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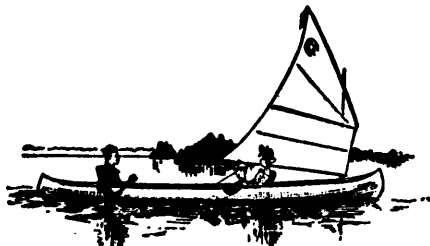
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BUSINESS CONDITIONS.**A NEW PROCESS IN COPPER.**

The New York Herald publishes the following from its London correspondent: Senator Clark's visit to Europe is likely to confirm his claim to the title of "Copper King" in a way that he did not anticipate when he set out to round up the Rio Tinto mine into the new amalgamation. When he returns to America, not only will he be in a position to disregard the opposition of the Calumet and Hecla mines, but he will be able to dictate terms to every copper foundry in the United States, if a deal which I heard of yesterday goes through.

This deal means the acquisition by the Montana Senator of a newly-discovered process by which bars, sheets and tubes can be manufactured from the crude material almost at the pit's mouth. This will mean a saving of something like \$100 per ton on the finished material.

The process is electrolytic and is closely analogous to the electrolytic refining method by which two hundred thousand tons of copper were refined in the United States last year. The new process uses the same amount of electrical energy per ton of metal as the old, but is worked at a rate ten times greater, and in making bar copper for subsequent melting, a rate twenty times greater is said to have been successfully used.

The manufacture of copper articles direct from the crude metal has long engaged the attention of inventors, in view of the enormous profits accruing. Many attempts have been made, but hitherto all alike have been unsuccessful, or only partially successfully. The new process is said not only to overcome the known difficulties, but, by an ingenious contrivance, automatic in its action, to have effected a marvelous improvement over all methods heretofore known.

Mr. David Cook, an electrical engineer, who carried out the lighting of the City of London, gave me some important data regarding the process, which, he says, will revolutionize the copper industry. I had some tubes made by this process, he said, which stood a test up to 3000 lbs. per square inch, without showing a sign of weakness, the ordinary test being 600 lbs. To show how it would work, say in the Anaconda mine, where ten tons of copper are electrolytically refined daily in 1,400 vats, covering something like sixty-five acres of ground, only 100 vats would be required by the new process.

Where, under present conditions, the product requires to go subsequently through the processes of smelting, drawing, forging and rolling before the finished article is produced, the new process will produce the finished article direct from the vat. This means the saving of from \$100 to \$500 per ton compared with the present method. In fact the new process practically abolishes copper manufacturing as at present understood.

Messrs. Stanger and Blount, Government analysts have been making tests of the new process in their laboratory at

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