

# Remarkable Record of Utah Copper Company

A few years ago it was considered good business practice to envelope the operations of a mining company in a veil of mystery. To all except the officers and the heaviest stockholders the performances and plans of such companies were secrets, guarded as jealously as the rites of a lodge. There is no more encouraging sign of progress toward a higher plane than the change in this respect that has come about within a recent period.

Utahns are proud of the fact that the companies operating in this state were among the first to recognize the rights of minor stockholders and the widespread benefits of frankness in their dealings with the public. One of the pioneers in this praiseworthy movement was the Utah Copper company. It owes much of its present popularity among investors to its valuable ground, its magnificent equipment, and its capable management, but none of these has done so much to bring it into favor as the absolute candor with which it treats all who are interested in its operations.

The quarterly reports which have been issued by the Utah Copper since its work became systematized are models. All material facts, whether favorable or otherwise, are presented with a clearness that makes them intelligible to every reader. Nor does the public have to wait for these reports to keep advised as to the affairs of the mining company. Every development of any consequence is cheerfully given by the local officers to the newspapers at the time of its occurrence, without color or bias.

Fortunately the unfavorable incidents in the development of the great enterprise have been

few and far between. That there were not more of them seems remarkable when we remember that the company blazed the trail into an untrodden field, created new methods of copper production and was compelled to work out without guide or precedent dozens of unexpected problems.

It has been a tremendous work to bring the property to its present state of efficiency, but the result justifies the labor and the cost. The main problem was to take a mountain of copper ore, so low in grade that no one had considered it of commercial value, and convert it to the service of mankind at a cost so low as to give a fair return on the millions of capital needed to effect the transformation. Recent official reports show how well the undertaking has been carried out.

With one, and part of the time two, of its mill sections not yet in commission, the company produced in July, August and September 12,000,925 pounds of pure copper. Since that report was issued the twelfth and last section of the Garfield mill has been put into the harness, and the immense plant is running as smoothly as a sewing machine. Its maximum capacity is 6000 tons of crude ore a day. The company's smaller mill, the plant at Bingham canyon, in close proximity to the mine, consumes 800 tons of sulphide ore from the underground workings every day.

Although the sulphides carry much the higher percentage of metal, interest attaches chiefly to the porphyry because of its fabulous quantity and the late discovery of its wealth-making possibilities. Novelties are encountered at every step in following the worthless-looking rock from its bed on the mountain side to its exit from the mill as a concentrate one-third metal.

Few manifestations of human ingenuity are more impressive than the spectacle of the great steam shovels dexterously scooping up tons of the rock with one motion and carelessly dumping it into a freight car with another. The performance is so beautifully simple and so magnificently effective that the official estimate of mining cost as 25 cents a ton occasions no surprise. After a year's trial the Utah Copper has proved conclusively that steam shovel mining, under such conditions as exist at its Bingham property, is much more economical than overhead stopping. The management is so well satisfied with the results shown that it is constantly adding to its equipment for this work, and now has seven shovels in service.

Since the drop in the price of copper metal the matter of production costs has loomed large on the horizons of the mine managers, but the gentlemen who guide the destinies of Utah Copper rest comfortably in the knowledge that there is a broad margin between the total cost of mining, hauling, concentrating, refining and marketing their one and two per cent ore and the lowest price that has ruled, or is likely to rule, in the eastern market. In exact figures the cost of the finished product this year has been from 8.16 to 8.73 cents a pound, the variation being due to the proportion of refractory material entering into the tonnage.

As the ore nearest the surface is least amenable to treatment, it is reasonable to suppose that recoveries will increase and costs diminish as depth is gained in the porphyry bed.

Although consumption of metals has been at a low ebb during the past year, the Utah Copper



The Garfield Mill of the Utah Copper Company