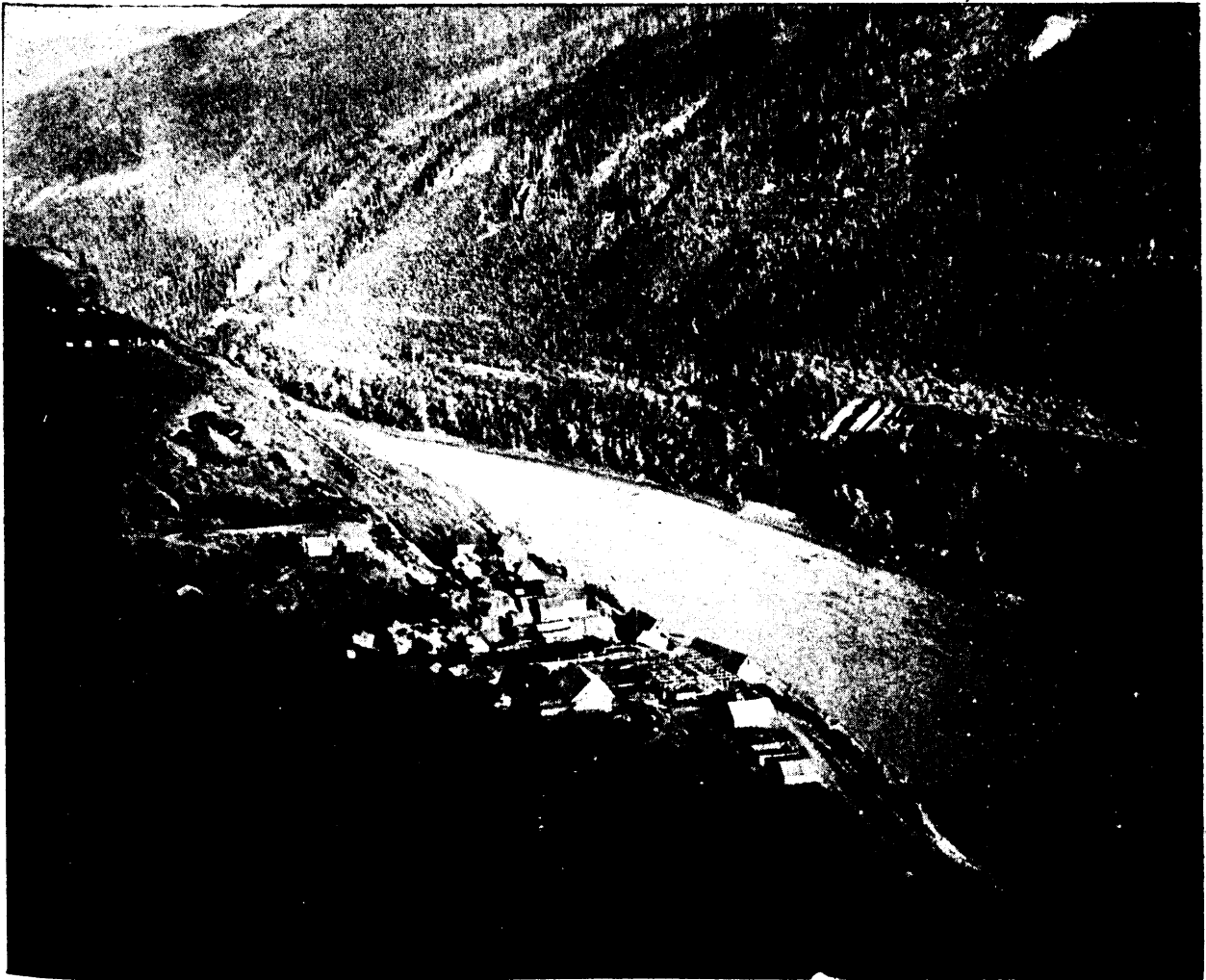


95 per cent. of the assay value of the gold and silver contents of his ore, no deception is practised on him, and there is consequently no "unfairness" nor "iniquity" in the "indirect charge" system. The statement that a deduction of 30 per cent. is made on copper which is paid for at less than half its market value, is grossly incorrect and misleading. The smelters make a reduction of 1.3 per cent. on the wet assay value of the copper in ore, which brings it down to the dry assay value. The price paid for the metal itself is, of course, regulated by the New York market; but it is surely not to be supposed—though

sirable for smelter requirements and would consequently be taxed. In the same way a large percentage of iron in an ore might make it more valuable or otherwise, according to whether or not the local smelter could turn it to profitable account in treating other ores of the neighbourhood. The American system in this respect is not only much simpler than that in vogue in England, but it is decidedly fairer. In fact, though not much is heard concerning the indirect charges of the South of England smelters, they bear much more hardly on the miner, and are imposed with so little discrimination that they could,



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seemingly in the case of the London writer it is—that copper in ore delivered to a British Columbia smelter is worth as much as the refined product sold on the New York market. The fourth contention is equally as absurd and unfounded. Throughout North America the system is general among the smelters of offering a bonus for certain classes of ore, of which there may be special need for fluxing purposes; or of increasing the regular treatment charge to the mine-owner if his ore contains more than a certain percentage of deleterious or undesirable bye-material. Thus, for example, while an ore containing excess of silica might receive a bonus at one smelter, in whose locality lime was scarce or difficult to obtain; at another point an ore of this character would be unde-

with some degree of justice, be described "as little short of iniquitous."

It is not generally known that a very considerable expenditure of capital has been laid out in the opening up of coal areas in the Quatsino district of Vancouver Island. Yet for some time past extensive development operations have been carried on in this field by a San Francisco syndicate, with Mr. Hallidie, after whom the well-known cableway system takes its name, as the prime mover—the outlay to date amounting to no less a sum than \$80,000. In addition to coal deposits the mineral showings in the Quatsino district—though the ore is low-grade in value—are eminently promising, and much of the