

TITLE: Cananea Consolidated Copper Company records

DATE RANGE: 1899-1917 (bulk)

CALL NUMBER: MS 1032

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 2.5 linear ft (5 boxes)

PROVENANCE: Unknown

COPYRIGHT: The Arizona Historical Society owns the copyright to this collection.

RESTRICTIONS: This collection is unrestricted.

CREDIT LINE: Cananea Consolidated Copper Company records, MS 1032, Arizona Historical Society-Tucson

PROCESSED BY: Unknown; Finding aid transcribed by Nancy Siner, September 2015

HISTORICAL NOTE: “Colonel” William Cornell Greene, an Arizona rancher, incorporated the Cananea Consolidated Copper Company on September 20, 1899 in Nogales, Sonora, Mexico to acquire and develop a group of mineral claims at Cananea in northern Sonora. The following year this company became a subsidiary of the Greene Consolidated Copper Company, and in 1906 it came under control of the Greene Cananea Copper Company. Under President Greene’s personal direction, the Cananea Consolidated Copper Company began preliminary mining operations at Cananea in 1899 and by the end of 1901 a smelter processing 16,300 tons of ore monthly had been established.

In addition to its mining and ore reduction operations, the Cananea Consolidated Copper Company quickly established the townsite of Cananea, constructed a railroad extending forty miles north to the border crossing at Naco, Arizona, and organized subsidiary land, lumber and cattle companies. The company also provided the Cananea community with such services as telephones, utilities, stores, schools, banks and a hospital. By 1905 the population of Cananea had reached 15,000, and the Copper Handbook for that year ranked the Greene Consolidated Cooper Company as one of the ten largest copper mining corporations in the world.

On June 1, 1906, the Mexican miners called a labor strike to protest unequal pay scales with American workers. The strike became violent when participants burned the company lumberyard and killed two American employees. At Greene’s request, approximately 300 armed American volunteers came across the Mexican border from Bisbee to help regain control, but they did not take an active role in suppressing the disturbance. Order was restored the following day when Mexican troops and federal *Rurales* arrived to immediately impose a curfew and arrest several labor leaders. This strike at Cananea is often regarded as one of the first manifestations of discontent against the Diaz government, which led to the Mexican Revolution of 1910.

In 1906, in order to raise additional capital and expand operations, Greene entered into a partnership with Thomas F. Cole, a well-known copper entrepreneur. Together they formed the Cananea Central Copper Company. That same December, these two men formed the Greene Cananea Copper Company, which controlled both the Cananea Central Copper Company and the Greene Consolidated Copper Company. Initially, Cole served as president and Green as vice-president of the new corporation. In February 1907, however, Cole and his associate from the Anaconda Corporation, John D. Ryan, wrested control of the Greene Cananea Copper Company from Colonel Greene, who had no subsequent involvement in operating the Cananea mines. Greene died in Cananea on August 5, 1911 of injuries caused by a horse-and-buggy accident.

Between 1910 and 1917, the Cananea Consolidated Copper Company became involved in the political and economic affairs of the Mexican Revolution. At various times, Pancho Villa and other revolutionaries interfered with Company operations. On one occasion, Villa's troops seized 19 railroad cars loaded with copper bullion and took two company doctors as prisoners. Throughout the revolution, the company consistently protested high mineral export taxes and devalued revolutionary currency. It even suspended operations from August 1914 to June 1915, and again from June to December 1917, because of a depressed copper market and constraints imposed by President Venestiano Carranza and Governor Adolfo de la Huerta. Eventually, the company filed claims against the revolutionary governments for approximately \$250,000.

In 1917, the assets of the Greene Consolidated Copper Company were sold to the Greene Cananea Copper Company and the former organization was dissolved the following year. The Cananea Consolidated Copper Company continued to operate as a Mexican subsidiary of the Greene Cananea Copper Company until 1961, when it changed its name to the Compañia Minera de Cananea, S.A. de C.V.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE: The bulk of the collection consists of correspondence and other material tracing the development and operation of the Cananea Consolidated Copper Company from 1899 to 1917. The period 1899 to 1910 is reflected most extensively, and only a few documents are dated after 1917. For the most part, these records reflect the decisions and attitudes of higher-level management in Cananea regarding routine and day-to-day company operations. With the exception of a few documents dealing with equipment and machinery, there is very little information of a technical nature in the entire collection. Even the routine problems associated with mineral extraction and reduction are not addressed. On the other hand, legal problems are referenced frequently. There is a considerable amount of information regarding the effects of the Mexican Revolution of 1910 on Cananea interspersed throughout. To a lesser extent, a similar situation exists in regard to the strike in 1906. Correspondence files pertaining to such individuals as William C. Greene, George Kingdom, Emilio Kosterlitzky, George Mitchell and Louis D. Ricketts are particularly significant.

Arranged in six series: **Series I: Correspondence** – has been divided into four subseries. **Sub-series 1: General operations, 1898-1923**, contains incoming and outgoing correspondence dealing primarily with internal company affairs. Correspondence closely associated with one individual or dealing exclusively with one subject has been grouped in folders under that individual's or subject's name. The folders are arranged in

alphabetical order, and the material within each folder is filed chronologically. Managers' monthly reports, where available, are located within the individual file of each manager. **Sub-series 2: Affiliated Companies, 1899-1917**, contains incoming and outgoing correspondences dealing with affiliated or associated companies. Material is grouped by affiliated company name and filed in alphabetical order. **Sub-series 3: Subsidiary Functions, 1898-1924**, contains incoming and outgoing correspondence between the parent company and subsidiary departments or functions. Documents, are grouped by organizational name or function and filed in alphabetical order. **Sub-series 4, Other Mining Companies, 1902-1924**, contains incoming and outgoing correspondence grouped by company name and filed in alphabetical order. **Series II: Company Reports, 1900-1968** – consists of a variety of routine and special internal company reports. These documents are grouped by subjects or by individual name and filed in alphabetical order. Managers' monthly reports are filed in Series I, under the name of the general manager who prepared each report. **Series III: Financial Records, 1901-1916. Series IV: Legal Documents.** There is a great deal of financial and legal information interspersed throughout the entire collection. The correspondence files of William C. Greene, for example, contain many references to legal and financial matters. **Series V: Printed Material, 1901-1969** – contains some printed matter of a promotional nature as well as important information dealing with the Revolution of 1910, the strike of 1906, and the political-labor situation in Cananea. This information is grouped by subject and filed in alphabetical order. Many of the political-labor broadsides are oversized. **Series VI: Maps, 1902-1906.**

CONTAINER LIST:

Box	Folder	Title	Dates
1		Series I: Correspondence	1898-1924
		Sub-series 1: General Operations	1898-1923
	1	Cananea Consolidated Copper Company	1900-1902
	2	Cananea Consolidated Copper Company letterbook	1902
	3	Cananea Consolidated Copper Company	1903-1905
	4	Cananea Consolidated Copper Company	1906-1907
	5	Cananea Consolidated Copper Company	1908-1910
	6	Cananea Consolidated Copper Company	1911-1914
	7	Cananea Consolidated Copper Company	1915-1917
	8	Cananea Consolidated Copper Company	1918-1922
	9	Equipment	1898-1901
	10	Equipment	1902-1906
	11	Equipment: Traction steam engines	1900-1906
	12	Greene, William C.	1900-1901
	13	Greene, William C.	1902
	14	Greene, William C.	1903
	15	Greene, William C.	1904
2	16	Greene, William C.	1905
	17	Greene, William C.	1906
	18	Greene, William C.	1907

	19	Greene, William C.	1908
	20	Greene, William C.	1909
	21	Greene, William C.	1910-1911
	22	Kingdon, George	1914-1917
	23	Kirk, James and Harry	1902-1912
	24	Kosterlitzky, Emilio	1901-1911
	25	Legal correspondence	1900-1919
	26	Massey, Ed	1902-1904
	27	Metcalf, George	1903-1912
	28	Miscellaneous	1900-1903
	29	Miscellaneous	1904-1923
	30	Miscellaneous personnel	1901-1916
	31	Mitchell, George	1901-1917
	32	Proctor, Frank	1901-1908
	33	Revolution	1910-1915
	34	Revolution	1916-1920
3	35	Ricketts, L.D.	1903-1915
	36	Strike	1906
	37	White, Scott	1900-1904
	38	Wiswall, Charles	1903-1906
		Sub-series 2: Affiliated Companies	1899-1917
	39	Cananea Central Copper Company/Cananea Development Company/San Pedro Copper Company	1906-1917
	40	Cobre Grande Copper Company	1899-1909
	41	Greene Consolidated Copper Company/Greene Cananea Copper Company	1900-1917
	42	Greene Consolidated Gold Company	1902-1905
	43	Greene Gold-Silver Company	1902-1909
	44	Mina Mexicana	1903-1907
	45	Other Affiliated Mining Companies	1901-1916
	46	Sierra de Cobre Mining Company/Indiana/ Sonora Copper and Mining Company	1902-1911
		Sub-series 3: Subsidiary Functions	1898-1924
	47	Banks	1902-1917
	48	Cananea Cattle Company	1903-1920
	49	Cananea <u>Herald</u>	1901-1917
	50	Cananea stores	1901-1916
	51	Cananea townsite operation	1901-1920
	52	Cananea, Yaqui River and Pacific Railroad Company	1902-1909
	53	Church (Protestant)	1901-1907
	54	Clubs and organizations	1903-1923
	55	<u>Copper Handbook</u>	1902-1913
4	56	Hospital	1901-1923

57	Hotel	1902-1910
58	Naco town lots	1903-1908
59	Railroads	1901-1917
60	Ranch lands	1902-1918
61	Rio Grande, Sierra Madre and Pacific Railroad Company	1901-1910
62	Schools	1902-1924
63	Sierra Madre Land and Lumber Company	1905-1909
64	Telephone and telegraph operations	1901-1913
65	Utility concessions	1905-1907
	Sub-series 4: Other Mining Companies	1902-1924
66	Arizpe Mining Company/Mexican Metals Company	1904-1914
67	Democrata Mining Company	1903-1918
68	Miscellaneous mining companies	1900-1924
69	Mines Pedrazzini/Las Chispas	1906, 1918
	Series II: Company Reports	1900-1968
70	Company history	1906, 1921
71	Democrata Mines account	1968
72	Effects of the Revolution	1911-1919
73	Log re: Pancho Villa	1915-1924
74	Lomita Mining Company/Bonanza de Cobre	1915
75	Operations	1919
76	Organization chart (OVERSIZED MATERIAL)	1920
77	Personnel	1902, 1912
78	Property appraisals and inventories	1902-1919
79	Schools	1911-1925
80	Strike	1906
	Series III: Financial Records	1901-1916
81	Invoices and receipts	1902-1916
82	Miscellaneous	1901-1908
83	Tax records	1911-1916
	Series IV: Legal Documents	1903-1916
84	Various legal records	1903-1916
	Series V: Printed Materials	1901-1969
85	Cananea store bulletins	1908
86	Company notices	1911-1961
87	Company promotional material	1945
88	Equipment brochures	1902
89	Inventory and photocopies of photographs	Undated
90	Memorandum re: effects of the Revolution (two parts)	1916
91	Newspaper articles – originals (OVERSIZED MATERIAL)	1912, 1919
92	Newspaper articles – photocopies	1901-1966

	93	Newspaper articles – photocopies (OVERSIZED MATERIAL)	1906-1967
	94	Political/labor circulars – originals (OVERSIZED MATERIAL)	1911-1920
	95	Political/labor circulars – photocopies (OVERSIZED MATERIAL)	1911-1923
	96	Political/labor circulars – photocopies (OVERSIZED MATERIAL)	1916-1919
		Series VI: Maps	1902-1906
	97	Cananea mineral district (OVERSIZED MATERIAL)	ca. 1906
	98	Map key and unrelated mines map	1902