

## MONTANA SMELTERS

Comparison of Treatment at Butte  
and at Anaconda.

### ANACONDA'S POOR METHOD

Results of an Inquiry into Workings of Various Works—Cheap and Economic Treatment at the The Smelter of Mr. F. Aug. Heinze—Letter by Mr. P. A. O'Farrell.

Butte, Montana, Oct. 7, 1899.

The tourist who journeys from Spokane to Butte in a Northern Pacific Palace car is borne for nearly an hour along the shores of the Pend d'Oreille lake. This lake is of surpassing beauty, and is deep and extensive enough to float all the navies of all the nations of the world. The wooded isles embosomed in its dark green waters lend it an enchanting air. Its shores are mountains whose crests are capped with everlasting snow, and whose slopes are carpeted with glorious primeval forests of pine and tamarack. I never see this lovely lake but I judge it fit scene for romance more enchanting than Scott has woven around Loch Catherine and Helen's Isle. Once in company with an illustrious poet I was wafted along this lovely lake when its mighty mountains were radiant with the brilliant glory of the dawn, and when the rays of the rising sun were reflected in gold and purple upon its waters. I never shall forget the look of rapture and delight that glowed upon the countenance of my friend while gazing at the marvelous beauty of lake and wood and fairy isle and mountain. "How exquisitely beautiful," he murmured. "Surely nature, in her fondest and most fascinating mood, never created anything half so grand as this glorious Pend d'Oreille." And into this lake pour rivers that drain the most pic-

that the Anaconda loses over \$5,000,000 a year through defective concentrating methods.

When the Anaconda built its concentrating plant, it adopted the system in use at the copper mines of Michigan. This was an excellent system for the Michigan ore where the copper was in a metallic state, but experience has proven that its adoption for sulphide ores was one of the grossest metallurgical blunders ever made. That system has cost the Anaconda company from \$30,000,000 to \$40,000,000 during the years it has been in operation at the works of the company. It continues to cause a loss of \$5,000,000 a year. Mr. Daly knows it, but to tear out the present concentrators and replace them with up-to-date concentrators suitable to Butte ore would entail a complete loss of an expensive plant and the expenditure of a million dollars more. It would compel a six months' shut down of the Reduction Works and a suspension of dividends for a year. Mr. James B. Haggin has most likely been unwilling to face a suspension of dividends, or the semi-panic which the shut-down of the great works would cause till needed improvements are made. He and Mr. Daly seemingly prefer the constant loss of \$5,000,000 annually to a temporary flurry in the stock market. This, of course, on the presumption that Mr. Daly knows the frightful losses that the present system of concentration entails. I believe he is well aware of it. I am inclined to think that he could not get James B. Haggin to consent to the heroic remedies necessary to prevent this stupendous industrial loss.

Whether the new masters of the great concern will permit this woeful waste to continue remains to be seen. Indeed, the entire reduction works of the Anaconda need to be changed, and it will take nearly a year's time and fully \$3,000,000 to bring the Anaconda Reduction Works up to date. Up to date concentrators could save all but 10 per cent of Butte ores, and could produce concentrates at 35 cents a ton. It now costs Anaconda 77 cents a ton for concentrates. That is a difference of over \$600,000. When the concentrates are roasted to eliminate sulphides they are treated by the Anaconda people in Brueckner cylinder furnaces at a cost of \$1.25 per ton. With like furnaces the cost at Great Falls is 78 cents a ton. At the Heinze

Anaconda's present expenditures, \$12,064,614.

Anaconda's normal expenditures, \$7,945,644.

Anaconda's loss due to wasteful expenditures, \$5,018,970.

Anaconda's loss due to bad and defective concentration methods, \$5,500,000.

Total loss, \$10,518,970.

This shows that the great Montana property has been run like France under the second empire. There was outward splendor, pomp and show, but inside was woeful incompetence and wild extravagance. Like the nouveau riche in all ages, Daly and Haggin cherished a species of contempt for highly educated and profound students of science. Daly could never brook an accomplished scientist about him. He had no use for first class mining engineers or first class metallurgists, or for any man that knew more than he did in any department. The tables I give above are the natural result. Every able mining superintendent and every skilled metallurgist that he has ever had either quit him or was forced to quit. The superintendent of the biggest metallurgical works in America, where a business of \$20,000,000 a year is done, is paid only the miserable pittance of \$250 a month. Such men as Mr. A. K. Raht or Dr. Hes or Mr. Robb could have added \$7,000,000 to the dividends of the Anaconda stockholders had they been given full charge of the Reduction works and given carte blanche to make needed changes. But such men could not be secured for less than \$50,000 a year, and Mr. Daly and Mr. Haggin would never dream of paying any man in their service more than \$3,000 a year, unless he chanced to be a horse jockey.

In fact, Mr. Daly has tried to do the work of a hundred men, and he did that work better than any man in a million could have done it, but the work was not well done. He ambitioned to be the guide and pilot of the state, and for nearly 20 years he has come very near being so. He owned and directed the policy of hotels, department stores, newspapers and banks. He operated lumber mills, fish-hatcheries, brood farms and racing stables. He knew the gossip of every woman's clique in Butte, in Anaconda and in Helena. He knew the price of every

### WAR RESOLUTION WAS CHEERED

Addresses by Hon. Mr. Fisher and Mr. Hewitt Bostock.

Mr. Bostock Gives an Account of His Stewardship—Hon. Mr. Fisher Defends the Policy of the Government.

The meeting at the Miners' Union hall last Friday to hear Mr. Hewitt Bostock, M. P. and Hon. Sidney Fisher, was very well attended, and the distinguished speakers were carefully listened to during their speeches. Mr. McMillan's motion on the Transvaal question created the most lively interest, and the audience warmed up in great style. Mr. Hart-McHarg took the chair, and on the platform beside Mr. Fisher and Mr. Bostock were Dr. Sinclair and Mr. McMillan.

The chairman explained why the meeting was called and expressed pleasure at seeing so large and representative a gathering who would listen with pleasure to the statements that would be made by the two distinguished visitors, Hon. Mr. Fisher and Mr. Hewitt Bostock. Mr. Bostock they knew very well, and Mr. Fisher had come particularly to inform himself of the situation here, and what was required to meet our pressing wants.

Mr. Hewitt Bostock, who was greeted with applause on rising, said that he was glad, indeed, once more to be among his constituents. "I am glad to see the very steady improvement that is going on in Rossland, and it must be most gratifying to us all to see this city growing and expanding at the rate it is."

The speaker referred to the size of his constituency, and the difficulty he experienced in attempting to look after all the interests involved, as well as attending to the parliamentary duties during the long sessions that are now in vogue at Ottawa. Mr. Bostock paid a graceful tribute to the minister of agriculture for his attendance this evening, and his desire to become acquainted with the business situation in the province of British Columbia. Various members of the Dominion cabinet had from time to time visited the Kootenay

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