and reported upon the value, commercially, of certain Mill properties in the San Pedro Valley of Arizona, determining their future history.

In 1884 he made an extensive exploration in Mexico, and barely escaped a fatal illness through a concentration of all the positive elements in his makeup. The results of this exploration were professionally very satisfactory.

He subsequently spent a considerable time in Montana, as manager of a large property, and in 1884 returned to Mexico, to manage another enterprise of large proportions; but dissensions among the American and foreign owners prevented his going on with the work, and the whole project was dropped. About this time he made a trip to the Bermudas and Cuba, largely for recuperation.

Early in 1885 he examined and reported upon a large copper scheme in the Pan Handle of Texas, and incidentally looked up the question of coke production in the Indian Territory, and, later, visited Puget Sound to study the question of lumber production.

He had arranged to go to Germany to investigate metallurgical processes, but on the eve of taking the steamer, was induced to go once more to New Mexico; and on this particular trip narrowly escaped attack by Apache Indians, in the extreme Southwest corner of the Territory, but accomplished the object of his mission.

Immediately following this trip, he made an examination of properties near Yuna, Arizona.

In 1886, when called upon by the Boston and Montana Company to select a place for the site of their new works, Parsons chose Great Falls, on account of its splendid water power and on account of the liberal terms offered by the Great Northern Railroad for freighting ores, and of the water-power company for furnishing power.

In making his plans of works and processes, he fully realized that Montana was a territory ridden by labor unions, and that to make a success, labor must be eliminated as far as possible through the introduction of new appliances. His great converters and tilting reverberatory furnaces form nothing short of a revolution in the metallurgy of copper. Since they were put in operation the testimony of foreign engineers who have visited the works has been highly favorable. In these furnaces the metallurgy of copper and steel meet for the first time the ideas of the very latest steel plants, being transformed to meet the needs of copper. This very fact proved a great difficulty to him, for when copper or steel experts were called into council each knew about the processes for his own metal, but neither could guess what would happen with the new adaptation. Feeling this, Parsons followed the dictates of his disposition, and kept all the designs in his own hands. But the minute details of installing works a mile long, and one eighth to one quarter wide was too much for one man, however capable. The capitalists were putting in their money freely; they began to ask for results, which, though coming, came too slowly. At times the owners reached the point of doubting the advisability of his plans. Finally the tension was too great, and the break came. Parsons resigned his position just before he was able to see the success of his plans. Their completion and inauguration was left to other hands.

Since the works have been put in full running order, the predictions Parsons made have been more than realized. The great works now stand as a monument to his far-seeing engineering skill and business sagacity. Had he but delegated portions of his work to others, and given them the opportunity by gaining their lesser fame to add to his greater fame, he would have had the satisfaction of completing the work himself. No one knew or felt the mistake more than he did after it was made, or regretted it more keenly. But he had studied the whole problem so thoroughly that he was charged to a very remarkable degree with the details of every part of the plant before the first stone was laid, and knew how he wished everything to be done.

Parsons was a man who had few, if any, confidants. He trusted his friends without reserve. His kindness of heart is shown in the care he took of his aged parents. He was farseeing, never hasty in giving an opinion. Many times when others have differed from him, they have acknowledged him right in the end.

His positive nature, and his tenacious hold of opinions once formed, often caused him to be misunderstood, and his results criticized; no just complaint could be made of his work, from the standpoint of zeal and desire to serve his clients, and certainly no one of his rank and experience ever covered a wider field with such general success.

His integrity and energy were everywhere recognized — his professional fame is secure; the memory he leaves is that of a steadfast friend, a genial companion, and an honest man.

Robert H. Richards.