Manufacture Of Pottery Once Flourished Here

Many Plants Operated Near Princeton, History of This Modern Industry Shows.
It is believed that a large part of Dallas County has lignite beneath the surface. A stratum two miles wide and approximately 20 miles long extends diagonally across the County from Northeast to Southwest. This "brown coal" is a resultant of decayed vegetable matter. When first taken from the ground it looks like brown clay and is easily cut with a spade. When dried and made into briquettes it produces a degree of heat equal to about one half that of bituminous coal, with the ash less than one per cent in most cases. When distilled it will produce about 25 gallons of oil from a ton of the mineral. A large station of a Texas Power and Light Company has been using powdered lignite as fuel for more than 10 years with saving of cost. The lignite of Dallas County has promise of it in a small way for domestic purposes, but due to the fact that the amounts of other fuels in Arkansas it has never been commercialised.

The Rock Island Railway System and State highways Nos. 48 solve the transportation problem for potential developments. The Arkansas Power and Electric lines extend into the portion of the County and the gas lines are near.

The Survey has mapped the many miles of graded road built by CCC labor during the last few years; these roads are of great benefit to the farmers in their "farm to market" program and will be shown on subsequent maps of Dallas County.

The Survey of the "Big Woods" Dallas County's great Recreational feature, is yet to be made. The State Game Refuge of 16,000 acres is within the boundaries of this forest. The many springs and streams on this preserve will be located and mapped by the Survey for the benefit of campers, tourists and visitors.

The interest and enthusiasm of the people of Dallas County in the work of the Survey has been expressed in tangible form. Cooperation has come from many sources. The State Highway Department, through its District Commissioner, Hugh Benton of Fordyce, has given valuable assistance in transportation and in the use of tools. County and Municipal authorities, the Chamber of Commerce of Fordyce and the merchants of that city, Sparkman and Carthage have given financial aid toward furthering the work of the Survey.

Convenient offices were furnished by the First National Bank of Fordyce, the Benton Furniture Company of that city donating all furniture and fixtures for the offices. The Kilgore hotel is making special rates for all members of the Surveying party. The newspapers of Fordyce have been generous in the space and public city given the work of the project. Kenneth Sager, former County Agent of the Agricultural Extension Service was helpful in supplying maps and information concerning physical features of the County. Teachers of the High school are alert to the importance of the work being done and have asked Mr. Sager to keep them supplied with information as the Survey work progresses. The school children of Dallas County will learn of the natural resources of their own county through the work of the Mineral Survey.

Laboratories for testing minerals

Information was received by State Geological Department October 11 from Washington stating that a project for the construction of laboratories to test and analyze state minerals has been approved by the president. The project is sponsored by the Arkansas Geological Survey. The new building will furnish the geological survey with a much needed laboratory to analyze samples now collected, mapped, and classified by the State Mineral Survey. Several thousand samples from sections of the state are on hand to be tested or analyzed.

The state mineral survey is now active in 32 counties, covering 37,000 square miles and employing about 700 people. The object of this survey is to locate, map, estimate, sample, and describe each section of land to determine the surface indications of minerals. In many places bore holes are made to determine the depth and extent of deposits, which do not appear on the surface. Subsurface cross-sections are being made of some districts where clay is the chief resource. Maps are made of each covered area showing the cultural development which with the mineral and water maps give detailed information for future development and improvement of any area showing promise.

Plans are now in process which will make it possible within a few days for the various counties to test the hardness and chlorides of water wells and springs. This information will be compiled in bulletin form and maps will be made showing the results of this survey.