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GOVERNMENT ALLOWS INCREASED CHROME TONNAGE

Change in government buying of chrome at the Grants Pass stockpile, access road planning, and formation of an executive chrome committee composed of California and Oregon miners as part of the Oregon Mining Association were accomplished when over 300 persons interested in chrome mining met with government officials at Grants Pass, Oregon, April 28. The meeting was held under the auspices of the Oregon Mining Association, with President P. I. Bristol presiding.

George B. Holderer, chief of the ferro-alloys division of DMPA, Washington, D.C., announced the raising of the amount of chrome that the government will buy from 2,000 tons to 5,000 tons per year from any one source. The change had been sought by the Oregon Mining Association since last August when the stockpile at Grants Pass was put in operation under a schedule limiting production. It was agreed by officials and miners alike that the raise would act as a great impetus to the mining of chrome.

The reason advanced by government for the restriction is that a certain amount of money must be allocated for purchase of chrome and a limit on the amount of chrome to be purchased must be set in order to obtain that money. Mr. Holderer announced that application has been made by his division for sufficient money to raise the total limit to be purchased at the Grants Pass stockpile in the present three-year program from 200,000 to 350,000 tons. He stated that he felt sure the application would be approved and the money allotted.

Officials from each of the national forests in the chrome area were at the meeting to discuss new access roads. Chrome miners were urged to present application for roads to Stanley M. Walker, DMPA, Washington, D.C., so surveys for new roads could be made as soon as possible. The majority of chrome properties are still not operating at this time because of exceedingly heavy snow fall the past winter in the chrome areas. National forests represented included Siskiyou, Rogue River, Klamath, Sixes River, and Umpqua.

Here also to discuss mining problems were members of the Bureau of Mines and U. S. Geological Survey from Spokane, San Francisco, and Albany. Among these were Glenn Reed, Spokane; George Walker, San Francisco; J. R. McWilliams and H. W. Jones both of Albany, Oregon. Also here for consultation were O. C. Bradeen and W. N. Grabill, General Services Administration, Seattle; John O'Brien, California State Division of Mines, Redding; and Eugene Peterson, Bureau of Land Management, Medford.

Bristol asked that chrome producers set up their own organization since the financial lead and time required for care of chrome problems were heavier than his organization could stand.

Joe Holman, Los Angeles, shipper of chrome from Monterey County, California, was named chairman of the new committee. Also serving are Walter F. Hoppe, Auburn; Durand Hall, Monterey; C. F. Starr, Arcata; Dorothea Reddy Morony, Yreka; Paul Brunk, Crescent City, all of California; W. F. Robertson and F. I. Bristol, Grants Pass, Oregon.

The Governing Board of the State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries meeting concurrently named Mason L. Bingham, Portland, as board chairman for the current year. Other members are H. E. Hendryx, Baker, and Niel R. Allen, Grants Pass. F. W. Libbey, director of the Department, told of a survey recently completed by his office, conducted among chrome operators. Twenty percent of those contacted answered and estimated they could produce 67,500 tons in 1952 and 416,000 tons of chrome over the three-year period.

Esther Bristol

GOLD MINES DAMAGED BY WAR PRODUCTION BOARD ORDER L-208
ACCORDING TO COURT RULING

Gold mines in the United States were ordered closed in October 1942 by War Production Board Order L-208 which contained no provision for recovering damages for injuries sustained by the closing order. Three gold mining companies, the Idaho-Maryland Mines Corporation, the Homestake Mining Company, and Central Eureka Mining Company, in a court action charged that the order violated their constitutional rights, that they had sustained loss, and petitioned to be allowed to sue for damages. It is reported that Idaho-Maryland sued for \$5,000,000, Homestake for \$10,000,000, and Central Eureka for \$3,000,000. The United States Court of Claims decided that the companies are entitled to a trial for possible damages and threw out government attorneys' petition for dismissal of the charges made by the mining companies. The government has not appealed the decision to the Supreme Court and if it does not so appeal, a commissioner appointed by the Court of Claims will take evidence of the damage suffered by the companies because of the shutdown. Findings of the commissioner would be later considered by the Court of Claims.

DANT AND RUSSELL PERLITE MINE SOLD TO KAISER GYPSUM

It was announced on May 13 that after many weeks of negotiation Kaiser Gypsum, division of Kaiser Industries, Inc., Oakland, California, had purchased the mine and plant of Dant and Russell, Inc., Dantore Division, on the Deschutes River 13 miles south of Maupin. The property includes the open-pit mine, processing and acoustical tile plants, residences for the staff, office building, warehouse, and living quarters for single employees.

Dant and Russell, Inc., pioneered in the processing of perlite. The company acquired the land at Frieda, a station on the Oregon Trunk Railway, in 1945. A camp was established and exploration of the perlite deposit started. A small experimental furnace was set up at St. Helens at the Dant and Russell Firtex plant and investigations on furnacing of perlite were carried on.

In order to produce a uniform raw product for furnacing it was decided to build a pilot mill at the mine to develop a flow sheet for properly sizing the perlite product. The pilot plant was designed by P. R. Hines of Portland and proved so satisfactory that with a few small additions it evolved into a commercial plant.

Open-pit mining was developed, a drying kiln installed, and a large plant for making acoustical tile built. This included installation of a large new "popping" furnace.

Perlite plaster aggregate under the trade name of "Dantore" became well known in the Northwest and the operation developed into one of the important nonmetallics operations in the State.

Perlite is rhyolitic volcanic glass containing a notable amount of combined water. When heated under certain conditions, it expands or exfoliates to several times its original bulk. The operation is described as "popping" because of similarity to popping corn. The resulting porous product is desirable in the construction industry because of its light weight, inertness, and insulation qualities.

SOME PROBABLE 1952 OREGON CHROME SHIPPERS

<u>Mining area</u>	<u>Mine name</u>	<u>Operator</u>	<u>Location</u>		
			<u>Sec.</u>	<u>T.</u>	<u>R.</u>
Greenback	Mammoth	O.L. Moore, Wolf Creek	28	33S	5W
	Harold's	Harold Reed, Sunny Valley Earl Stanlake, Grants Pass Benny Whitmore, Wolf Creek	29	33S	5W
Lower Applegate	Munger Creek	Wm.C.Lind, Grants Pass	25	38S	6W
Grants Pass	Sally Ann	Southern Oregon Mines Inc.,	36	36S	8W
	Big Bear	Grants Pass	35	36S	8W
	Salt Rock	Pat Arnot, Grants Pass	6	36S	7W
Illinois River	Sordy	Dana Bowers, Medford	14	36S	9W
	Shady Cove	Ashland Mining Co.,	11?	36S	9W
	Chrome Monument	Ashland	11?	36S	9W
	Rocky Point		11?	36S	9W
	Midnight	Joe Inman	21	37S	9W
	Jim Bus	Jack Leonard, Grants Pass	21	37S	9W
	Black Nugget		21	37S	9W
	Oregon	W.S.Robertson, Grants Pass	21	37S	9W
	Twin Cedars	R.E.McCaleb, Selma	6	38S	9W
	Mockingbird	A.R.Strickland, Grants Pass	28	37S	9W
	Deep Gorge	J.N.Grissom, Selma	32	37S	9W
	Hammer	Roy Hillis	21?	37S	9W
	Shade	Wesley Pieren, Grants Pass	21	37S	9W
	Mohawk	Carl Stevens, Wolf Creek Olaf Berseth, Selma		Fork of Creek	Rancherie
	Gray Buck 1 & 2	E.K.McFimmonds, Grants Pass	16	37S	9W
	Clearwater		21	37S	9W
	Lone Pine	R.E.Williams, O'Brien	33?	37S	8W
Horseshoe 1, 2, 3	Lennie Brooks, Takilma Peter Brooks, Takilma	33?	37S	8W	
Black King	Donald Foster, Kerby	24	38S	9W	
Eight-Dollar	Glen, Tom, and Murphy Young Kerby, Oregon	20	38S	8W	
Griffin		18	38S	8W	
Waldo	Chapman Peak	Oregon Caves Lumber Co., Grants Pass	14	39S	8W
	Black Streak	Murphy Young, Kerby	19	39S	9W

Josephine County (cont.)

<u>Mining area</u>	<u>Mine name</u>	<u>Operator</u>	<u>Location</u>		
			<u>Sec.</u>	<u>T.</u>	<u>R.</u>
Waldo (cont.)	Tennessee Pass	Murphy Young, Kerby	12	39S	9W
	Lucky Strike	Glen Young, Kerby	18	39S	8W
	Black Bear 1 & 2	Edwin N. Cook	18	41S	9W
	Last Drink	R. J. Nauve, O'Brien	7	41S	9W
	Chollard (Golconda)	M. E. Hughes, Murphy	17	40S	7W
	Althouse	C.C.Beck, Holland Gene Robinson, Cave Junction	23	40S	7W
	Esterly	R.F.Oliphant, Cave Junction G.G.Pepperdine, Los Angeles, California	22	40S	8W
	Black Nugget	Gordon Leonard D.D.Austin, Bridgeview	11	41S	8W
	Ali Baba	Rice Bros., Takilma	31	40S	7W
	Sowell	R.G.Sowell, Cave Junction	30	40S	8W
	Black Diamond	Marlin Williams, Grants Pass George Clark Tom, Jack, and John Speitzner	31	40S	6W
	Chrome King	Paul Fattig, Wonder	32	40S	9W
	God's Little Acre	Edwin Cook R.J.Nauve, O'Brien	32	40S	9W
	Rock Creek 1 & 2	Edwin Cook R.J.Nauve, O'Brien	3	41S	9W
	Molly 1-21	Colin B. Campbell Levi V. Campbell Carl H. Riblett Elmer D. Riblett, Grants Pass	29	40S	9W

Curry County

Chetco	Chetco Mining Company, F.I. Bristol	Ben Baker	Grants Pass	3	39S	10W
		Ed Knox				
		Gordon White				
		T.T.Leonard, Eugene				
	Chetco Group	R.E.McCaleb, Selma	11	38S	10W	
Pearsoll Peak	R.E.McCaleb, Selma	2	38S	10W		
Hayes	Hayes and Peterson, Selma	11	38S	10W		
Inmans Pearsoll Peak	Joe Inman, Grants Pass	2	38S	10W		

Jackson County

Upper Applegate	Glade Creek	Wallace A. Budden, Medford	29	39S	1W
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ASSESSMENT WORK

There appears to be no likelihood that Congress will give consideration to legislation designed to exempt mining claims from annual assessment work for the assessment year ending at noon of July 1, 1952. The Department has not been informed that such legislation has been introduced in this session of Congress; therefore holders of unpatented mining claims should do their work before that date and file their proofs of labor within 30 days after the work is performed. If claims are on O and C lands, proofs of labor should, in addition to the regular filing in county offices, also be filed in the office of the Bureau of Land Management, Swan Island Station, Portland, Oregon.

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS FOR MONTANA CHROME CONCENTRATES

According to an announcement by Defense Materials Procurement Agency, Washington, D.C., the government has signed a contract with the American Chrome Company, San Francisco, California, a subsidiary of Goldfield Consolidated Mines Company of Reno, Nevada, for purchase of chromite concentrates. The company agrees to equip and put into production the Mout mines in Stillwater County, Montana. The government agrees to purchase 900,000 tons of chrome concentrates during an 8-year period following a year allowed the company for plant installation. Concentrates must contain a minimum of 38 percent Cr_2O_3 and the price to be paid is \$34.97 per ton. Chrome-iron ratio is not mentioned in the press releases but if the concentrates run according to testing work done in the World War II period, chrome-iron ratio will be about 1.5 to 1. Assuming this ratio, the contract price would be equivalent to that which would be obtained by using the schedule allowed for Oregon and California concentrates purchased at the Grants Pass ore-purchasing depot except that the Grants Pass schedule does not allow purchase of ore below 42 percent Cr_2O_3 and 2 to 1 chrome-iron ratio.

It was announced that DMPA will provide \$2,825,000 to get the mine into production. Goldfield Consolidated will supply operating capital of \$1,000,000. It is proposed to install a plant to treat 1,000 tons of ore per day and reportedly 370 tons of chromite concentrates will be produced. After the contract is satisfied, the American Chrome Company has the option to purchase the mine and mill equipment at its appraised value or at the highest bid.

During World War II, Anaconda Copper Mining Company worked the Mout mine for the government, developed a large reserve of ore, and built a mill capable of handling 2,000 tons of ore per day. After only 8 months of operation in 1943, the mine was closed down because foreign ore began to come into this country in sufficient amounts to take care of our needs. The mine and plant were turned over to the War Assets Administration which disposed of all the equipment. About \$12,000,000 in government funds was spent in opening and equipping the mine. E. A. Julian of San Francisco is President of the American Chrome Company and Frank Eickelberger, well-known mining engineer of Spokane, is Vice President.

NEW URANIUM PROSPECTORS MANUAL

A new edition of "Prospecting for Uranium" has just been issued by the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission and the U.S. Geological Survey. The first edition was published in 1949. The new edition, pocket size like the first, contains some added material of value to anyone who wishes to prospect for radioactive materials. Some colored plates are included mainly to show coloring which some oxidized uranium minerals take on. Of course reliance may not be placed entirely on color for identification as some other elements produce similar colors in their oxidized compounds. The new edition of the handbook may be obtained from the U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D.C. The price is 45 cents.

KEY TO DEPARTMENT'S MINERAL DEPOSITS MAP ISSUED

A list of mining properties numbered to correspond with numbers used on the Department's Mineral Deposits Map, revised edition (1951), has just been issued by the State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries. The list, titled "Key to Oregon Mineral Deposits Map," is designated Miscellaneous Paper No. 2 and represents the source material used in compiling the map. Both list and map were compiled by Ralph S. Mason, Department mining engineer. The selection of deposits was arbitrary and many more deposits are known than are listed. A great many reports of mineral deposits not listed or shown on the map are recorded in Department files. For the most part only those properties having known ore of sufficient tonnage and grade to make them economically important were included.

Miscellaneous Paper No. 2 may be obtained at the Department's office in the State Office Building, Portland, and the field offices at Baker and Grants Pass. Price is 15 cents. Price of the map to which the paper refers is 30 cents.

ROBA QUICKSILVER PROPERTY RESUMES

Lawrence Roba has reactivated his mercury prospect near Murderers Creek in Grant County after closure last winter by heavy snow. The road to the property is reported to be open.

LOOKING AHEAD IN THE MARKETS

The drop in lead marks the first market acknowledgment that world-wide scare-buying of metals is ended. Hereafter one can expect more normal markets for most metals (if there is such a thing as normalcy any more), and gradually easing prices.

Consumers of metals have had little chance to build big inventories; hence there's less likelihood of another 1949 slide in prices.

Prime western zinc is moving well, but the higher grades are not. Uncertainty over the stability of the zinc price shows up in all quarters.

The halt in stockpiling lead touched off the price decline. After buying over 100,000 tons of foreign lead in recent months, the stockpilers had done about all they could. They'll probably resume when, and if, they get a new appropriation.

The tariff on lead could go back on (1.06¢ per lb.) as early as June or as late as July, if the E&MJ May average for lead stays under 18¢.

Chile's problem is basically the same as Bolivia's: How to balance a high budget on an unbalanced economy. But Chile isn't likely to seek as drastic a solution. Negotiation on sale of Chile's copper will continue. A higher price for Chile could come out of it, but rash action on her part could muddle world copper markets badly.

You can ship manganese ore from India for \$10 per ton, June charter, the lowest level of freight rates since Korea. The recent high was \$16.50 per ton. Shipowners are looking for cargoes. All bulk shippers should benefit.

Tungsten ore prices abroad are weakening. Though the ceiling in this country continues at \$65 a short ton unit, foreign offerings have been increasing. In recent weeks even our government has not paid more than \$57 f.o.b. vessel, port of shipment. Offerings have been noted at \$53 on ore for future delivery. Historically, current tungsten ore prices are very high. (From E&MJ Metal and Mineral Markets, May 8, 1952.)

GEM WEIGHTS

5 carats = 1 gram

155 carats = 1 ounce troy
