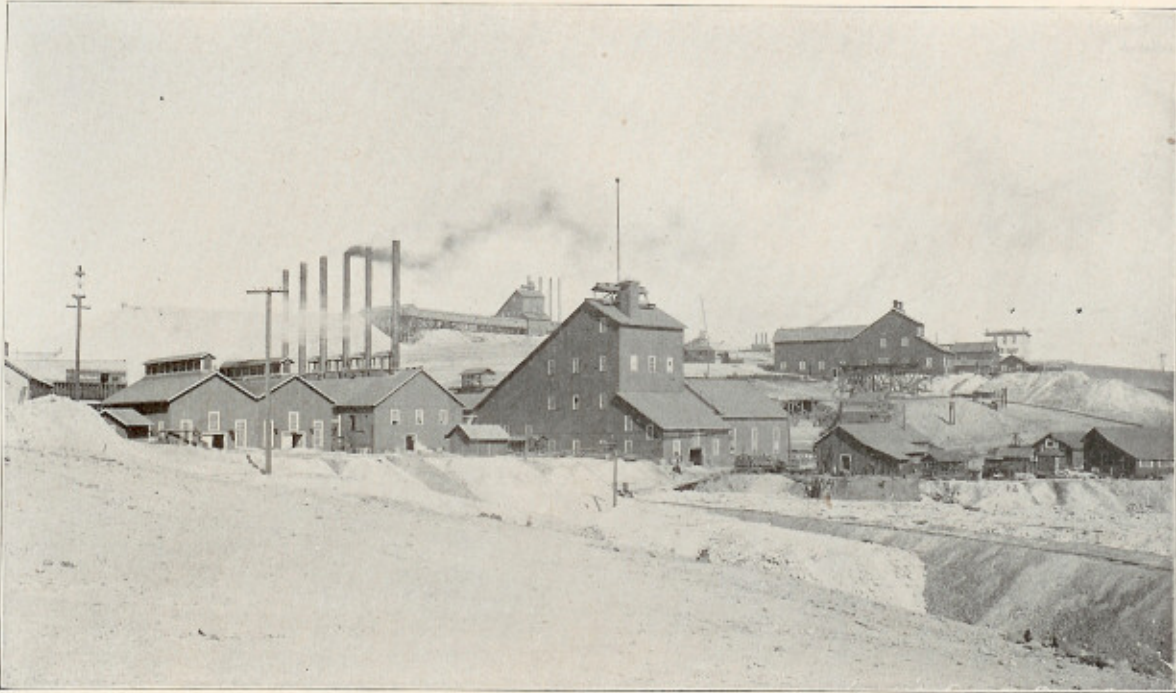
CORA.

Under lease to M. O. P. Co. Centerville district. Depth, 400 feet. Employs 50 men.



EAST GRAY ROCK.

B. & B. property. Crest of Hill. Centerville district. Depth, 1,800 feet. Employs 150 men.



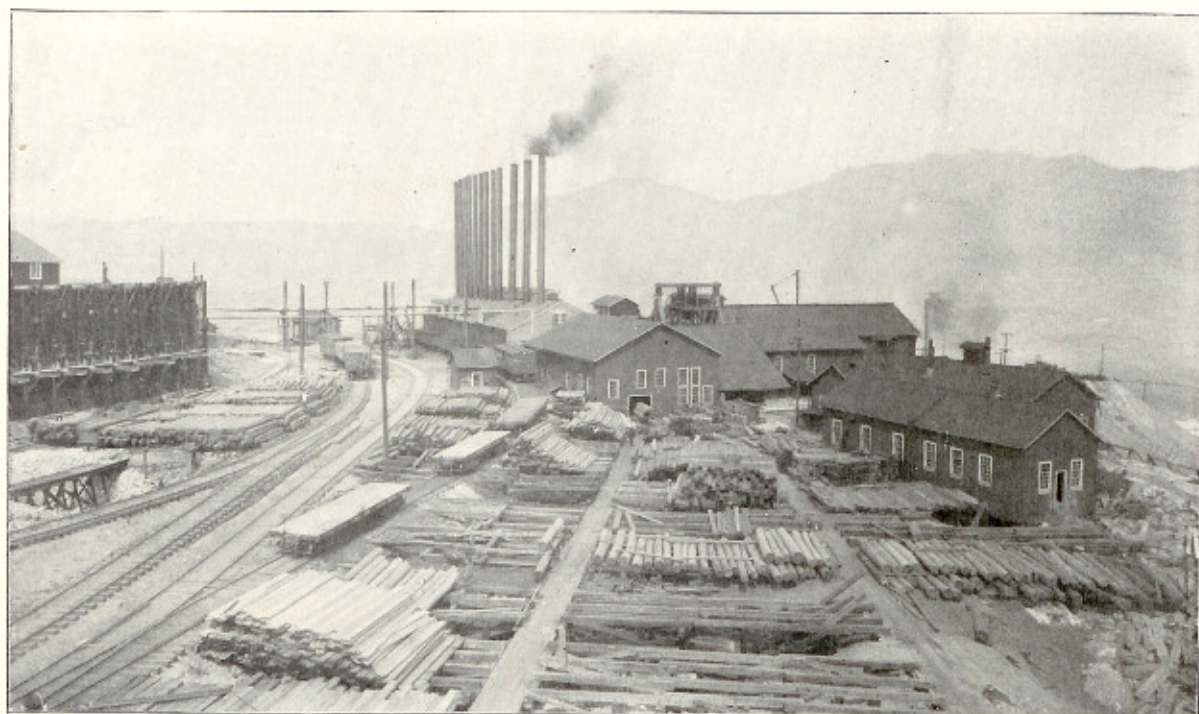
GREEN MOUNTAIN.

Anaconda property. Southwest slope of Hill. Centerville district. Depth, 2,200 feet. Employs 360 men. Weekly output, 2,900 tons.



DIAMOND.

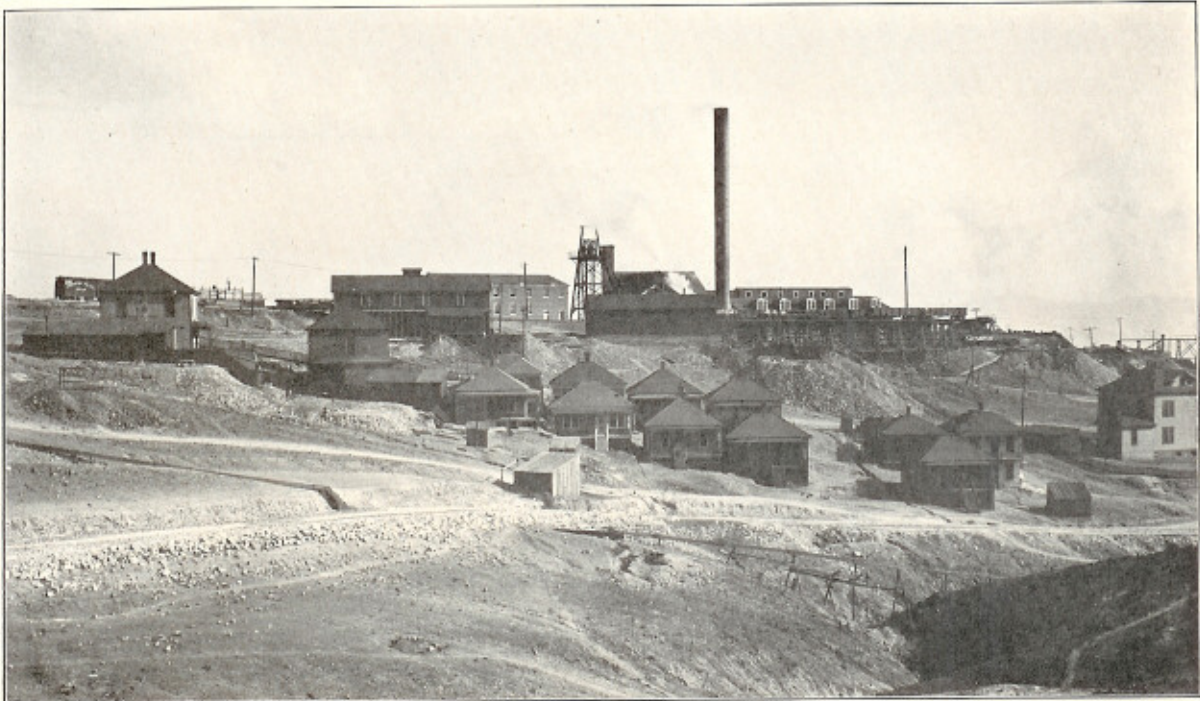
Anaconda property. Crest of Hill. Centerville district. Depth, 2,200 feet. Employs 550 men. Weekly output, 6,000 tons.

**BELL.**

Anaconda property. Crest of Hill. Centerville district. Depth, 1,800 feet. Employs 275 men. Weekly output, 4,000 tons.

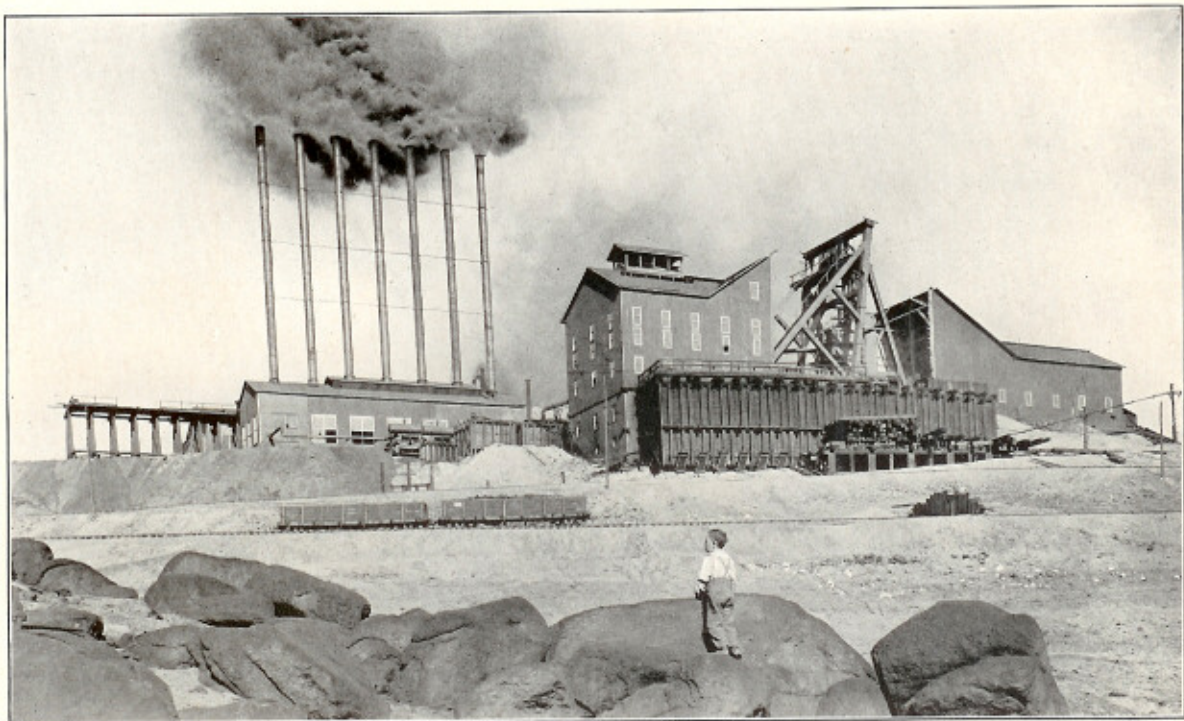
**PARNELL.**

M. O. P. Co's property. Northwest slope of Anaconda Hill. Depth, 700 feet. Employs 35 men.



ANACONDA.

On "Anaconda Hill." Largest mine in city. Scene of Mr. Daly's early activities and nucleus of all Anaconda properties. Depth, 1,800 feet. Employs 1,400 men. Weekly output, 9,000 tons.



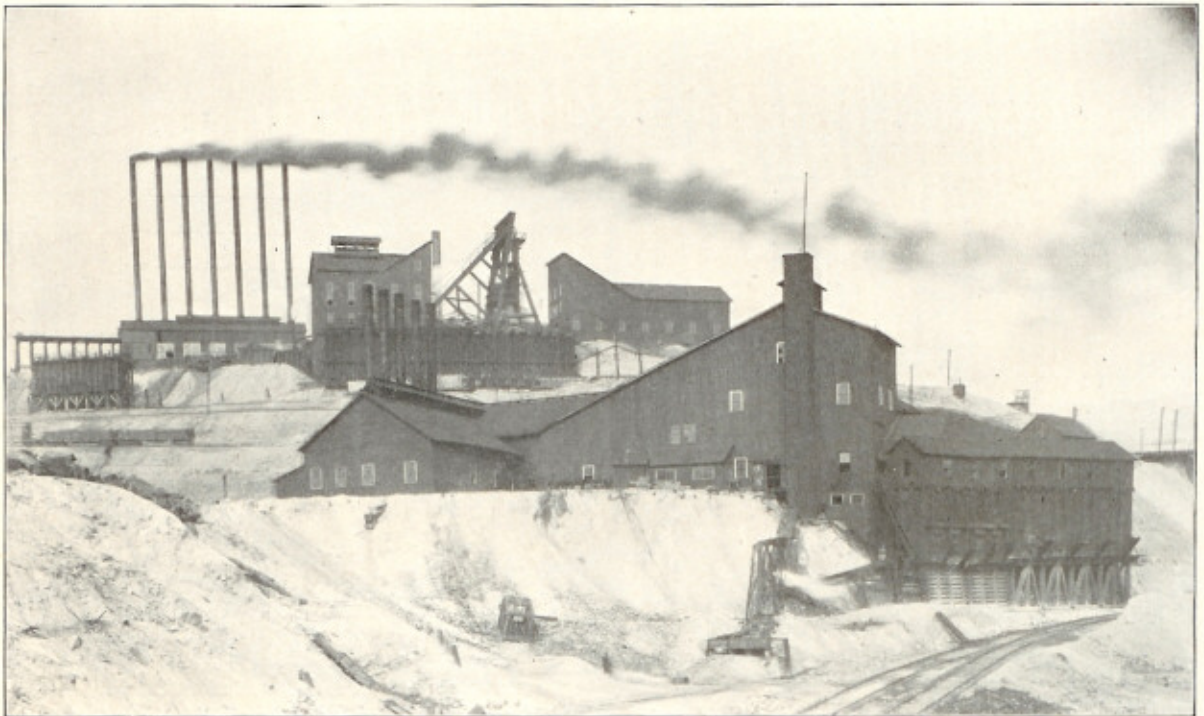
NEVERWEAT.

So named because men do not sweat below ground. Southwest of Anaconda mine. A. C. M. Co. property. Depth, 2,000 feet. Employs 600 men. Weekly output, 4,500 tons.



RAMSDELL'S PARROT.

South of Neversweat. Named for Joe Ramsdell. A. C. M. Co. property. Depth, 600 feet. Employs 200 men. Weekly output, 1,600 tons.



COLUSA PARROT.

West of Ramsdell Parrot. Clark's property. Depth, 1,600 feet. Employs 350 men.



PARROT.

Before destruction by fire the past year. Depth, 1,300 feet. Employed 350 men. West of Colusa Parrot.

AFTER FIRE.

Ruins were immediately removed and new works in course of erection.



STEWART.

North of Parrot mine. Clark property. Depth, 1,100 feet. Employs 200 men.



NIPPER.

Northeast of Stewart. M. O. P. Co. property. A new shaft being sunk. Depth, 800 feet. Employs 150 men.



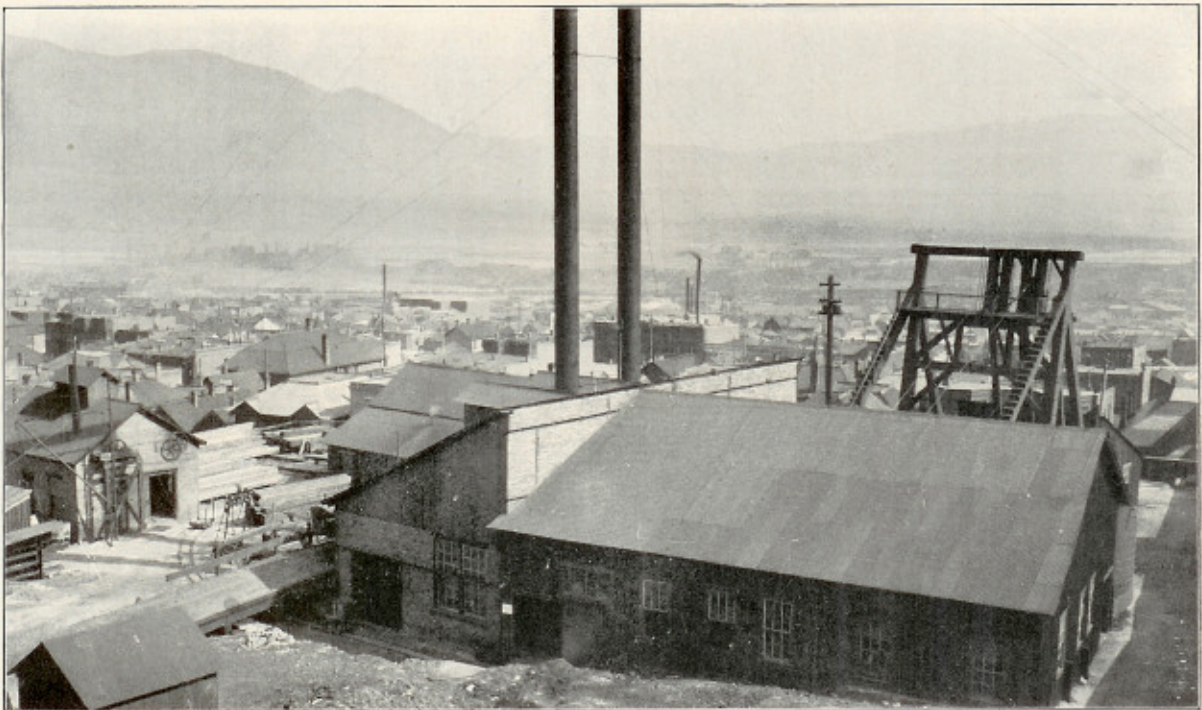
ORIGINAL

On lode where was found a hole dug presumably by Indians. South and west of Hill. Clark property. Depth, 1,200 feet. Employs 200 men.



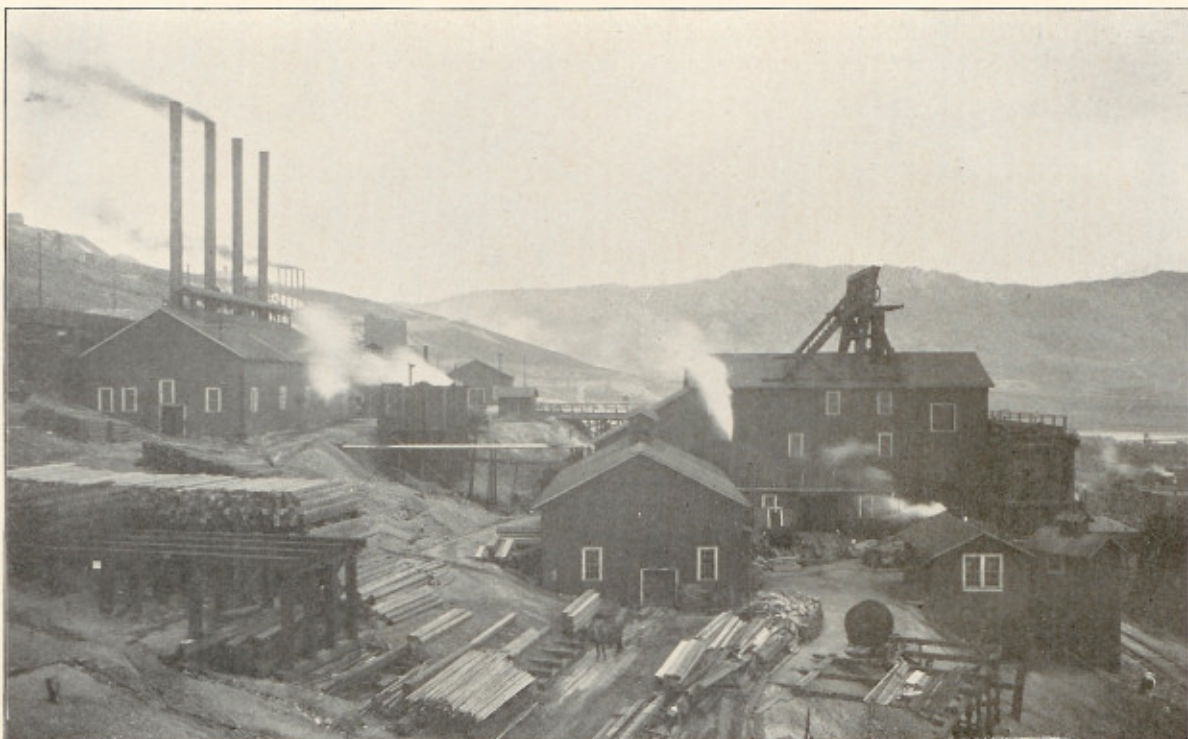
GAGNON.

Adjoining Original on west. Col. M. & S. Co. property. Depth, 1,800 feet. Employs 300 men. Anaconda Hill in background to the east.



BLUE JAY.

B. & B. property. South side Anaconda Hill. Depth, 1,250 feet. Employs 300 men.



MOONLIGHT.

Washoe property. South side Anaconda Hill. Depth, 1,500 feet. Employs 350 men.



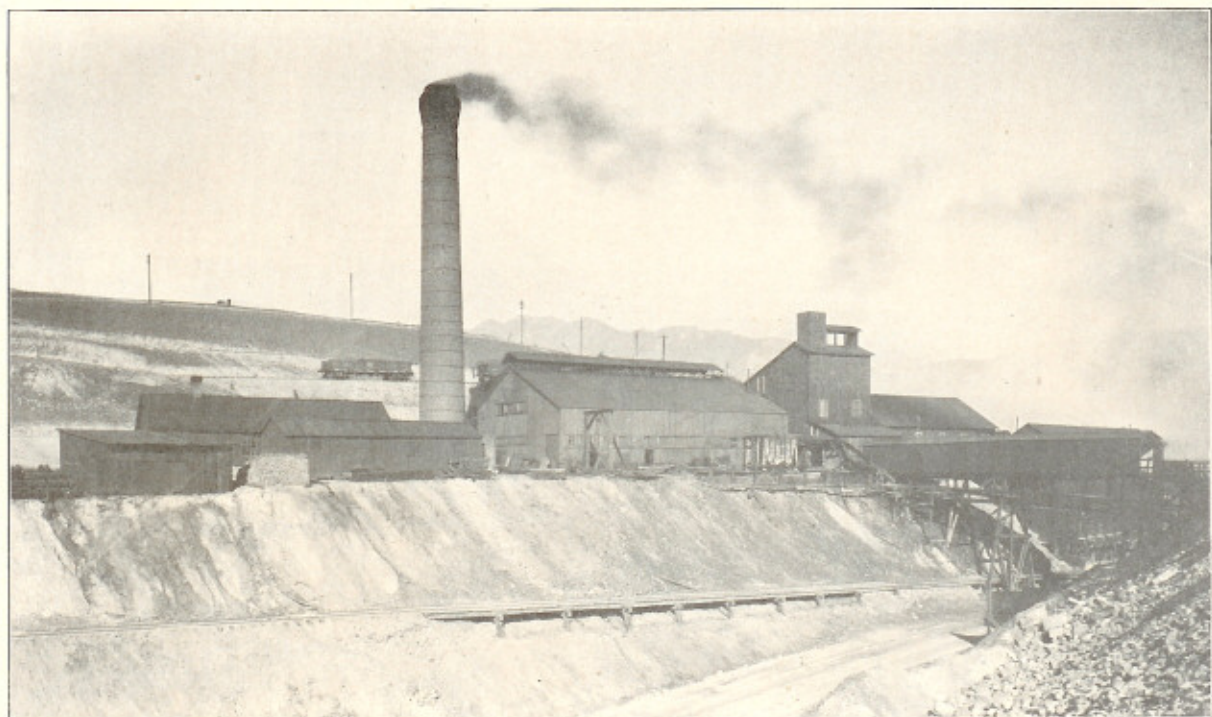
ST. LAWRENCE.

Immediately south of Anaconda mine. First acquisition of Anaconda Company after purchase of Anaconda. Been on fire for ten years. Depth, 1,600 feet. Employs 1,100 men. Weekly output, 2,500 tons.



PENNSYLVANIA.

B. & M. property. South side Anaconda Hill. Depth, 1,430 feet. Employs 300 men.



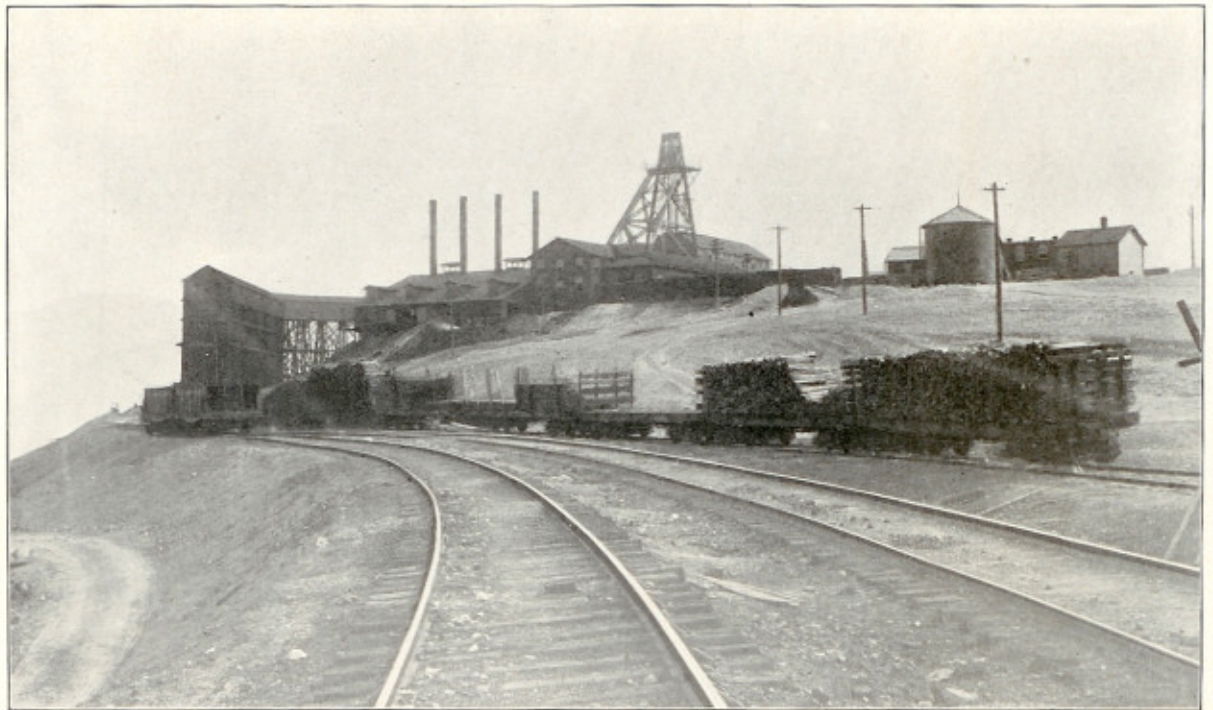
SILVER BOW, NO. 1.

B. & B. property. Southeast slope of Hill. East Butte district. Depth, 1,000 feet. Employs 185 men. Horses are stabled on 400 level and never come to surface.



SILVER BOW, NO. 3.

B. & B. property. South of Hill. East portion of city. Depth, 500 feet. Employs 50 men.



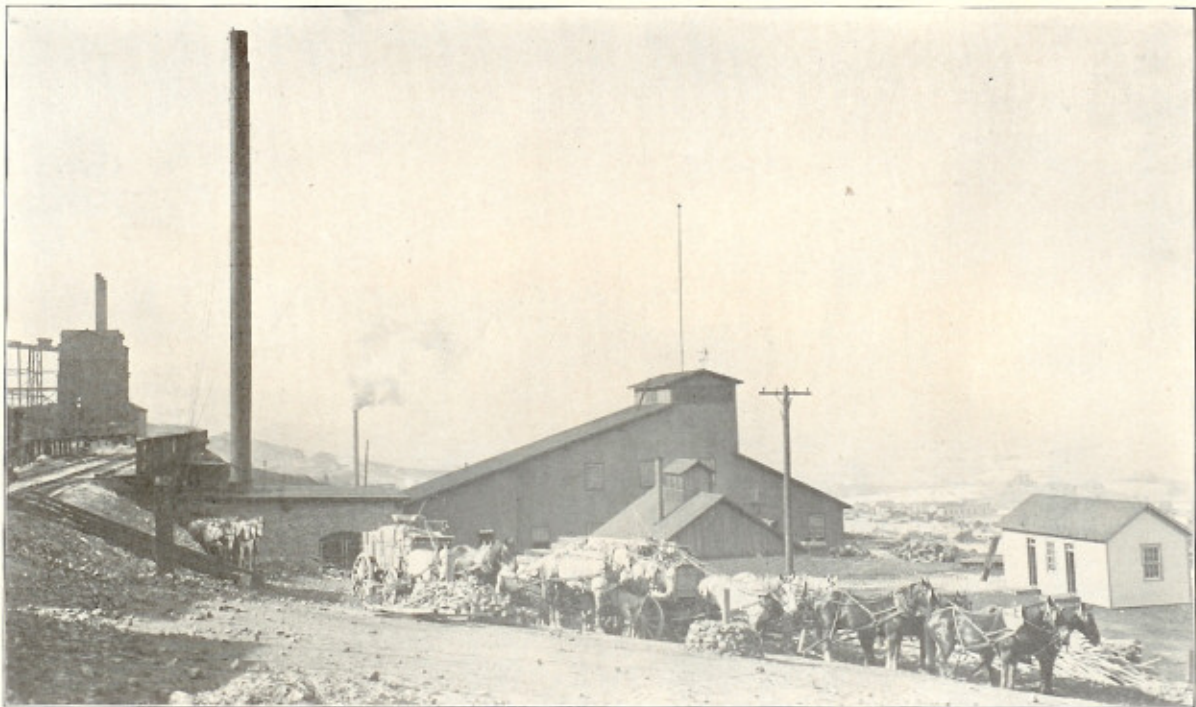
MOUNTAIN VIEW.

B. & M. property. Highest point on Anaconda Hill, facing Meaderville. Depth, 1,750 feet. Employs 125 men. Has 14 exits.



RARUS.

M. O. P. Co's property. First mine acquired by F. Aug. Heinze. East slope of Hill. Meaderville district. Employs 250 men. Depth, 1,100 feet.



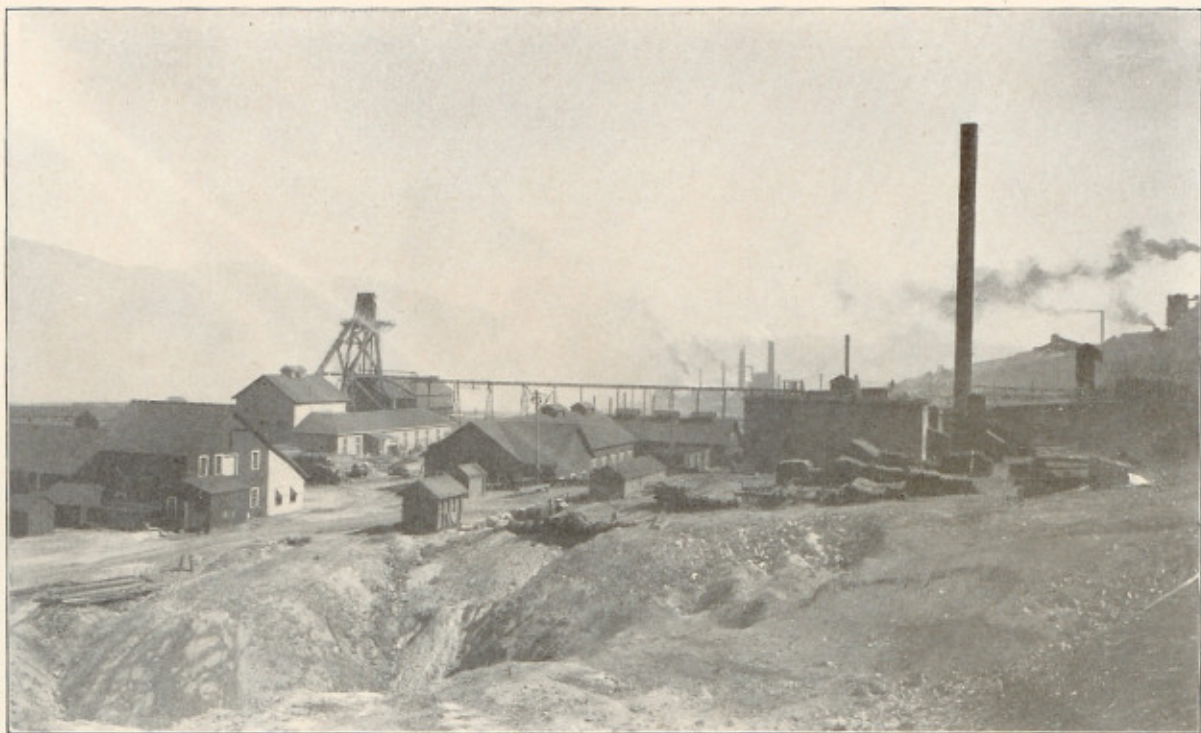
BERKELEY.

B. & B. property. East slope of Hill. Meaderville district. Depth, 700 feet. Employs 70 men.



MINNIE HEALEY.

Title in litigation. Base of east slope of Hill. Meaderville district. Depth, 1,800 feet. Employs 150 men.



LEONARD.

B. & M. property. Base of east slope of Hill. Meaderville district. Depth, 1,130 feet. Employs 180 men.



WEST COLUSA.

B. & M. property. East side of Hill. Meaderville District. Depth, 1,370 feet. Employs 175 men.



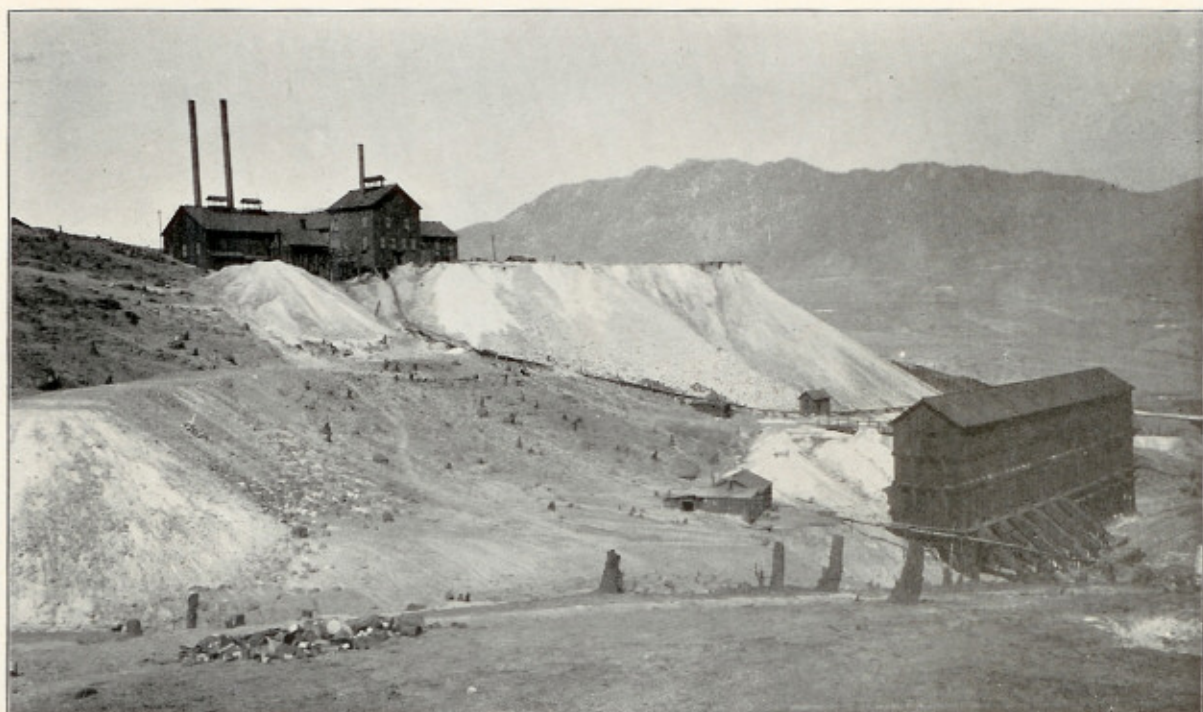
EAST COLUSA.

B. & M. property. Base eastern slope of Hill. Meaderville district. Depth, 800 feet. Employs 65 men.



HIGH ORE.

Anaconda property. East slope of Hill. Meaderville district. Depth, 2,200 feet. Employs 300 men. Weekly output, 2,300 tons.



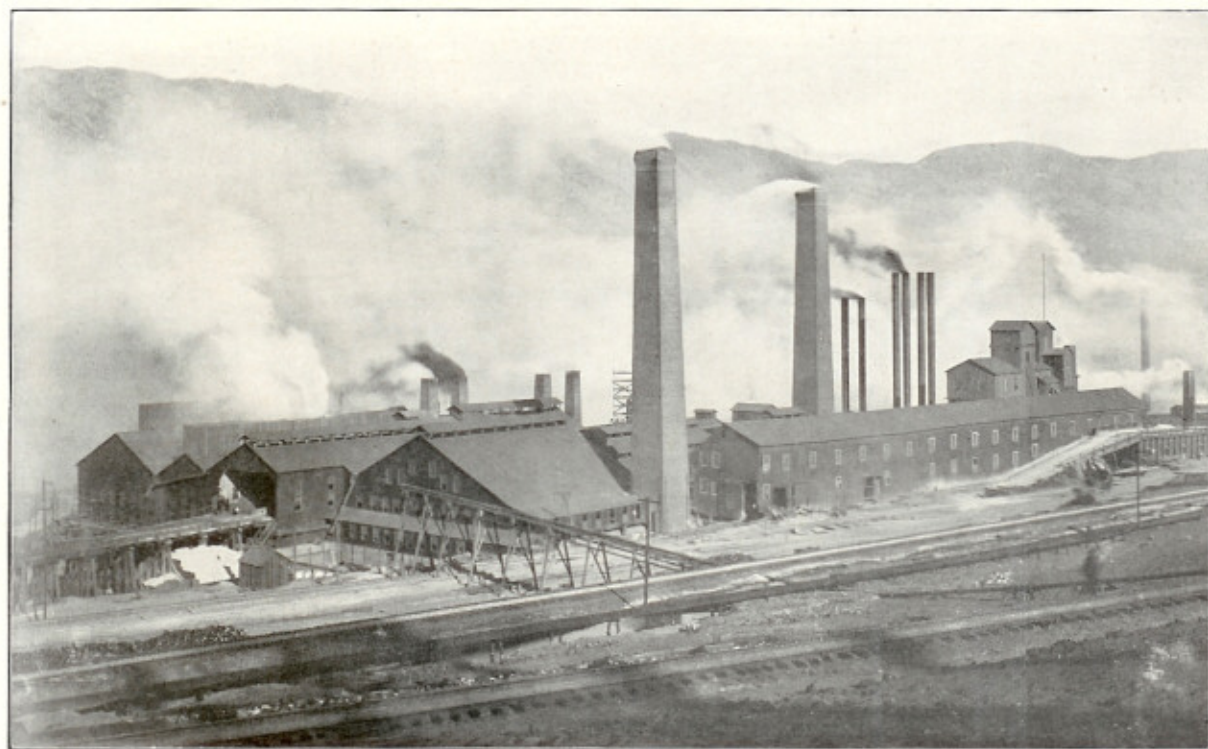
MODOC.

Anaconda property. East slope of Hill. Meaderville district. Depth, 1,000 feet. Employs 100 men. Weekly output, 1,200 tons.



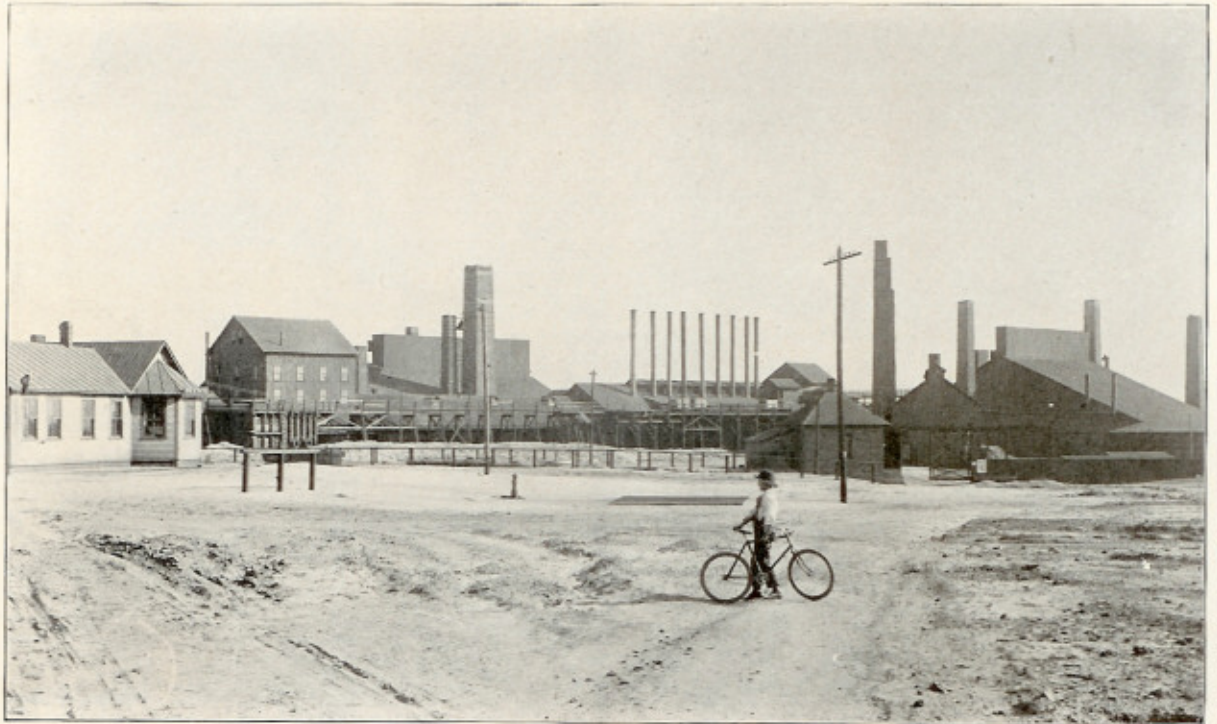
SPECULATOR.

Large estate property. East slope of Hill. Farthest north in Meaderville district. One of the best equipped mines in city. Depth, 1,200 feet. Employs 70 men.



MONTANA ORE PURCHASING COMPANY'S SMELTER.

East slope of Hill. Meaderville district. Scene of Heinze's initial operations. Employs 350 men.



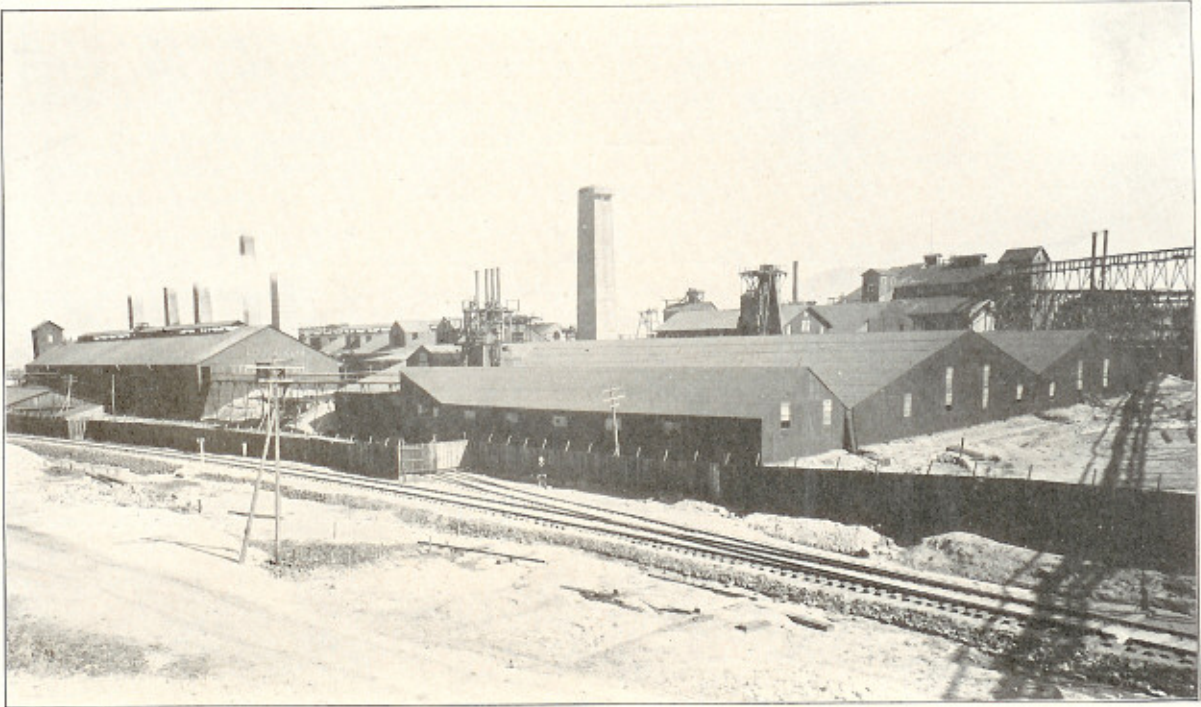
PARROT SMELTER.

Closed at present, due to fire in mine. Extreme southeastern portion of city. Employed 250 men.



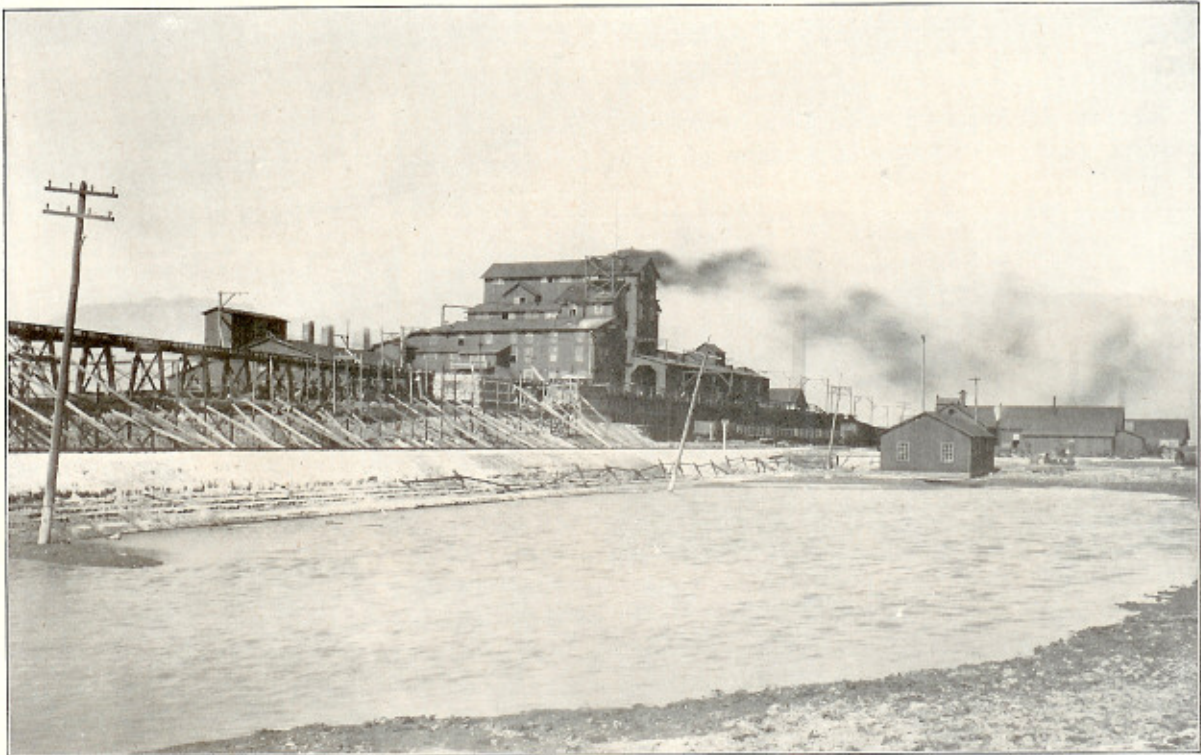
BUTTE AND BOSTON SMELTER.

Southeast slope of Hill. Meaderville district. Employs 350 men.



COLORADO SMELTER.

Col. M. & S. Co. property. Extreme southwestern limits of city. Employs 300 men.



BUTTE REDUCTION WORKS.

Extreme southern portion of city. Clark property. Employs 350 men.