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MINING



The History of Mining in British Columbia

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Constant efforts were made to improve operations. Originally coke had been made at Union Bay on Vancouver Island and shipped up coast by barge. In 1918 Granby started its own coke plant at Anyox from coal shipped out of its own mine at Cassidy near Nanaimo. Investigations had started as early as 1915 into the flotation process of copper separation. These resulted in a new concentrator at Anyox, built in 1924 and reaching a production peak of 5,600 tons per day in 1935.

Through the Depression years the company kept the smelter going to sustain employment. Early in 1935 it had an unsold stock on hand of three years of production, and the decision was made to liquidate the company's holdings and close down Anyox. All northern properties went to the Consolidated Mining & Smelting Co. of Trail. People began to move out by the hundreds; a few had jobs and places to go to, but most of them had no money and no prospects. They crowded onto the **Prince Rupert** or **Prince George** and came to swell the ranks of the unemployed in Vancouver or Victoria. Many even abandoned their furniture — left in the house or at the Anyox dock.

The plant was dismantled by the A.R. Williams Machinery Co. of Vancouver, whose barges went southward with thousands of tons of scrap and machinery. A crew of 100 men took more than a year to finish the dismantling. The site has now reverted to the wilderness. The dense underbrush yields no trace of what was once the busiest smelter town in B.C.

West of Princeton, new opportunities had arisen on Copper Mountain. It was discovered in 1884 and staked in 1892; development work started in 1905 by a group associated with B.C. Copper. By 1920 a concentrator at Allenby and a railway from



B.C. MINISTRY OF MINES

An interior operation— the concentrator of the Allenby Copper Company at Allenby, on Copper Mountain near Princeton, 1923.

Princeton had been built. But in the copper slump after the armistice of 1918 the operation had to close. It was bought by Granby in 1923 and ran from 1925 to the start of the Depression, when again it had to close down. In November 1936 the directors of the company authorized the re-opening of the mine. Townsites were built at Allenby and Copper Mountain and a power plant