Shipments Of Gypsum Increase

Special to the Gazette 12-19-27

Delphia, Dec. 11—Mr. Louis, who for the past 18 months has been trucking gypsum from Highland in large quantities is now shipping the product by rail. His present demand calls for about 15 to 20 cars a month.

Gypsum is used extensively in the manufacture of cement, wall board, and many other items in common use. It is estimated that millions of dollars of this product are within a short distance of Highland and that because of the increasing demand the movement will be increased greatly within the near future. A new dock for loading hoisting cars has just been completed.

Chance for Small Industries Seen in Gypsum Deposits of Arkansas Widely Used In Variety of Manufactures

Products Range From Building Needs to Brick-A-Brac

Outlets: Expanding Democrat 4-10-38

State's Deposits High in Quality, Geologist Says

A wide range of products, some in their most useful, others handy and ornamental, is taken from a kind of lime known as plaster. Nature thoughtfully included in the makeup of Arkansas.

This limestone is called gypsum and it serves Mr. and Mrs. John Citizen in almost as many ways as they are cracked down on for taxes. You may have seen gypsum in the form of cement, a product made from a hard, white material known as plaster of Paris. You may have seen signs on streets noted gypsum quarry in the words, and Paris, France, Plaster of Paris, when mixed, will harden quickly, and that fact

Gypsum Deposits Sought In South Arkansas

The Arkansas Geological Survey wants to find several large deposits of gypsum in southern Arkansas, with the virtual assurance that a new mining industry can be started in the state if the deposits are located.

Geologist George C. Branner expressed the opinion yesterday deposits of "considerable size" could be found in Poinsett and Nevada counties, if the state had sufficient cash to go prospecting. The United States Gypsum Company, he said, had been looking for more than two years now on the old field of Paris to make a commercial deposit.

The largest deposit for this purpose is still being worked into cement. A fair-sized cement mill required 1,000 tons of cementing material. The cementing material consists largely of gypsum in the vicinity of the Mississippi river, with some going generally east and west along the flow of that stream, according to Dr. George Branner, state geologist.

The deposits are thinner than are found in Oklahoma and Texas, Mr. Branner said, which increases the cost of working them. But he added that they have a depth of 10 to 14 feet in some places, and are of excellent quality. He thinks there are opportunities for small industries using this material and manufacturing for the home market, in which they would be protected by an extend of the cost of shipping competing products from outside sources.

Gypsum Is Being Mined in Small Volumes in Pike and Howard Counties

Dr. Branner's office is preparing an application for a WPA project to carry out the prospecting work. It is estimated the work would require at least 12 men. Gypsum is used in plaster, to retard setting of cement, and for other purposes.

Committee Approves Reduced Rate on Gypsum

1-6-38 \--- LITTLE ROCK \---

T. W. Edwards, head of the rates and transportation division of the Arkansas Corporation Commission, returned from St. Louis, Mo., where approval for a reduction in rates on shipments of gypsum from Highland and Murfreesboro was obtained from the Executive Committee of railroad operators in the Southwest.

The proposal was disapproved by the General Freight Committee of the Southwestern Freight Bureau, from which appeal was taken to the Executive Committee, before which Mr. Wood was a witness.

He explained approval of the Southern Freight Association must be obtained before the rates can become effective. Under the proposed reductions, gypsum could be shipped from Highland and Murfreesboro to Birmingham and North Birmingham, Ala., for $3.40 a ton and from the two Arkansas towns to St. Louis, Mo., for $3.80 a ton. The present rate is based on a combination through Memphis and a $4.60 a ton.

Mr. Wood said introduction of the reduced rates would result in increased operation of the Pike county gypsum mines, giving employment to many persons. Shipments, which have been low in past years because of high freight rates, would be increased to 15 to 20 cars a week, he said.

Railroads Prepare To Reduce Intrastate Gypsum Rates

Another cut, it is reported, is being inaugurated greatly reduced rates for transportation of gypsum from one Arkansas point to another. The Arkansas Corporation Commission was yesterday postponed until February 7 to schedule hearing on an application for reductions similar to those proposed.

A rate expert estimated the reductions would averge about 75 per cent of present charges. The new tariff, reportedly approved by the Southwestern Freight Bureau, probably will be submitted to the state commission for approval within a few days.

The application for reduced rates was filed several weeks ago by M. W. Greer and H. R. Lewis of Pine Bluff, who have extensive gypsum mining interests in Pike county. They contended that lack of export market created a need for the reduction.

Gypsum In Pike County Explored

The U. S. Gypsum Company of Chicago is exploring extensively for deposits in north Arkansas, state geologist George C. Branner disclosed yesterday. A crew of survey men employed on the state mineral survey discovered gypsum ranging in thickness from three to 24 feet while making drilling tests in the area. The said beds, he said, showed the deposit was two miles long and half a mile wide.

Gypsum is hygroscopic calcium sulphate. It is used as a dressing for soils and for making plaster of Paris.