

a general way, I have small business dealings with a great majority of the actual copper producers of this and foreign countries, hence I speak without personal prejudice, and not as the mouthpiece of any individual copper interest.

The greatest present menace to the copper industry in the United States is a menace that is common to all branches of mining. The entire American industry of mining is threatened by men operating under the names of progress and reform, whose slogan is conservation, but who are political economists of the Stone Age, and first cousins, in mental capacity, to the Troglodytes. The conservation experts of the forest service are systematically hampering legitimate mining operations throughout the Western States, and both law and justice are disregarded by these conservationists, while the federal departments affected are governed more by rulings than by law. Congress has made the very grave and dangerous mistake of endowing the executive departments of our Government with the power to promulgate rulings that have the force of law, and in some of the departments rulings have been put into effect that not only are arbitrary and unjust, but that also are absolutely illegal, yet the poor miner, who has complied with all the requirements of the law, is liable to see his property, to which he is clearly entitled, both by law and justice, taken from him by the officials of the forestry service, under the slightest pretext, and is denied access to or recourse by the courts. The most odious forms of despotism can show nothing worse, in this particular, than the hideous imposition under which honest miners are suffering in the Western States of our country.

ANACONDA AND THE GUGGENHEIMS.

The conservationists, many of whom might, with greater truth, be termed conversationists, would close the Washoe Works of Montana, the greater reduction plant in the world, with a monthly output valued at millions of dollars, employing thousands of men, and indirectly giving employment to tens of thousands of men, under the childish plea that the smelter fumes are injuring timber on the federal forest reserves—timber that, in a pinch, might furnish fairly good lodge-poles for Indian teepees.

The Guggenheims are the bogey-men with which the conservationists most frequently alarm the public. We have had it dinned into our ears, by innumerable patriots seeking office, and repeatedly set before our eyes, in every yellow newspaper and muckraking magazine, that "the Guggenheims are stealing Alaska." As a matter of fact, the Guggenheims control a copper mine in the interior of Alaska, that is a wonder in its way, yet which cannot be rated at more than a third-class property. The mine, the Bonanza, is a sort of copper-plated gold-brick, in that an interior core of limestone is surrounded by phenomenally high-grade bornite and copper glance. No competent mining man who has visited this property ever has estimated the amount of ore in sight, and safely to be inferred, as capable of yielding more than 100,000,000 pounds of finished copper, a total production equivalent to only one year's maximum output by any one of the six leading copper mines of the world. In order to get this ore out of a wilderness, the Guggenheim interests have built the Copper River & Northwestern Railway, a line of 195 miles length, variously estimated to have cost from \$13,000,000 to \$25,000,000. The gross value of all the copper contained in the Bonanza mine, taking the outside estimate of ton-

nage, is considerably less than the lowest estimate of cost of this railway, and the net profits derivable from the Bonanza mine, cannot, by the most liberal figuring, be estimated at more than \$4,000,000 to \$5,000,000. Instead of being commended for their enterprise and courage in building this railway through an Arctic wilderness, the Guggenheims are held up to public scorn as thieves and robbers. This railway cuts through workable beds of coal, but is prohibited, by the federal authorities, from developing or using this coal, and is compelled to import inferior coal from British Columbia at a cost more than double that of domestic coal if its mining were permitted. Not only does the railway suffer from this arbitrary action by the Federal Government, but the 50,000 unfortunate American citizens who live in Alaska are compelled to pay double or triple the price they should pay for fuel, through the efforts of the conservationists, backed by the Federal Government, to "save" the coal for some future use, at an indefinite date. It scarcely seems strange, in the light of this situation, that mourning was donned in Alaska when the High Priest of conservation reached that land, which the conservationists seem to consider a sort of penal colony. The conservation of our mineral, timber and power resources should be effected along legal and business lines, and not under the guidance of spiritualistic visions.

The reformers, as these gentlemen term themselves, are advocating the Government building and operation of railways in Alaska, and the Government ownership and operation of coal mines, which is state socialism pure and simple, and any man seriously advocating such a policy is a socialist, no matter what he may choose to call himself. It is further advocated, by the junior senator from Wisconsin, and his official and unofficial organs, that the Government also should buy the Copper River and Northwestern Railway from the Guggenheims. Doubtless the Guggenheims will be very glad indeed to sell their railway, which is threatened by tidal floods and glacial floods, with its principal bridge across the Copper River threatened by a glacier itself, but it is difficult to see where the long-suffering taxpayer will benefit by such a purchase.

The Federal Government already has withdrawn immense tracts of oil, coal and phosphate lands, and the next step in this cleverly devised socialistic propaganda will be to withdraw from entry, or inhibit mineral entries upon iron, copper, lead, zinc, silver and gold lands.

The pretext for past withdrawals is that our mineral resources are being depleted so rapidly that there is danger of their extinction, in the near future, unless administered by an all-wise and all-powerful central government, which can make no mistake, and can do no wrong. The figures regarding our natural resources, put forth apparently in earnest, by some of the leading conservationists, are so utterly ridiculous that it is impossible to regard them seriously. There is more iron ore existing in a single county, in my own State of Michigan, than any professional conservationist ever has estimated to exist in the entire world. This is made as a plain statement of fact, and those who think to the contrary are challenged to impeach the assertion.

The lawless actions of the forestry bureau, which is perhaps the most odious of our bureaucratic iniquities, have been of a sort to arouse the alarm of all thinking men who believe in self-government. Apparently it is the cunningly devised scheme of the leaders of the so-called conservation movement, to expropriate the public