

1940 A YEAR OF MANY GAINS FOR INDUSTRY IN ARKANSAS

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Led by the lumber, mining and oil industries, Arkansas's industrial pace continued to quicken in 1940.

On the wings of a war boom, Arkansas's mineral production soared to \$32,974,389, an acknowledged gain of approximately \$4,500,000 in 12 months. Actually the gain, reflected by severance tax returns, was even larger, the production of quicksilver in particular being known to be possibly 10 times that indicated by tax returns, Dr. George C. Branner, state geologist, said. The variation resulted during the period when the new firms were getting production under way and will disappear the coming year with regular production. Lead and zinc production was not reported, due to lack of tax returns.

210 New, Expanded Industries Listed.

Approximately half of the 210 new industries or industrial expansions reported for the 1939-40 biennium by H. K. Thatcher, executive director of the Arkansas Agricultural and Industrial Commission, were established in 1940.

"It is to be noted that our greatest industrial expansion is in the production of goods that can either be used within the state or shipped to the South and Southwest," Mr. Thatcher pointed out.

"The 210 new or expanded industries furnishes a pattern for the future development and expansion of industries within the state. Food and feed processing plants take first rank in numbers of plants developed, followed by wood processing and manufacturing. Next in line is the development of the mining interest within the state. These three are the outstanding groups, but practically every manufacturing possibility has been attempted in one way or another."

Continued increase in the food manufacturing and feed processing industries was both contributory to and the result of the state's expanding farm industry, whose value (from 33 crops) gained from \$129,630,000 in 1939 to \$146,781,000 in 1940. The increased value this year, while due in part to a higher average price for cotton, results much more from an increase in production of crops in 1940 as compared to 1939, Stuart L. Bryan, agricultural statistician for the Arkansas Federal-State Crop Reporting Service, reported.

The total harvest acreage for 1940 was 6,146,000 acres, compared to 6,093,000 acres in 1939 and 6,544,000 acres for the 10-year (1929-39) average. The 1940 crop was characterized by high yields per acre generally. Cash farm prices now are 80 per cent of their 1929-31 average, compared with 75 per cent at this time last year, P. W. Milum of the University of Arkansas College of Business Administration reported.

Arkansas's business index for November reached the highest level since 1929, and the report for December is expected to see another rise in the business barometer, Mr. Milum reported.

In listing the new and expanded industries developed in 1940, Mr. Thatcher pointed out that many were small and home-owned.

"Considering all the economical, social and labor factors, Arkansas probably will have to continue its development of small industries for some time to come, while some of the factors that heretofore have prevented the development of large industries are cleared away," Mr. Thatcher said.

NEW, EXPANDED PLANTS

Manufacturing and processing plants developed in Arkansas in 1939-40.

| Type. | Number. | New Investment. |
|--------------------------------------------------|---------|-----------------|
| Food manufacturing | 36 | \$ 426,500.00 |
| Feed manufacturing | 18 | 309,000.00 |
| Lumber industries | 53 | 1,168,500.00 |
| Mining, quarrying and milling | 28 | 1,114,000.00 |
| Oil mills | 4 | 215,000.00 |
| Apparel and finished articles from fabrics | 3 | 43,000.00 |
| Machinery manufacturing | 7 | 175,000.00 |
| Ice companies | 10 | 166,000.00 |
| Cotton compresses | 5 | 345,000.00 |
| Stone, clay and glass products | 8 | 60,000.00 |
| Refineries | 2 | 1,000,000.00 |
| Paper products | 2 | 32,000.00 |
| Roofing | 1 | 125,000.00 |
| Beverages | 13 | 265,000.00 |
| Miscellaneous | 20 | 257,000.00 |

Continuation Of Upsurge In '41 Forecast

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Higher ore prices brought about by the war, and improved processing methods, stimulated the mining industries, according to state Geologist George C. Branner.

Mining Activities Expand.

Rising production in the state's mining industries has been the trend for several years, but boom levels were not noted until the last half of 1940. Severance tax collections through 1940 revealed that the value of minerals produced in Arkansas had increased from \$19,438,448.42 in 1936 to \$28,581,422.41 in 1939.

Work of the State Geological Survey in locating new mineral fields, and in furnishing surveys on prospects to interested industries, has been a great contribution to advancing mining in the state.

During 1940 alone, the Geological Survey, aided by a WPA project, located at least five important mineral beds, including:

Deposits of molybdenite in Hot Spring county, previously unreported in Arkansas;

Beds of gypsum in Pike and Howard counties, which drillings indicate contain in excess of 2,000,000 tons;

A bed of lignite in Dallas county, believed in excess of 7,000,000 tons;

A kaolin deposit in Howard county, the clay believed to be suitable for the manufacture of fire brick clay;

Deposits of tripoli in Benton county, believed to be of good quality and of considerable extent.

May Replace Imported Clay.

Location of the kaolin deposit alone is of considerable value to the state. The survey which led to its discovery was requested by the Acme Brick Company, Malvern, one of the largest concerns of its type in the country.

The Acme concern previously imported all of its fire brick clay from Missouri. If the Arkansas clay lives up to indications of preliminary experiments, Acme plans to use it exclusively.

Purchase of defense materials has created one of the greatest booms in the previously time-marking manganese and quicksilver mining industry in South central Arkansas. In the past six months commercial manganese and quicksilver mines have been springing up monthly in areas where before all mining was done on a family scale.

MINERAL PRODUCTION

(Based Exclusively on Severance Tax Returns.)

| Mineral. | Quantity. | Value. |
|------------------------|------------------------------|---------------|
| Barite | 2,964.00 sh. tons | \$ 19,177.08 |
| Bauxite | 475,507.93 lg. tons | 2,724,660.44 |
| Cement | 756,000.00 bbls. | 1,096,200.00 |
| Clay products | 63,516.00 M bricks | 476,370.00 |
| Clay, raw | 26,375.33 sh. tons | 72,445.56 |
| Coal | 1,127,538.95 sh. tons | 3,980,388.99 |
| Glass sand | 95,977.46 sh. tons | 164,121.46 |
| Gravel | 859,271.85 cu. yds. | 683,121.12 |
| Gypsum | 15,615.87 sh. tons | 24,829.23 |
| Manganese | 7,355.40 lg. tons | 94,012.23 |
| Mercury | 452.95 flasks (76 lb.) | 76,095.60 |
| Mineral waters | 1,800,000.00 gallons | 137,000.00 |
| Natural gas | 21,537,316.00 M cu. ft. | 548,087.82 |
| Natural gasoline | 19,000,000.00 gallons | 665,000.00 |
| Novaculite | 46.00 sh. tons | 49,400.00 |
| Petroleum | 25,756,367.70 barrels | 21,268,070.05 |
| Rutile | 1,118.55 sh. tons | 44,742.00 |
| Sand | 259,706.38 cu. yds. | 293,468.21 |
| Slate | 448.50 sh. tons | 3,843.65 |
| Stone | 417,162.73 sh. tons | 553,356.15 |

\$32,974,389.59