

Prior to 1894 there was no copper produced in British Columbia, or if there was the quantity was so small as not to have found place in the official records of mineral production. A commencement was made in 1894, when copper to the value of \$16,234 was produced, partly by Nelson and partly by Rossland mines. Thereafter these mines continued to be the only producers of copper in the Province until, in 1900, mines in the Boundary section of Yale district commenced producing and quickly became important producers. By this time Nelson's production had decreased considerably. The



First Cabins on Mother Lode Claim, built by Boundary Mines Syndicate in 1896.

leading position since taken by Boundary copper mines over those of other copper-producing sections of the Province is exemplified in the following table, showing the total production of copper ore in British Columbia in all years to 1906, inclusive:

District.	Lb. of Copper.
Nelson	12,300,00
Rossland	63,825,000
Boundary	135,500,000
Coast	30,000,000
Other parts of Province	1,790,000

Total 243,415,000

During seven years (to end of 1906) Boundary mines produced 4,609 tons of ores, practically all of it copper

ore of a low grade. The proportions of this total contributed by the several mines of the four copper mining companies operating in the district are as under:

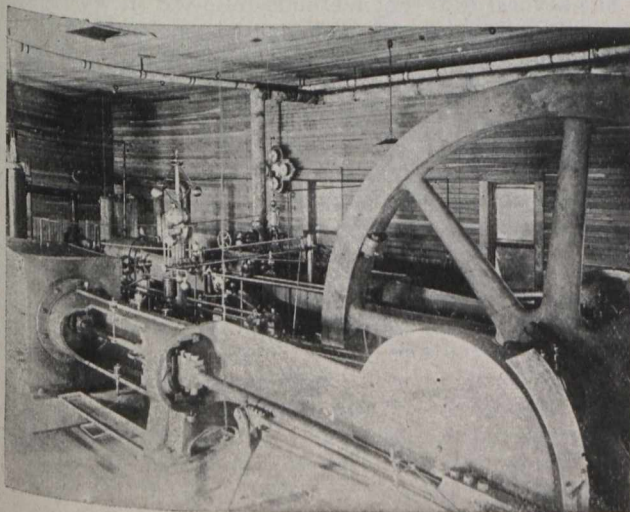
Company.	Tons.
Granby	3,005,000
British Columbia Copper ..	1,073,000
Dominion	390,000
Consolidated M. & S. of Canada	102,000

The remainder of the production of this district was chiefly from small silver-gold mines.

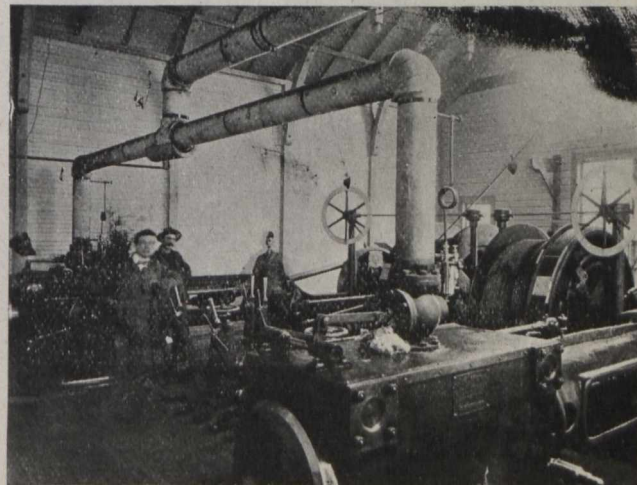
The British Columbia Copper Company, Limited, with head office in New York City, is working six mines in the Boundary district, four of which are in British Columbia and two in the adjoining State of Washington, just south of the international boundary line. Of these the Mother Lode is the largest. It is typical of the big copper mines of the district and, though not so extensive as the combined mines of the Granby Consolidated Company in Phoenix camp, distant about seven miles from the Mother Lode, is a decidedly important and valuable mine, having a producing capacity, as now opened and equipped, of about 1,000 tons of ore per diem, and with further development in progress in preparation for a still larger output.

The Mother Lode is situated in Deadwood camp, about three miles west of the Town of Greenwood. The mineral was located on May 28th, 1891. The surrounding hills were but thinly timbered, and the big copper-stained bluff or "blowout," then a prominent feature, could be seen from such a distance that the prospectors had no difficulty in finding "mineral in place" to warrant their making the location. The accompanying view of the Mother Lode hill, reproduced from a photograph taken by Mr. Keffer in 1896, gives a fair idea of the surface appearance the claim presented shortly after the work of prospecting the big showing of mineralized rock occurring on it had been fairly commenced.

Prior to 1896 there had been no work done on the Mother Lode other than the very limited amount necessary to fulfil the annual assessment requirements. In that year the claim was bonded by Col. John Weir, representing himself and Messrs. F. L. Underwood and Jas. F. Tichenor, all of New York City. Mr. Frederic Keffer, now president of the Canadian Mining Institute, was placed in charge of the property immediately after the bond was obtained and thereafter he developed it for the Boundary Mines Syndicate, formed by the three gentlemen first above named. When Mr. Keffer commenced work there was not a tunnel nor a shaft 25



40-Drill Air Compressor. Installed in 1902.



Canadian Rand Hoisting Engine. Installed in 1902.