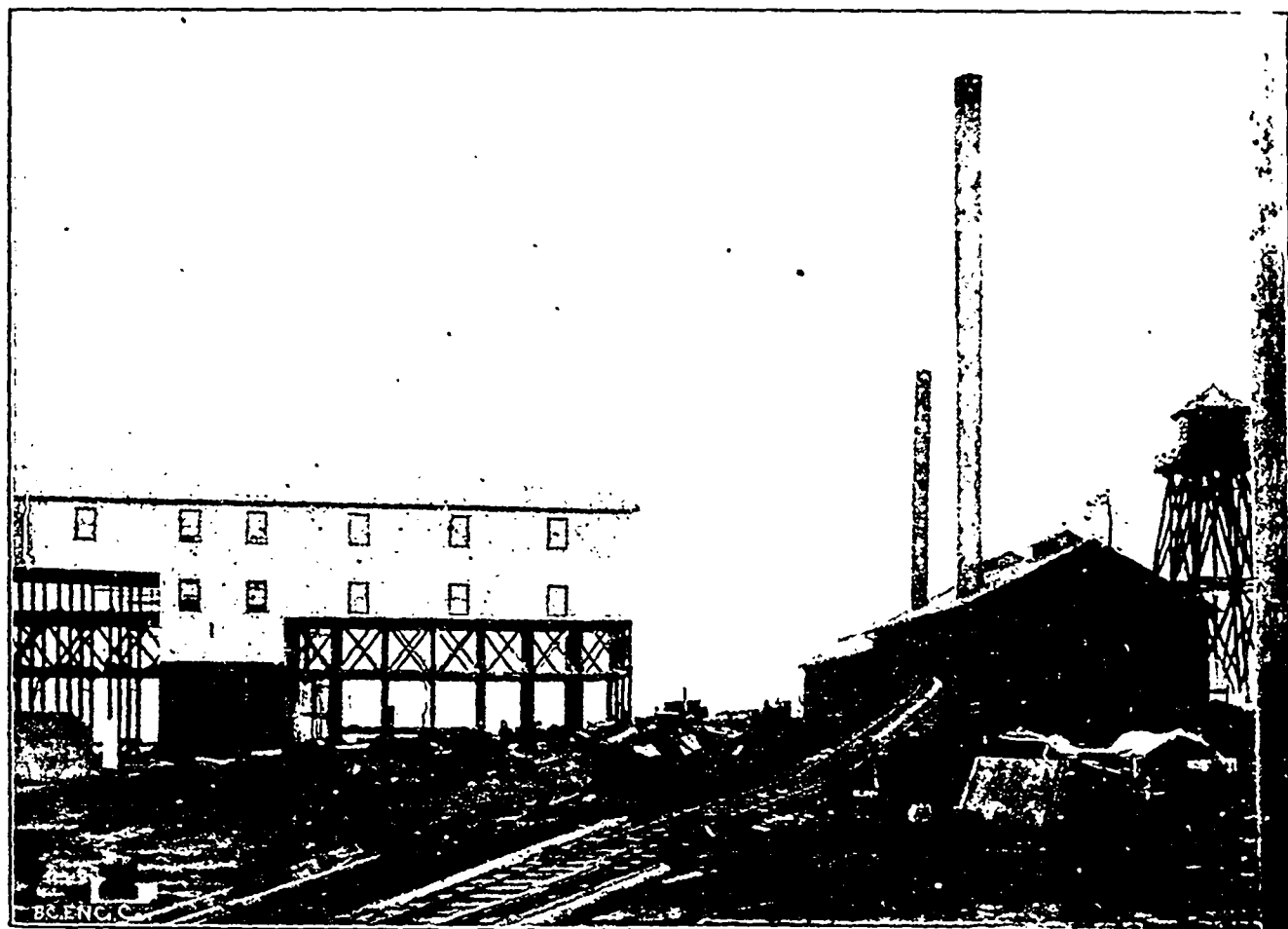


feet before the ore is reached. There are also a number of other prospects which have been developed this last summer, among them being the *Copper Spoon*, situated at Sproat Lake, near Alberni, where, I understand, a tunnel has been driven on the lead for a considerable distance, the ore carrying gold and copper.

At Taylor River and the head of Sproat Lake, about four miles inland, is the *Silver Star* property, on which underground work has been carried on. This claim is a gold-quartz undertaking. The ore assays about 50 to 100 in gold and silver.

ings are most remarkable, being exposed the distance of nearly a mile, and crop out in steep cliffs for nearly a mile in length. The ore body is of a horse shoe shape, forming a basin which was covered with snow on the two occasions the writer visited the property. The photograph which accompanies this description was taken in October.

From present indications, meanwhile, particularly as there is available near at hand abundance of water for power purposes, the property is capable of developing into an important productive mine, but capital is required to take the work in hand.



Head Works, Departure Bay Mine.

The Big Interior Mine.—This property is located almost in the centre of Vancouver Island, at the headwaters of Bear River and is reached via Alberni and Great Central Lake. The altitude of the mine is about 5,000 feet above sea level. The owners cut a trail from the headwaters of Great Central Lake to the workings last year, and built a cabin on the lower and upper end of the lake. The trail from the head of the lake to the mine is about ten miles long. This year they have done sufficient development work to prove that the very considerable showings of low grade ore are not merely superficial. The ore show-

COAL MINING ON VANCOUVER ISLAND, 1904.

(By John Matthews.)

THE COMOX MINE.

THE year 1904 has been a most prosperous one. The mines are being steadily developed, and the No. 4 mine, or (No. 4 slope) has been restored to something like its old condition. It will be remembered, it was necessary to flood this mine some three years ago, in order to suppress a fire. The pumping out of the water has been going on continuously since,