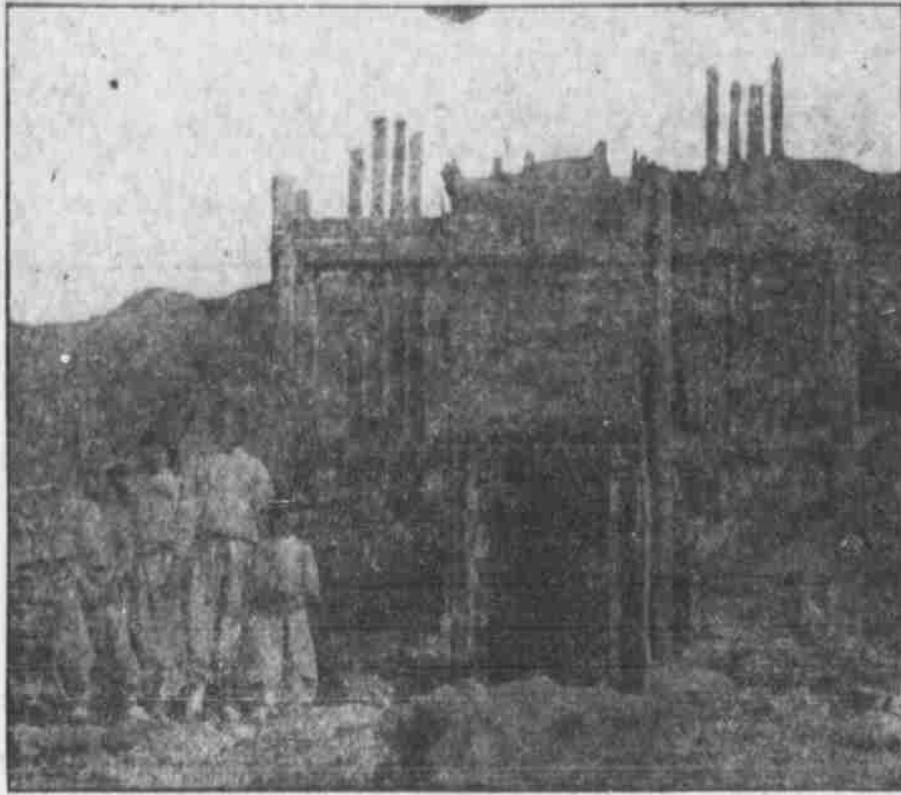
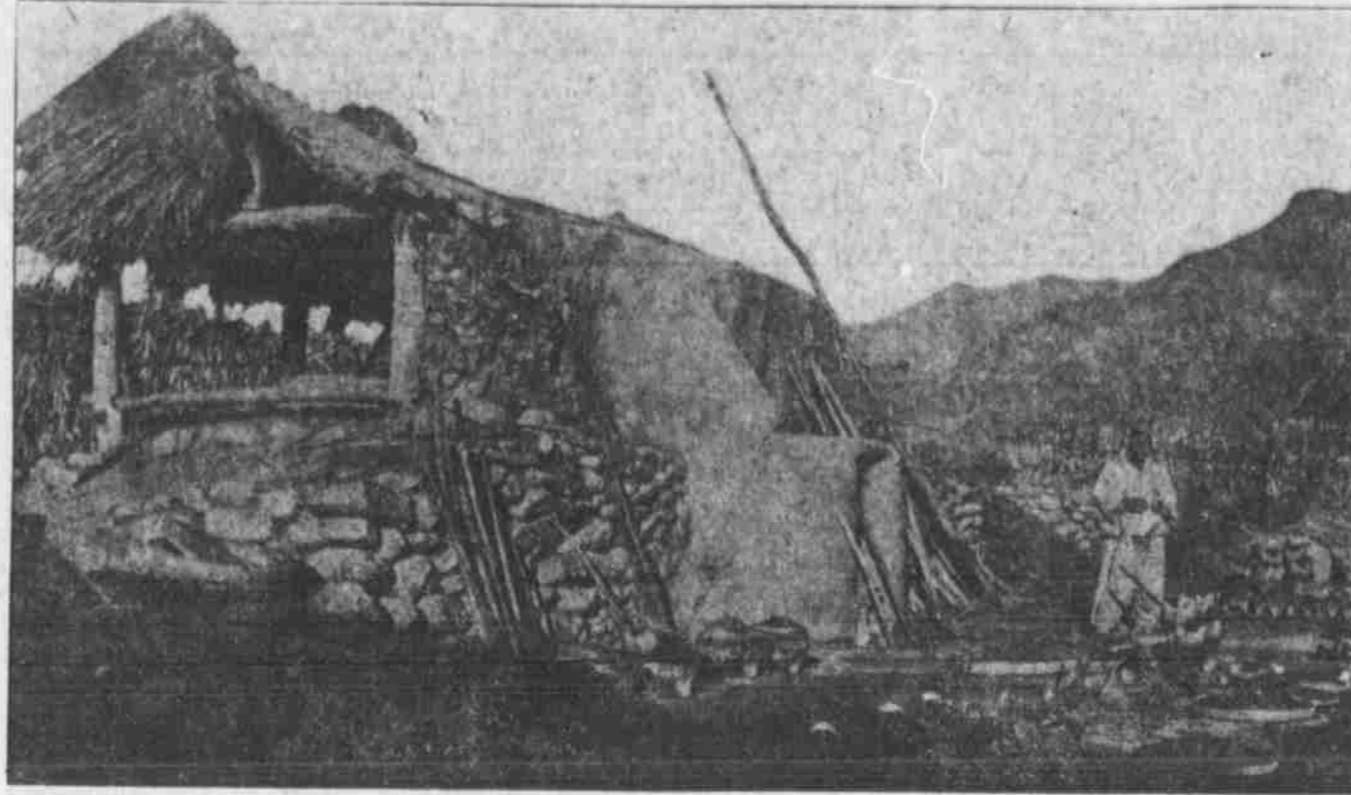


Mines and Mining in Korea Promise Millions When Properly Worked



GOLD MINE AND STAMP MILL



KOREAN NATIVE IRON SMELTING FURNACE



HOISTING THE ORE

(Copyright, 1909, by Frank G. Carpenter.)
SEOUL, 1909.—(Special Correspondence of The Bee.)—There is a big mining movement going on in Korea. Prospectors are finding minerals in every part of the peninsula, and concessions for gold, copper, graphite and iron are being granted by the government under the new mining laws. The long suit of the Colbran-Bostwick Development company regarding its concession for the Kapsan copper mine, which was settled last year, has so changed the mining regulations that foreigners can now get clear titles and they are rapidly taking advantage of this. A number of the new mines are now working and the prospects for a broad mineral development are bright.

Korea's Big Gold Deposits.
 Indeed, Korea may develop into a second California. There is no doubt but that there is gold in many parts of the peninsula. The people have been mining it in a rude way for many generations. They have been washing it out of the streams. During my visit to the country twenty years ago the merchants showed me goose quills filled with gold dust and during my stay in Seoul in 1894 Thomas W. Power, the electrician from Washington, who put up the first light plant in Seoul, told me how he had gotten a soap box filled with over \$47,000 worth of gold dust and nuggets in payment of one installment due for his work.

The way it happened was this: Mr. Power contracted with the emperor, but all payments were made through the officials, who were very crafty and who thought they should have a rakeoff from all monies which went out of the royal treasury. Mr. Power had gotten his electric light plant running and the Koreans were operating it. They thought they had all they could get and concluded to let this young American, who for his money until he gave a big bribe. The young American, however, realized that his majesty was in deadly fear of assassination and that he would go crazy if he had to spend all night in the dark. In order to bring matters to a crisis Mr. Power went back to the plant and by the disconnection of a screw arranged it so that it would run perfectly without giving light. About dusk that evening there was a great excitement at the palace. The buttons were turned, but the globes would not burn. As it grew darker the emperor sent his messengers to Mr. Power to ask what was the matter. He replied that he had not had his money, and that the spirits who ran the light plant would not work until he was paid. His majesty thereupon asked why the money had not been sent and told the corrupt officials that if it was not delivered at once their heads would go off. The result was the soap box of gold dust.

Mr. Power told me that the gold was in grains and in nuggets and he described how General Clarence Greathouse, the American adviser to the king, who had had some mining experience in California, went almost crazy as he bent down and loved his hands in it. Some of the nuggets were flat, showing that they had not gone far from the mother lode and one was as big as the palm of your hand. The gold was sent to the mint at Osaka. It netted in the neighborhood of \$50,000, and Power handed back the balance after he had taken out the \$7,000 due him. I neglected to say that as soon as he got the gold, the spirits of electricity began to work and that they are still laboring for his majesty today.

America's Big Gold Mines.
 I have an idea that it was General Greathouse who carried this live evidence of the actual existence of gold in great quantities to the United States. At any rate, the fact became noised abroad, and for the last fifteen years Americans have been after concessions for mines in this country. Among these was James R. Morse, who got the original grant from the Korean government for the district which is now known as that of the Oriental Consolidated Mining company. This company has by far the biggest gold mines of Korea. It has already taken out \$10,000,000 in bullion and its output last year was more than \$1,000,000 in gold. It is crushing 250,000 tons every year, and it has over 1,000,000 tons in reserve. The company is now working 5,000 Koreans, 600 Chinese and more than 100 Japanese, together with seventy-five or more Americans, and it can continue to operate on its present basis for years to come. This company has a plant which cost \$1,200,000, and it produces more than half of all the gold that is exported from Korea today.

Hunt & Co. Made Millions.
 The men who got the concession for this mine made practically nothing out of it. I believe it was first taken up by James R. Morse, and that Leigh Hunt was made a member of the company. The region in which it lies had been worked in a rude way by the Koreans for centuries. Their method of mining was to build a fire on a ledge and heat the rock. They would then throw on water and thus crack the quartz, digging it out with rude picks. After that they crushed ore by laying it on flat stones beneath heavy round granite boulders which they rocked back and forth by handles tied to the boulders. They also acquired a great deal of gold by placer mining.

When Morse and Hunt sent their engineers to examine the property they reported that it contained gold, but that it would not run more than \$7 or \$8 per ton. They also said that it would take ten Korean miners to do as much work as one average American, and that they would have to pay 25 cents per day at

the start with a probable rise of 50 cents in the near future; and that on the whole the work would not pay. Upon this report, I am told, Morse refused to spend more money on the concession and that Leigh Hunt, upon a buy or sell proposition, secured a full title and right to the mine for less than \$50,000. At that time Leigh Hunt had no money to speak of, but he went to America to make the arrangements. He persuaded the Union Iron works of San Francisco to sell him a twenty-stamp mill on tick, and interested J. Sloat Fassett of New York and the Crookers of San Francisco in the undertaking. He got enough money to pay for the concession and to start work in a moderate way. He brought his little mill out here and carried it into the country upon the back of bullocks and porters and by means of bull carts. He set it up at Chittabable on one part of his concession and began to work. Rich ore was almost immediately developed and in a short time enough gold had been taken out to pay all expenses and put the company on easy street. As a result, all of the partners in the business have made millions and they still own a concession of very rich territory, covering an area which is twenty-five miles wide and upon which they have the exclusive rights to all minerals until 1954. After opening the mine, Mr. Hunt stayed some time in Korea to operate it, but it is now many years since he left here for Egypt, where he owns a great plantation on the Nile not far from Khartoum and is raising American cotton.

Pays a Dollar a Minute.
 As to the grade of the ore of those mines, it is low. It does not come up on the average to the estimate of the engineers upon which Morse turned the mine down. Its average value is not much more than \$5 a ton, although in some places \$50-dollar ore has been found. The Koreans, however, have proved far less costly as miners than was supposed and the work of two of them is equal to that of one of our men. At the same time they receive only 25 cents a day of ten hours, which would equal a 50-cent day for the American miner, according to his work if the same rates were employed. The Japanese workmen are paid \$1 a day and the 600 Chinese receive 30 cents. The seventy-five Americans are paid about \$5 a day each, with house rent and board. The company now has five large mines on its concession and over 300 stamps. It has a cyanide plant, and it is treating altogether, on the average, about 1,000 tons of ore daily. The net profit is \$1.35 a ton, so that the mines are making for their quartz works alone \$1,350 of clear money a day. This means almost \$50 an hour all day and all night the year through. Think of a property which brings in more than a dollar a minute all the year round and

you have some idea of the profits of this big American property away out here on the opposite side of the globe.

The New Gold Mines.
 There is a great deal of placer mining done by the Korean natives. They are satisfied with small profits and a man will work at such mining when it nets him 10 cents a day, where he would not labor steadily in the quartz mines at 25 cents a day. Altogether the total export of gold from this country is about \$250,000 a year, and about \$1,000,000 or more of

this comes from mines and placers outside the Oriental Consolidated company above mentioned.

I have just had a long talk with Mr. A. R. Weigall, a well known mining engineer in the employ of the Colbran & Bostwick Development company. Mr. Weigall is a graduate of the Sydney (Australia) Mining university and during the last nine years has been operating throughout the far east. He left the famous Mount Morgan mines in Queensland to prospect in the Dutch East Indies, and later on was employed in Siam, Siberia, Japan and Korea. He has been all over Korea, and he tells me this country is well mineralized. I asked Mr. Weigall about the gold mines. Said he:

"Nearly every stream shows more or less color and we have reason to believe that there is gold in every province. There are several large concessions in the same region as the Oriental Consolidated, which have been more or less worked. One of them belongs to the English, another to the Germans and a third to the French. The English ran a twenty-stamp mill for

some years on high grade ore, but they shut down about two years ago and have left. The Germans are still mining, and they are said to be making money. They have rich ore, but will give no information as to their profits. The French are also operating near Chosan in the same district.

Suan Gold Mines.
 In addition to these mines in northern Korea are the Suan gold mines, belonging to Colbran and Bostwick. They lie about fifty-six miles from Pyeng-yang and can be reached in eight hours by train and two days across country. These mines promise to pay very well. They have been worked about a year, and they have taken out about 40,000 tons of ore, which will yield \$12 per ton. In addition there is 1 per cent of copper in the ore. The company is putting up a plant and by next October it will be reducing about 150 tons daily. This mine was discovered by an Englishman, who took Mr. Colbran in as a partner. He got up a combination, including the Mitsui of Japan. They sent

engineers to investigate it, who reported against it, and so the Mitsui dropped out. Then the Englishman gave up and Colbran and Bostwick organized a new company in Seoul on a capitalization of \$500,000. It will not take more than \$200,000 to develop the property, and it promises to be one of the most valuable mines in Korea."

Chickean Gold Mines.
 "Are there any other gold mines now being worked?"
 "Yes," replied Mr. Weigall, "and there are several which promise to pay much more in the future. One of these is the Chickean mine, which lies forty-five miles south of Seoul, not far from the sea. That mine has large quantities of low-grade ore and it can be worked at a profit, if on a large scale, at as low as \$2 per ton. The ore contains 7 or 8 per cent, and it is better on the average than the ore of the Oriental Consolidated. The country is granite and the lodes are of quartz and of great size. This mine was originally granted to the Japanese, but they gave it over to a young American named Deshier, a stepson of the late Governor Nash. He came out here from Columbus, O. After he got hold of the mine he interested Columbus capital in it and also the well known millionaire of Japan, Baron Shibusawa. The company began work, but in some way or other it has gotten tangled up, and is now in bad shape. It is said that Jardine, Mathieson & Co., a well known English firm, which is operating in the far east, is about to get hold of the property and that they will develop it."
 "Is it considered very valuable?"
 "The indications are exceedingly good," said the mining engineer. "The concession is twenty miles long and fourteen miles wide, and the Seoul-Pusan railway runs through it. The natives have been mining gold there for years, and there is one lode five miles in length, which has Korean workings all over it. The engineers have also reported valuable placers, and it is believed that they can be dredged at a profit."

Fortune in Copper.
 The Koreans have been producing copper for many generations. Nearly all their kitchen furniture is made of this material. They wash in brass basins and eat from brass bowls, and their finest furniture has hinges of brass. There are scores of brass stores in the city of Seoul, and copper has been more or less exported for years. A large part of the native ore of this kind has come from the mines of the emperor, and the most from the Korean mines, which are situated in northern Korea, and which have been fought over in the courts for the last four years, and settled only last June, in favor of the American claim-

ants. These mines now belong to Colbran and Bostwick, and they promise to produce a great amount of valuable ore. I talked with Mr. Weigall about them. Said he:

"There is copper in many parts of northern Korea. The country is covered, to a great extent, with great fields of lava, which vents mining under it. The chief copper mines are now around the edges of the lava has eroded, and this is the best indicator of the Kapsan property. The mines are situated about a mile above the sea and 120 miles from the coast. They are in the northeastern part of the peninsula, where the winter climate is very severe. We have to go over two ranges of mountains to reach them, and we shall have to take our machinery in on pack ponies. We shall put up a small smelter right away, beginning our work in the spring, and shall increase our plant right along."

"Are these mines extensive?"
 "Yes, and the copper is rich. They have been worked as far back as a thousand years ago, and with rude native methods have produced something like 300,000 tons of smelted copper per annum. The ore runs, on the average, about 10 per cent copper, which is far higher than that of other copper mines. The concession is twenty miles long and thirteen miles wide, and there is copper all over it."

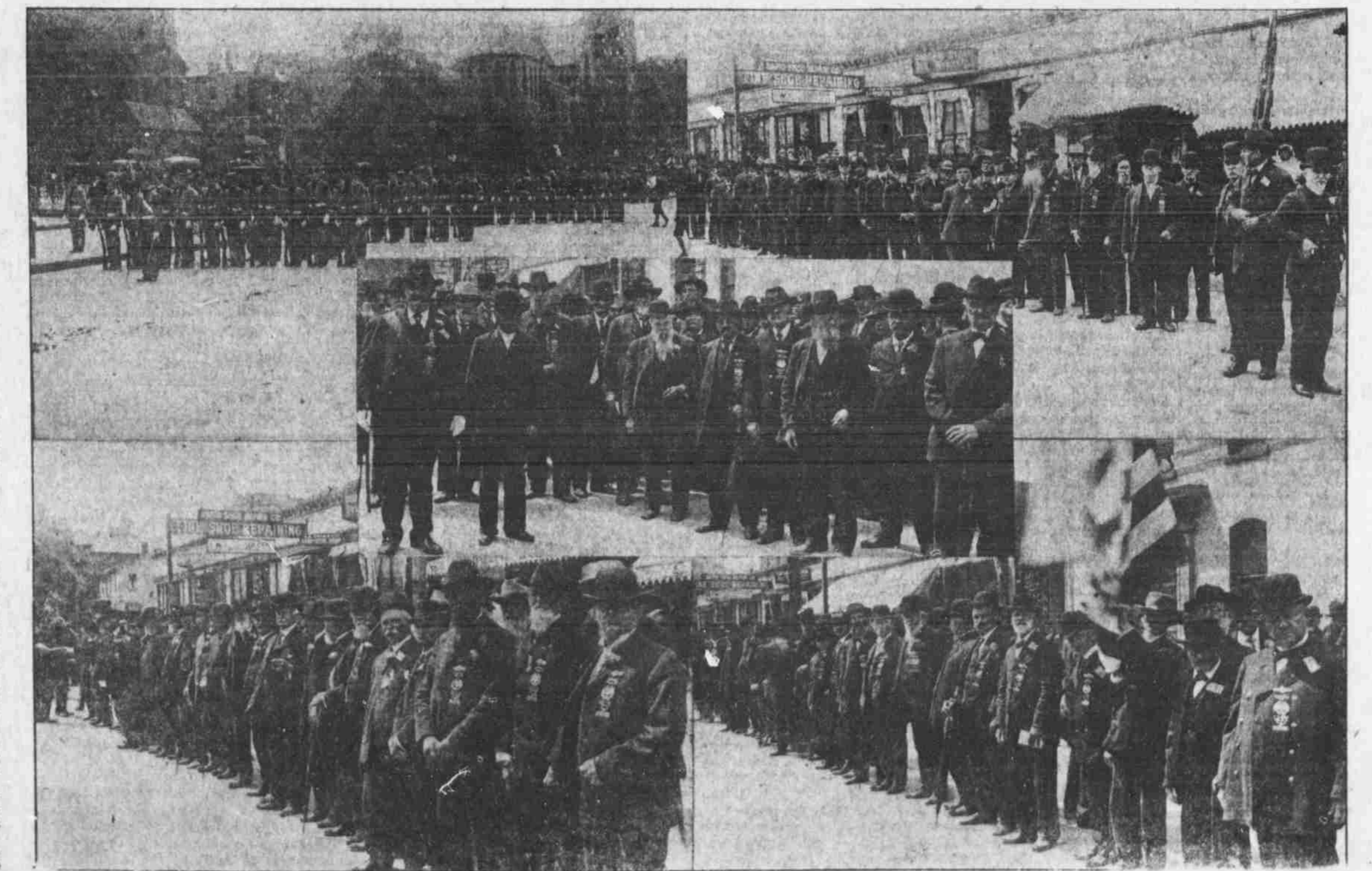
"How did the Americans get this mine, Mr. Weigall?"
 "It originally belonged to the king, and it was one of his principal properties. Mr. Colbran secured a concession from his majesty to take up a mining property anywhere in the country of the dimensions I have mentioned, and this concession was to include any mines belonging to the king. Mr. Colbran investigated the Kapsan region and selected this property. He realized that he would have difficulty holding it, and when the papers were drawn up he had them signed by the emperor in the presence of his ministers at the palace. He then had them certified to before the United States minister to Seoul, Dr. Allen. They were then taken to London and certified to by the Korean minister there, and then to Washington, where the Korean minister to America affixed his endorsement. Then the war with Russia came on, and the Japanese, having prospected that region, declared that the property was theirs, and tried to set Mr. Colbran's concession aside. The matter was fought over in the courts, and, to make a long story short, it has now been settled in Mr. Colbran's favor."

"What other copper mines has Korea?"
 "There are three great belts here in which copper is found. The Japanese have some mines in the southern part of the country, and the Italians are developing the Kang-gu mines. They have five-foot bands of 1 per cent copper in their limestone, or about the same type of formation as the gold of Suan. So far, however, the only really great mine of well known value is the Kapsan."

Graphite and Iron.
 "What other important minerals has Korea?"
 "One which promises to be very valuable is graphite. This is of a high grade, and samples which have been sent to London have assayed values of \$100 a ton. An engineer sent here by one of the big lead pencil companies, which use so much of that metal, speaks highly of the prospects. Already mines are being opened, the largest of those now in operation being worked by Morris & Co., an American syndicate. The Japanese have a graphite mine near Pusan, from which they are now exporting 500 tons a month. The most of it goes to Nagasaki and thence to New York or London."
 "In addition to the minerals we have talked of," continued Mr. Weigall, "this country has large bodies of iron to the northeast of Pyeng-yang, and considerable coal. All of these are in the hands of the Japanese, and they will probably be developed at an early date."
 FRANK G. CARPENTER.

Prattle of the Youngsters
 "Tommy," said his mother, "go into the front room and see if grandpa is asleep."
 Tommy found the old gentleman snoring.
 "Yes, mamma," he reported, "he's asleep all but his nose."
 Teacher—Why, Willie, what are you drawing?
 Willie—I'm drawing a picture of God.
 Teacher—But, Willie, you must not do that; nobody knows how God looks.
 Willie—Well, they will when I get this done.
 Mabel (aged 5 years)—Mamma, you told Mrs. Smif dese spoons were handed down to us by Arablins.
 Mother—Yes, dear, by grandma, who is up in heaven.
 Mabel—Did she fordet and took 'em wif her?
 "Mamma," questioned 5-year-old Nettie, "am I as tall as you are?"
 "No, dear," was the reply. "Your head only comes to my waist."
 "Well," continued Nettie, "I'm just as short, anyway. My feet are as far down as yours."
 Harold, aged 5 years, had been sent to purchase a pair of shoestrings for his mother.
 "How long does she want them?" asked the proprietor.
 "Oh, a long time," answered Harold. "Till they wear out, I guess."

Organizations that Took Part in Memorial Day Parade in Omaha



UPPER RIGHT-HAND CORNER, GEORGE CROOK POST, GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC; CENTER, GEORGE A. CUSTER POST; LOWER RIGHT-HAND CORNER, GRANT POST; LOWER LEFT-HAND CORNER, CROOK POST; UPPER LEFT-HAND CORNER, HIGH SCHOOL CADETS.