

WILL COPPER PRICES STAND FIRM.

This question is of growing importance to British Columbia, with its rapidly enlarging copper-gold output. It is reassuring, therefore, to note the following opinion of the *Western Mining World*, given in what appears to be substantial data, by a representative issue of America's greatest copper centre, Butte, Montana:

"The strength of the copper market is not much to be wondered at when one considers all the factors now effective in relation to the industries of copper mining and manufacturing. Recently we predicted that the statistics of the production and exports of copper from the United States for the month of May would surprise even those who made a business of following the market very closely. The production of the metal in the United States in May amounted to 18,805 tons, of which 12,175 tons, or about two-thirds, were exported, leaving only one-third for home consumption. For five months of the current year up to May 31st, the total production has been 88,998 tons, and the exports 52,193 tons, which is in about the same proportion as the figures for the month of May. Compared with previous years and previous months the May totals show substantial increases, being well above the average, both as to production and exportation. Not the least important factor concerning the large exports of the metal to Europe is the fact that the visible supply of copper in Europe during the first half of this month decreased 1,371 tons. This would make the European consumption of copper fully three times as great as that of this country, for the European production has increased slightly also. It is difficult to see where domestic manufacturers would get their supplies of copper from if business was to assume anything like its normal proportions. The large producers are sending larger quantities of copper to market than ever before, yet while only one-third of it is consumed at home, the price of the metal holds strong and there is no pressure to sell. The statistical position of the metal and the prospects for an increase in the demand are such that the belief is warranted that materially higher prices will be in vogue before another six months has passed, notwithstanding the increased production. There is a small probability of the export trade falling off, and there is every probability of the home consumption increasing.

GOOD FOR COMOX.

The smelting work at Trail is beginning to be of very solid advantage to the Dunsmuir coke ovens at Comox, on the

IN EAST KOOTENAY.

The working of the Sullivan group is stated to show exceedingly well, the shaft being now in 30 feet of galena. The management of the St. Eugene group is equally sanguine. They declare that they have a rich true fissure vein and are at least as promising as that of the North Star mines, which are worked with profit, notwithstanding that the cost of mining, transporting and treating the ore amounts to \$40 a ton, a cost which should be vastly decreased by the coming of the Crow's Nest railroad and extensions with cheap transport, fuel and assuredly also big local smelter developments in their trail.

It is now stated also on the authority of Mr. Brady, of Victoria, late manager of the Thunder Hill Mining Co., Ltd., that the mines of that undertaking on the scene of the first quartz discovery in East Kootenay, made nearly a decade since, will ere long be at work with good results. For this there should be large inducement in the new era that is about to dawn on East Kootenay, for the Thunder Hill people have sunk much money in their mines in rail tracks, a concentrator and other buildings and appliances. The concentration plant is stated itself to represent an outlay of \$45,000.

B.C. MINING FEES.

For every free miner's certificate each year	\$ 5 00
Every substituted certificate.....	1 00
Recording any claim	2 50
Recording every certificate of work	2 50
Recording any record	2 50
Recording every abandonment	2 50
For recording every affidavit, where the same does not exceed three folios of 100 words	50
The above rate shall be charged for all records made in the Record of Affidavits.	
For all records made in the "Record of Conveyances," where the same do not exceed three folios	2 50
For every folio over three, a further charge of 30 cents per folio	
For all copies or extracts from any record in any of the above named books, where such copy or extract shall not exceed three folios, per copy	2 50
Where such copies or extracts exceed three folios, 30 cents per folio for every folio over three.....	
For filing any document.....	25
Development, per year	100 00
The expenditure of \$500 gives a crown grant.	
For placer rates the above rates apply	

ROUSED TO ACTION.

The rival effort of the Hogue syndicate would seem to have aroused the earlier projectors of the Rothschild-Evans-Prescott syndicate, also of London, England, on behalf of whom Mr. Symons, Q. C., asserts that there will be begun, hard by Vancouver, in or before September next, the building, at a cost of \$600,000, of a smelter and refinery of 500 tons daily capacity, in respect of which at most but a small bonus will be asked of the City of Vancouver. The site will, he states, be either at Hastings or Seymour creek, North Vancouver, and it is claimed that abundant ores can thither be brought, not only from the coast and island mines but also from the Slocan district by the C P R without breaking bulk. But if the smelter and refinery are to be located at Seymour creek, where the railroad is not, how can breaking bulk be avoided?

A DOUBTFUL VENTURE.

The Harris River Gold Recovery Co., Limited, has been registered in London, England, with a capital of £100,000 in £2 shares, with a view to acquire a 20 years' lease of five miles of river gravels on the Fraser, near Harrison, and work the same for gold by dredge. Unfortunately, however, no previous effort of this kind in the rapid, boulder-encumbered Fraser has proved successful, and the venture must, as the English press seem to have declared it already, be regarded as a highly speculative venture, with doubtful prospects of success. There is gold in the river, doubtless, the difficulty is to extract it, either by dredging amongst the sand and gravels or treatment of the sand by pulverization or otherwise.

A SMELTING CIRCULAR.

The Hydro Smelting & Refining Company, of Tacoma, has just issued a circular stating that its smelter plant at Lake View, Washington, on the N. P. R. is now completely equipped and prepared to sample and treat all consignments of precious ores at its smelter at a cost of \$4 a ton, the bar bullion being placed in the banks to the credit of the consignor with cost of treatment attached, as may be agreed upon between the consignor and the company.

OFFERED FOR SALE.

The end is coming of a once much lauded Similkameen Gold Hydraulic Company, that of the Anglo-American Gold and Platinum Hydraulic Co., Ltd., the four river leases owned by the Company on the South Fork of the Similkameen, being offered for sale by tender by the official liquidator of the Company, Mr. D. C. McGregors, of Vancouver.