

New Copper Firm Plans To Reopen Mine

8-30-39

Officials of the Arkansas Copper Company, which was incorporated last Wednesday, are planning construction of a mill at a mine 15 1-2 miles southwest of Norman, Montgomery county, in the Ouachita National Forest, Dr. W. C. Stenger, temporary vice president and general manager of the company, said yesterday.

The mill, which would be powered by a Diesel engine, would have a capacity for reducing daily 15 tons of mineral ore into a concentrate for shipment to refineries for final processing before marketing.

The ore would be crushed into a powder, to be run through a flotation system for extraction of the minerals by chemicals. The capacity of the mill, as designed, could be increased.

Tests Show Valuable Ores.

Tests show the mine's ore to possess a value of from \$15 to \$160 per ton in copper, gold, and silver, officials said. The copper content varies from seven to 92 per cent. Ore containing only two per cent copper is mined profitably, Dr. Stenger said.

The mine was opened during the World war by a company in search of manganese. About \$150,000 was said to have been spent in erecting a large plant and in boring a tunnel about 850 feet long into the side of a mountain, at a point about 150 feet from its top.

Two shafts, one 90 feet deep and another 72 feet deep, have been sunk in the tunnel, about 650 feet from its entrance, at a point where a "fault" occurs.

The second shaft follows a vein of ore about six feet wide. The company plans to sink the shaft 150 feet deeper to the "geological water level," where it is believed the richest deposit will be found.

Sees Increase in Mine Operations.

The company has leased the mine. Dr. Stenger predicted that the opening of operations in Montgomery county will be the forerunner of a greater mining development in Arkansas.

Enactment of a proposed workmen's compensation law and the tax-exemption proposal, and the equalization of freight rates to enable the Southwest to compete with other sections of the county, would remove obstacles to mining developments, he said. Temporary officers in addition to Dr. Stenger are Dr. J. D. Jordan, Little Rock dentist, president, and Miss Elizabeth Nelson of Little Rock, secretary-treasurer.

in the list of 100 articles must be restricted to approximately 60 per cent of the amount used in a 1940 base period. It prohibited the use of any copper in these articles, except for non-decorative plating, after January 1, 1942; and reduced to 70 per cent of a 1940 base period the amount of copper in all items not listed.

Hydro-Electric Plants Exempted From Ruling.

Besides electric wiring, the following are exempted from the restrictions:

Contracts of government defense agencies which specify copper; products covered by underwriter rules or other safety regulations in effect on October 1, 1941; chemical plants where corrosive action makes other materials impracticable; research laboratories; condenser or heating exchanger tubes and tube sheets in steam generating plants and oil refineries where corrosion exists; and hydro-electric plants.

The list of articles in which copper is to be temporarily limited and eventually eliminated includes building supplies and hardware; house furnishings and equipment; dress accessories; jewelry; gifts and novelties; burial equipment; automotive, trailer and tractor equipment; and a miscellaneous list including such items as barrel hoops, fire extinguishers and toys.

The expected demand for defense and civilian consumption in 1942 was listed at 2,400,000 tons. On the basis of estimated production figures, OPM said, this would leave an indicated shortage of about 700,000 tons. The order applies equally to scrap and defines copper and copper alloy as any metal containing 50 per cent copper.

Improved Outlook for Copper Mining Seen.

Gazette 10-22-39
Special to the Gazette.
Yellville, Oct. 21.—Optimism concerning the operation of copper mines between Maumee and Yellville, Marion county, on a full-time basis, was expressed by George McClain, farmer, who owns considerable mineral land holdings in the section. He said the continued advance in zinc and lead prices would enable development of holdings which already have produced some good ore.

NEW PRIORITIES ORDER CURTAILS USE OF COPPER

Affects Building Construction.

Gazette 10-21-41

(By the Associated Press.)

Washington, Oct. 20.—In what one official called the "toughest" priorities order yet listed, the government today forbade the use of copper in non-defense building construction after November 1, except for electric wiring, and virtually prohibited its use next year in the manufacture of more than 100 common household articles.

The order, issued by Donald M. Nelson, director of priorities, declared that between now and January 1, 1942, the amount of copper