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MINING ACTIVITIES

FIRST DIVISION - B. C. Mica Mines of Canada has announced plans to start production at its mica property next spring. The property is southeast of Ketchikan near the entrance to Portland Canal on Sitklan Island. The past three years have been spent in exploratory work. Ovela Cote, company president, made the statement.

SECOND DIVISION - The U.S.S.R. & M. Co.'s. new dredge near Nome was completed by the Yuba Manufacturing Co. crew, but not in time to do any digging this fall. The machinery for the new dredge was salvaged from the dredge that capsized three years ago. U.S.S.R. & M. Co. plan to have three dredges in operation at Nome next year.

FOURTH DIVISION - The winter freeze-up caused an early shutdown of U.S.S.R. & M. Co. dredging operations near Fairbanks this year. Changes in next year's operations will be the starting of the Chatanika dredge after stripping top gravel with dragline and conveyor there this year, and the finishing up of the dredging at Gold Hill in midseason with subsequent moving of that dredge. The dredge at Hog River in the lower Koyukuk country did not get started this past season as had been hoped, but is now ready for an early start next spring.

OIL NEWS

The Shamrock Petroleum Co. of Canada has changed its name to Alaska-Yukon Refiners and Distributors, Ltd. It is reported to be now clearing ground at Haines for the construction of a tank farm, and has announced a possible refinery for that location later. Other news items report the company's acquisition of ground at Valdez for a tank farm.

Applications for leases in the Kateel River area, east of the Seward Peninsula, are still pouring in to the Fairbanks Land Office. The Bureau of Land Management has established a new meridian, named the Kateel River Meridian, in order to locate the surveys and filings in that region.

GOLD CLAIM PAYMENTS

It develops that contrary to an October release quoted in Alaskan newspapers, no payments have as yet been made to any claimants for losses under the war closure order L-208. Jessen's Weekly quotes George Nugent of the U.S. Gold Committee in Washington D. C. as stating the above and also that if and when the Government's liability in the matter is finally affirmed, hearings will be held to determine amounts of damages in pending cases. Mr. Nugent is of the opinion that in case of the Government's affirmed liability, Congress might pass a special jurisdictional act waiving the statute of limitations to permit the filing of additional claims for a limited period of time. The deadline before which the existing claims had to be filed was October 15, 1953.

The American Mining Congress states that the present status of the matter is as follows: On February 27, the U. S. Court of Claims ruled that six companies (including one Alaskan firm, the Alaska-Pacific Consolidated Mining Co.) were entitled to recover damages as a result of L-208. The U. S. Department of Justice has appealed this decision to the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court is not expected to decide whether they will hear the case before January 7. If they refuse to review the case, or if they review it but do not overrule the lower Court, then the Court of Claims' decision will hold. The balance of some 200 pending L-208 claims would then have to be studied, each on its own merits, to determine in each case if the Government is liable, and if so, how much damages are due.

#### ON THE GOLD MINING QUESTIONNAIRE

All gold miners are familiar by now with the questionnaire which was widely distributed to gold miners at the instance of a California mining man reportedly for the purpose of gathering information for an investigation on the gold question which Senator Murray was to handle. In a letter signed by Senator Murray, he states that no such investigation is contemplated by him or his committee (Interior and Insular Affairs) and that it all stems from a misapprehension from an earlier letter he wrote. In this earlier letter, he mentioned a possible hearing on the Magnuson gold resolution. The Magnuson gold resolution simply calls for the creation of a special committee to go into the gold production question. So the whole thing apparently boils down to nothing more than a possible hearing to determine whether there is enough interest to warrant the creation of a committee to study the gold situation. At this point we find it hard to resist the urge to start editorializing.

#### LOGGING AND MINING ROADS

We quote a few paragraphs from a Western Canada Mining News (Vancouver, B. C.) editorial on a growing problem there which will one day be a problem in SE Alaska also. We think the points are well taken.

"In many cases, local agreement has forestalled any appeal to higher authorities by mining companies when logging concerns agree to mining rights and necessity of access.. But there are cases of arbitrary rulings by logging barons bent on squeezing every nickel the traffic will bear in the way of load royalties from mining concerns using their roads.

"There is indeed the concern of logging companies of fire risk. And mining companies must be made to carry adequate insurance as well as trained crews and fire-fighting equipment. But as long as this province agrees that the prospector and mine operator is entitled to develop minerals as surely they must, then provision must be made between the holders of Forest Management Licences and mining concerns on equal terms.

"Also, it would be an idiotic situation, should conditions reach the point where mining companies must resort to parallel roads to properties and then turn to the government for public money under the roads assistance act.

"The mining companies, then, must also be prepared to help defray the costs of road maintenance. But in all cases, they must be allowed by law, proper and free access to their claims."

### WANT A JOB?

We have had a vacancy at our Nome assay office since Pete Sandvik, Assayer-Engineer, left the TDM in August. Being unable for the first time to find a qualified Alaskan who is interested/<sup>41</sup>that particular position, we have finally had to come down to contacting outside employment agencies and advertising in mining magazines. We would much rather have someone in the position who is sufficiently interested in Alaska to be here in the first place and who likes the Territory. The requirements of that station make it necessary that the man be able to make field examinations of prospects and write reports thereon as well as handle a limited amount of assaying. We furnish rather small living quarters and utilities at that particular office. A number of persons have written in answer to the ads, and we have reasonable expectations of having a new man on the payroll in time to open up the Nome office next April. Personnel from other TDM stations took turns keeping the office open this fall until November 1.

### NEW BOOKS FOR PROSPECTORS

The U.S. Bureau of Mines has just published a 130-page handbook Facts Concerning Uranium Exploration and Production by John E. Crawford and James Paone. It has chapters on uranium prospecting, sample testing, identification and assays, maps, counters, exploration and development, mining, and milling. The book can be purchased from the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C. for 70¢.

A Canadian book The Prospector's Handbook by W. L. Goodwin has been revised and published in its Fourth Edition. The Canadian people claim that this book has probably travelled over more virgin territory in the Canadian hinterland than any other book, and although no one can hazard a guess as to how many tons or how many metals it has helped discover, it probably has affected in some measure the life of every Canadian since mining has become such a large factor of that country's economy. It contains 381 pages and is priced at \$5.00. It is published by National Business Publications, Ltd., Gardenvale, Quebec.

A second Canadian publication is the completely rewritten Prospecting in Canada, a publication of the Geological Survey of Canada, Department of Mines and Technical Surveys, Ottawa, Canada. It is designed as an introductory text for beginners and as a reference for experienced prospectors. It has 401 pages, is well illustrated, and is priced at \$2.00.

### MISCELLANEOUS

An all-time high has been reached in number of claims staked this year in British Columbia. More than 21,000 claims were filed by November, compared to 12,567 in 1955 and 5,296 in 1954.

The Finance Minister of South Africa states that 17 gold mines there will have to close if the International Monetary Fund does not raise the price of gold. This would be a loss to the world of \$126 million in gold annually, to say nothing of the resulting social problems of which that country is already overloaded.

# E. AND M. J. METAL MARKET PRICES

	<u>Nov. 22,</u> <u>1956</u>	<u>Month</u> <u>Ago</u>	<u>Year</u> <u>Ago</u>
Copper, per lb.	35.7¢	35.8¢	43.0¢
Lead, per lb.	16¢	16¢	15-1/2¢
Zinc, per lb.	13-1/2¢	13-1/2¢	13¢
Tin, per lb.	110-3/4¢	112-1/2¢	99-1/8¢
Quicksilver, per flask	\$255-257	\$254-256	\$280-284
Silver, foreign, New York	91-3/8¢	91-3/8¢	91-5/8¢
Silver, domestic, per oz.	90-1/2¢	90-1/2¢	90-1/2¢
Platinum, per oz.	\$103-108	\$103-108	\$97-114
Nickel, per lb.	64-1/2¢	64-1/2¢	64-1/2¢
Molybdenum, per lb, in con.	\$1.18	\$1.18	\$1.05
Tungsten ore, per unit	\$55.00	\$55.00	\$63.00
Titanium ore (Ilmenite)			
per ton	\$26.25-30.00	\$26.25	\$20.00
*Chrome ore (48%, 3 to 1 ratio)			
per ton	\$115.00	\$115.00	\$115.00

\*GSA guaranteed stockpile price. Not quoted by E. & M. J.

## MISCELLANEOUS

A Pittsburgh coal company has laid a 110-mile pipe line through which they will pump coal to a Cleveland utility company. Three pumping stations will be used, and the capacity of the line will be 150 tons of coal per hour.

Another good mine is in the making just across the Canadian border. This one is near the White River just off the Alaska Highway. It is the Canalask Nickel Mines property and is scheduled to go into production in the fall of 1957. The ore body is 380 feet long by 50 feet wide with an average depth of 290 feet. Tonnage and average grade ore estimated at 550,000 and 1.68%, respectively. Also, there have been rumors circulating for some time that a large copper strike has been made up the Stikine River a short distance from the border near Wrangell which may rival the Granduc.

As we "go to press", a joint meeting and field trip is planned for December 1 to 3 at White Horse, Y. T. between Alaskan AIME members and CIM men of Yukon Territory. The Canadian people are planning a real affair which should be beneficial to mining men on both sides of the border. We wish the gathering all the best and hope to see it become an annual function.

The well known geophysical firm of McPhar Geophysics, Ltd., has created an associate company in the U.S. It is McPhar Geophysics, Inc., 300 Builders Exchange, Minneapolis, Minn. McPhar has done much to improve and promote geophysical exploration in Canadian mining.

We note that there are three girls enrolled at the Colorado School of Mines. Isn't there anywhere we can get away from them?