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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
INFORMATION SERVICE

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

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GEOLOGIC EXPLORATIONS IN CENTRAL KUSKOKWIM
REGION, SOUTHWESTERN ALASKA

During 1944 the Geological Survey continued exploration in the Central Kuskokwim region, extending the inventory of strategic-mineral resources of that region commenced in 1941 in connection with the study of quicksilver deposits near Sleitmut. Parties were sent into the Taylor Mountains on the upper Holitna River, the Horn Mountains northwest of the Kuskokwim River west of Crooked Creek village, and the Russian Mountains north of the Kuskokwim River between Napaimiut and Aniak. A party worked for part of the summer at the quicksilver prospects below Napaimiut, near the site of the now abandoned village and fort of Kolmakof. Exploration of intervening areas was extended, particularly in the basin of the Oskawalit and Wloyukuk Rivers, for the purpose of rounding out a projected geologic map of the Central Kuskokwim region, as well as to cover areas not yet thoroughly prospected. The data and samples gathered on these surveys are being studied in the Survey offices and laboratories.

In addition to quicksilver, antimony, and gold, which are the most common minerals, coal and several metals, such as tungsten, tin, molybdenum, copper, and silver, have been reported by prospectors in the Central Kuskokwim region. During the 1944 field season indications of copper, hitherto unreported, were found by a Geological Survey party working southeast of the Taylor Mountains. In 1945, if available funds permit, mapping of the Central Kuskokwim region will be continued, following up the leads suggested by prospectors and continuing the examination of favorable geologic formations.

A general report that will cover the geology and mineral deposits of the Central Kuskokwim region is planned, but its final preparation awaits completion of mapping in that area. A report covering the quicksilver deposits of southwestern Alaska is in preparation, and the part dealing with the deposits of the DeCourcy Mountain area, Iditarod district, will be ready for limited distribution in the near future.