

CUBAN MINING MATTERS

AN OLD COPPER MINE

The El Cobre Mine of Cuba was the subject of a paper read at the last meeting of the Association of German Miners and Smelters, by Dr. E. Naumann, of Frankfort, who in 1913, paid a professional visit of three weeks' duration to that property, which he appropriately describes as the oldest copper mine of the New World, an ancient producer of colossal riches, highly interesting from the scientific geological point of view, at present equipped for mining purposes with the most up-to-date technical appliances, and probably destined to achieve further great successes in the future. The property is situated 15 km. west of Santiago de Cuba. From 1839 to 1860, the mine produced under English ownership 788,880 tons high grade ore, valued at \$30,000,000, the underground workings having reached a depth of 1,100 ft. Since then the mine has been flooded and entirely abandoned, until after the Spanish-American War an American company obtained possession. Pumping operations for unwatering the mine were at once started on a very large scale, and a railway to the port of Santiago was built. The workings have not yet been pumped dry down to their old depth, and meanwhile mining is restricted to the poorer ores left by the old owners as unpayable. These average from 3.50 to 4% Cu. The output is concentrated by the Mineral Separation, Limited, flotation process, which is stated to give excellent results. The production, totaling about 50,000 tons, concentrates and rich ores, is shipped for further treatment to the United States. Whether the richness of the El Cobre lode will continue in depth remains, of course, to be seen. The theory proclaiming the law of secondary enrichment would certainly be apt to arouse doubts, but, on the other hand, the geological formation of the deposit and its surroundings, the prominent features of which are fully described by Dr. Naumann, appears to be in some ways similar to Butte (Montana), where rich ores have been found down to 3,000 ft. below the surface (equal to 2,300 ft. below ground water level). The El Cobre ores mainly consist of copper pyrites and copper glance.

PENNSYLVANIA STEEL COMPANY REPORT

President Edgar C. Felton, in his remarks to the stockholders, on May 5th, concerning the company's properties in Cuba, had the following to say:

"Of the two iron mining properties in the island of Cuba owned by you, neither was operated to its capacity in 1913, because of the decreasing demand of your furnaces for iron ore. The older property located at Daiquiri on the south coast of Cuba produced

490,000 tons of iron ore in 1913, compared with 537,000 tons in 1912. The newer property located on the north coast of the island, near Nipe Bay, produced 676,000 tons of ore in 1913, compared with 821,000 tons in 1912. The sum of \$184,470 was expended on these two properties during 1913 for improvements and betterments. Of this sum, \$13,770 was capitalized, being the amount expended largely for the acquisition of new lands, to be used in connection with mining operations. The balance of this expenditure was charged currently to the costs of mining."

CUBAN ORE NOT ON MARKET

Quoting the market prices for various iron ores the *Mining and Engineering Journal* (New York) says that "it is not necessary to consider Cuban ore, since very little of that ore is sold, nearly all of it being used by the steel companies which control the Cuban mines. Last year some was offered for sale by a company having a surplus, but that was an unusual occurrence."

THE CAMBRIA STEEL COMPANY

"The Spanish-American Iron Company's vast holdings of iron ore in Cuba passed to the control of the Cambria Steel Company by its recently acquired control of the Pennsylvania Steel Company, which owns the Spanish-American Company. The Maryland Steel Company is now also in the control of the Cambria Company."—*Baltimore Sun*.

MORE ORE DEPOSITS PROBABLE

Dwight E. Woodbridge says that "It is not improbable that other large soft ore bodies may be found in the interior of Cuba, and that the tonnages now known to exist, vast as they are, may be considerably augmented. It may seem strange that a region inhabited by white men for more than 400 years should still have secrets to yield; but it is now less than 12 years since knowledge of any of these soft ore beds reached men to whom that knowledge meant anything, and almost every year since then additions have been made to the sum of previous information on the subject. It is but 3 years since a body of some 200,000,000 tons of this ore was discovered behind the Moa field, and entered in the name of Chas. Rees for the United States Steel Corporation. It is but 2 years since the chief fields in Panar Del Rio were first examined by an engineer competent for the task."

"Ore depths are greater in Oriente than in other provinces, with percentage of iron 2 to 3 per cent. higher."