

PROPOSED DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

One of the chief items of interest in connection with Statehood is the impending reorganization of the Territorial government into a new State government. The Statehood Committee hired the Public Administration Service of Chicago to study the situation and make recommendations to the first State Legislature for the formation of an efficient State government. From the recommendations made public by PAS so far, we present here without details what it recommends be done for the administration of our natural resources, including, in some detail, their proposal for the TDM. We emphasize that these are only recommendations, and that the Legislature has the final word on the matter. The First State Legislature convenes on January 26.

The proposal is for a Department of Natural Resources to be headed by a single executive, the Commissioner of Natural Resources, who is to be appointed by the Governor. The PAS recommends administration without boards. Within the Department of Natural Resources are proposed seven Divisions as follows: (1) Administrative Services, (2) Agriculture, (3) Fish and Game, (4) Forests and Parks, (5) Lands, (6) Minerals, and (7) Information and Development. Each of these Divisions would be headed by a Director. The head of the Minerals Division would be the Minerals Director, who would set policy for the Division and would report directly to the Commissioner of Natural Resources.

The Department of Natural Resources, in addition to its central office, would also be divided into three regional divisions: Southeastern, Southcentral, and Northern. Each region would have an office (Juneau, Anchorage, and Fairbanks) and a Regional Director who would be responsible for the coordination of the activities and services of the seven functional Divisions within his region. The Regional Directors would also report directly to the Commissioner, although as mentioned above, the Division Director would set policy. Cooperation on field work between the various divisions is expected within the regional offices, resulting in a saving of personnel and prevention of some duplication of effort.

Each functional Division would be divided into Sections. The Mineral Division would include the Mines Section, the Oil and Gas Section, and the Registry Section. The Mines Section would perform most of the functions of the present TDM, including licensing coal mine foremen and explosives handlers. PAS recommends abolishing the Coal Miners Examining Board, however. The Section would be empowered to prevent unauthorized removal of artifacts of all kinds. Based on present work loads, field and assay offices at Ketchikan, Anchorage and Fairbanks only are recommended.

The Oil and Gas Section would perform the duties of the present Oil and Gas Commission, which would be abolished. Oil and gas leases would be passed on and administered. Wells would be inspected, conservation measures enforced, etc.

The Registry Section would continue the mineral inventory and bibliography work now being done and could be expanded to include oil and gas lands so long as records of the

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E. AND M. J. METAL MARKET PRICES

	<u>Dec. 25</u> <u>1958</u>	<u>Month</u> <u>Ago</u>	<u>Year</u> <u>Ago</u>
Copper, per lb.	29.0¢	29.1¢	26.6¢
Lead, per lb.	13¢	13¢	13¢
Zinc, per lb.	11.5¢	11.5¢	10¢
Tin, per lb.	99.0¢	99.5¢	89.1¢
Nickel, per lb.	74¢	74¢	74¢
Platinum, per oz.	\$51-55	\$53-60	\$76-80
Quicksilver, per flask	\$218-222	\$228-231	\$225-230
Silver, foreign, New York	89.9¢	90.1¢	89.6¢
Silver, domestic, per oz.	90.5¢	90.5¢	90.5¢
Antimony ore, per unit	\$3.10-3.20	\$3.10-3.20	\$3.00-3.10
Chrome ore, per long ton	\$42-44	\$42-44	\$115
Molybdenum conc., per lb.	\$1.25	\$1.25	\$1.18
Titanium ore, per ton	\$23-26	\$23-26	\$26-30
Tungsten ore, per unit	\$20-22	\$19-22	\$55

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NOTICE

Pink Slip No. 3

We have reached the point where we must request these "pink slips" annually. Increased publicity because of Statehood and increased mailing rates have raised our circulation and costs greatly. This makes it necessary that we restrict our mailing list to those who are truly interested in the contents of our TDM Bulletin. If you wish to continue receiving it, please tear this notice off at the above line, fill in the spaces below with your name and correct mailing address, and mail it to us at Box 1391, Juneau, Alaska. If we do not hear from you prior to our March issue, your name will be removed from the mailing list.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_  
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The first part of the document discusses the importance of maintaining accurate records of all transactions and activities. It emphasizes that proper record-keeping is essential for transparency and accountability, particularly in financial matters. The text outlines various methods for organizing and storing these records, including digital databases and physical filing systems.

In the second section, the author explores the challenges associated with data management and security. It highlights the need for robust security protocols to protect sensitive information from unauthorized access and cyber threats. The text also addresses the issue of data privacy, discussing the legal requirements and best practices for handling personal data.

The third part of the document focuses on the integration of technology into business operations. It examines how cloud computing, artificial intelligence, and automation can streamline processes and improve efficiency. The author provides examples of successful implementations and offers advice on how to evaluate and select the right technology solutions for a specific organization.

Finally, the document concludes with a discussion on the future of business and technology. It predicts that continued innovation and digital transformation will be key drivers of growth and success in the coming years. The author encourages businesses to stay proactive and embrace change to remain competitive in a rapidly evolving market.

Land Division are not duplicated. Well cores, rock samples, log records, etc., should be made the responsibility of this Section.

Regarding the resources plan as a whole, there will be a strong demand from sportsmen and their organizations for a separate Department of Fish and Game and to have it administered by a board rather than a single executive head. There are several pros and cons on this subject, but one of the chief pros that PAS has in mind is that by having all natural resources agencies under one head, problems on multiple purpose use of land for the most good to the State and its people can be worked out without the agencies working against each other and engaging in public arguments. Naturally, the man who heads this Department would have to be well-versed in all fields of resource management, an able administrator, and fair and impartial in his decisions. Such a man in that position would be worth much to the State of Alaska.

#### ALASKAN MINERAL PRODUCTION

As will be seen in the mineral production tabulation on page 5 of this issue, Alaskan mineral production for 1958 took a beating. A drop of \$8,809,000, or nearly 30%, from that of 1957 is estimated. The decline was caused chiefly by the lack of uranium production and the drop in coal, stone, and sand and gravel production. Also responsible was the lack of chrome production, the decline in mercury production, and the decline in unit values (price) for nearly everything except gold. We might sum it up by saying that about everything dropped in production and price except gold, which apparently held steady. And let us not be complacent about gold, for a few more years will see Alaska's gold production reduced to less than half its present rate at the present price and cost trends. One reason for this statement is that the U.S.S.R. & M. Co., Alaska's largest producer, has announced publicly that its major operations at Fairbanks and Nome will not continue beyond 1963 or 1964 under the present economic conditions.

The chief hope of increased mineral production in Alaska (in addition to oil, of course) is presently pinned to her copper, nickel, iron, and coal resources. Of the iron and coal, the possibilities of early development of new operations are contingent on the Japanese export market. However, if and when nuclear reactors for power are installed in Alaska, her present coal production will be depleted drastically. Copper and nickel production will develop according to the price, demand, and incentives, which are insufficient at present.

#### ON STAKING PLACER CLAIMS

We took another look at the 1935 Act which limits the staking of placer claims to two per month in any one Recording Precinct. Section 47-3-85 of the Alaska Compiled Laws Annotated of 1949, taken from that Act, says, "This Act shall apply only to placer deposits containing gold, silver, or other precious metals or minerals." It follows, then, that there is no two-per-month limitation on placer claims staked for limestone, iron, or other nonprecious metals or minerals.

#### OIL NEWS

As a follow-up of their press release last month announcing their planned seismic survey of Cook Inlet waters, Standard Oil of California has been holding public meetings in towns of that vicinity to fully acquaint the fisherman and other interested parties with the details of the work to be done, and to assure them that the fisheries will not be harmed. The work is to be done with four 90-foot ships and several smaller ones. One of



the larger boats will trail a cable with sensing devices hung from it to pick up and record the shock waves from the explosions, and another similar cable will be held at right angles to the path of travel with the assistance of a second boat, making an "L"-shaped configuration. A smaller boat drops and detonates the charge in the center of the "L" at a depth of 2 to 5 feet. The charges are 90 pounds each of an explosive especially developed to have as little effect on marine life as possible. Experiments with various types of fish and marine life in cages at controlled distances were conducted off the coasts of Washington and California, and the results were so satisfactory that both states approved the use of the explosive for marine seismic work. It was found that fish, and particularly shell fish, were unharmed at very few feet from the explosives. As a check on the work in Cook Inlet, an observer from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game will be present at all times and will stop the operation if it is seen that consequential damage to marine life is being done. Also, spot checking will be done with nets immediately after some of the explosions to bring up any possible evidence of fishery damage. The expense of this spot checking and the observer's salary will be borne by the participating oil companies. The project is scheduled to be finished before the spring salmon run commences.

#### MISCELLANEOUS

In the search for a replacement for the outdated term "Stateside", the expression "back to the Smaller States" has been noted. Not bad.

Statehood is bringing writers and columnists to Alaska in droves, but most of the resulting publicity we are getting from these "week end" visitors seems to be anything but truthful. One columnist wrote that gold is a drug on the market in Alaska, that no one appreciates the grubby stuff here anymore, and that sourdough miners are glad to be able to sell it on the side for \$20 per ounce. The truth is, of course, that practically all of the gold from Alaskan miners goes to the U.S. Mint, which pays \$35 per fine ounce for it. The remaining bit finds its way to jewelers at an equal or higher price to be worked up into nugget jewelry. This same author went on to relate how an Anchorage friend of his carries a 5-pound bar of the dirty stuff (which he adulterated with a silver dollar to camouflage its place of origin) around in the glove compartment of his car. If automobile thefts in Anchorage have shown an increase in the past two months, it may be because newspaper readers are looking for that bar which would bring around \$1500 to \$1800 even if it is illegal. And it probably is. It is suggested that the friend remain anonymous as he may have broken several laws in melting gold without a license, holding gold in melted form, and destroying U.S. currency.

As a result of our request for dealers in Alaskan rock and mineral specimens, we now have a list of about a dozen, which is available upon request.

The Interior Department announced rules and regulations for the operation of the new Office of Minerals Exploration (OME) agency. However, in the press information we have seen, there seems to be nothing much more than is contained in the law that set up the OME, and on which we reported in detail in earlier issues of the Bulletin. Forms for obtaining assistance may be obtained from the OME Field Team, South 157 Howard Street, Spokane 4, Washington, Attn: A. E. Weissenborn. Administration of this program from within Alaska would certainly be of greater benefit to Alaskan miners.

We haven't much information on it yet, but a plan is being worked out in Canada to open a free gold market there under private enterprise. Apparently this firm will give warehouse receipts for gold received, and will melt the gold into standard small bars. The receipts and the small bars of gold they represent may, in time, replace currencies of shaky value in world trade. This may possibly be the start of something real important for the gold miners of the world.

MINERAL PRODUCTION IN ALASKA, 1957-1958

Mineral	1957		1958 (1)	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
Antimony- - - - - short tons	17	\$ 4,000	- - - - -	- - -
Chromite- - - - - do -	4,207	431,000	- - - - -	- - -
Coal, bituminous- - - - - do -	842,338	7,296,000	732,000	\$6,350,000
Gold- - - - - -troy ounces	215,467	7,541,000	215,000	7,500,000
Lead- - - - - short tons	9	3,000	1	(2)
Mercury - - - - - -76-pound flasks-	5,461	1,349,000	3,200	(2)
Platinum- - - - - -troy ounces	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)
Sand and Gravel- - - - - -short tons	6,096,000	8,799,000	4,100,000	5,000,000
Silver- - - - - -troy ounces	28,862	26,000	28,000	26,000
Stone - - - - - short tons	528,000	1,953,000	273,000	955,000
Uranium - - - - -	(2)	(2)	- - - - -	- - -
Undistributed (3)- - - - -		2,484,000		1,246,000
Totals - - - - -		\$29,886,000		\$21,077,000

(1) All figures for 1958 and undistributed figure for 1957 are preliminary and subject to revision.

(2) Values included with "Undistributed" to avoid disclosing individual company incomes.

(3) Includes gem stones, platinum, uranium, and mercury.

Note: Above statistics prepared in cooperation with Alvin Kaufman, U.S. Bureau of Mines, Juneau, with the exception of the 1958 coal value figure and the 1957 and 1958 undistributed figures, which are presented on authority of the TDM only. Differences in these three figures from those in the USEM report reflect only different systems in reporting statistics. Note also that sand and gravel are not true minerals, but are carried by the USEM for statistical reporting of mineral production throughout the U.S.