New Copper Mine Plans To Reopen

Officials of the Arkansas Copper Company, which was incorporated last August, are planning construction of a mill at a mine 15-3 miles southwest of Norman, Montgomery county, in the Osceola 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 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 Ore.

Tests show the mine ore to possess a value of from $15 to $180 per ton in copper, gold, and silver, officials said. The copper content varies from seven to 89 per cent. One 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 $100,000 was spent to have been spent in erecting a large plant and in boring a tunnel about 400 feet long into the side of a mountain, at a point about 150 feet from the top. Two shafts, one 60 feet deep and another 72 feet deep, have been sunk into the tunnel, about 600 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.

Increased In Mine Operations.

The company has leased the mine. Dr. Stenger predicted that the opening of operations in Montgomery county will be the precursor of a greater mining development in Arkansas. Enactment of a proposed worker'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 country would remove obstacles to mining developments, he said. Temporary officers in addition to Dr. Stenger are Dr. J. D. Jordan, Little Rock driller, president, and Mrs. Elizabeth Nelson of Little Rock, secretary-treasurer.

Improved Outlook for Copper Mining Seen.

Gazette 10-29-39

A survey of the Osceola National Forest, made in October, 1932, will now have importance in the operation of copper mines in the Osceola region. The survey was conducted by the Forest Service, and the results will be of great value to the mining industry. The survey will provide a comprehensive picture of the mineral resources of the area, and will serve as a basis for future mining development. The survey will be of particular importance in the Osceola National Forest, where copper mining is a major industry.