

5430 0023

July 23, 1945.

File 188 Item 23

Jim Regan, Yerington,

Regan is now working on the Blue Stone Mine under a lease from Jack Ross of Carson City. One car of ore has been shipped and another is being loaded for shipment the latter part of the week. The first car was not good. The ore is obtained above the glory-hole (? Regan was drunk and it was difficult to understand him).

Regan said he would like to have some one look at the prospect and give an opinion on the prospect at the Blue Stone Mine.

It was reported that the representative of the U. S. Gypsum Co. was expected Aug. 1st, to examine all of the Regan gypsum holdings.

Copper Belt Railroad:

Mr. Newcomb at the Mason office advised that the order for gypsum had been increased and they would have to commence mining gypsum. They had experienced a little difficulty with a few cars shipped in the past in that the miner had not been careful in excluding granite from the gypsum.

From the same informant; Ore is being obtained from the Northern Light Mine, about 30 miles east of Yerington in the Mountain View Mining District. This operation is carried on by a Los Angeles automobile dealer.

Mr. Bookman is shipping ore from the Mason Valley Mine.

✓ (1) Leo Manson is producing and shipping a little ore from the Western Nevada Copper Mine. It is understood that the smelter is not very interested in the ore and will accept limited tonnage.

Fluftrock Plant, Mason:

This plant at Mason is about 1000 feet north of the Copper Belt Railroad round-house. This part of the Fluftrock operation is under the management of Mr. Ted Parks who lives in Yerington.

At the time of the visit, the wall board part of the plant was expected to be in operation in about ten days. It is reported that the company's expanded perlite will be mixed with gypsum to make the wallboard. The company may have enough perlite on hand but they had no stock of gypsum. There was a small pile of gypsite near the railroad track but it does not belong to this company. Although the company has some paper stock on hand, it is doubtful if the supply can be considered adequate.

The wallboard fabricating equipment appears to be in good condition and the installation is very nearly complete.

Fluftrock continued:

The perlite expanding plant was not in operation. It was stated that some equipment had to be replaced, before the expanding operation would be resumed.

The crude perlite is obtained from a deposit in Bodie Canyon in the vicinity of Fletchers Station. The deposit is reported to be owned by Al Silvers and a Mr. Irvin who have leased it to the Fluftrock Company. It is reported that the crude perlite is hauled about 60 miles to the plant.

The flowsheet is as follows:

Pit run to a jaw crusher reducing to 1.75", some coarser. Crushed perlite is carried away from the crusher by an inclined belt conveyor and after being elevated about 15', it is allowed to fall in a stock pile. This stock pile perlite is picked up by a second inclined belt conveyor and fed to a hammer mill for reduction to 1/4 (4 mesh). The hammer mill product is elevated by a bucket elevator to a small bin from which the crushed perlite is fed into the expanding furnace. The perlite is fed to the furnace at the upper end which is also the firing end. The furnace was formerly a rotary quicksilver retort 4' dia. by 60' long lined with silica brick and, set on a slope of about two inches per foot. The perlite, both expanded and unexpanded discharges from the lower end of the furnace. The expanded perlite is separated from the ~~the~~ unexpanded by introducing compressed air. The unexpanded perlite drops through the air into some collecting bin while the expanded perlite is elevated to home made trommel which is now used in place of a series cyclones to make four sized products. The trommel products are conducted into storage bins from which the material is drawn for sacking.

The hammer mill is to be replaced by set of rolls and the bucket elevator is to be replaced with an air lift. This change is for the purpose of reducing the fine in the material fed to the furnace. Some difficulty has been experienced in the past by a sinter building up which finally closes the furnace. It is thought these changes will reduce the fines in the expanded product as well overcome the furnace trouble. It is understood that a new combination air and mechanical feeder is being developed to introduce the crude crushed perlite into the furnace. The fuel used in the expansion process is oil. No temperature control is practiced that is satisfactory. A recording pyrometer is mounted in a discharge pipe about fifteen feet away from the furnace.

product

The furnace (expanded perlite) is gray instead of the customary white color. It is suggested that may be due to small particles of carbon picked up in the furnace. It is more probably due to fusion of some particles and incomplete expansion of others.

Fluftrock continued:

There is some reason to believe that a considerable of fussion take place in the furnace due to the formation of the sinter and, the fact that the air separation scheme was not successful. In the latter operation, the fine perlite dropped out with the coarse particals.

The company was sacking plaster aggregate in four cubic foot bags. The sacking operation is not very satisfactory as four men are require. This material contains a high percentage of fines which are undesirable. Due to the nature of a properly expanded perlite particle, it is doubtful if a satisfactory separation of the fines can be made with a mechanical screening device. It was suggested that samples of the material that is to be classified be sent to manufactures of air classifiers, Sutton, Steele & Steele, and Sturdevant Co. for testing and thier recommendations. It is the opinion that an air separator (series of classifiers) will greatly improve thier products.

The sacking operation is very dusty and it appears that other steps in the operation have the same difficulty. Ted Parks reports that the have had some labor trouble for that reason. It is also reported that the present sacker will be replaced with a suitable piece of equipment now on order.

The plaster aggregate is supposed to weigh 8lbs. per cubic foot. Now attempts are made to determine the apparent specific gravity of the several products therefore there is no certainty that the product is within the desired weight limits.

In addition to the changes proposed in the flowsheet by the company others are necessary before the operation can be continued without interruptions. As Mr. Parks remarked, a change in the furnace feed or firing made it necessary to make changes in the classification system. This may be due variation of the physical properties of the crude perlite which have not been thoroughly investigated. In addition, it appears that there is a limit to the size of the crude particle that can be fed to the furnace and, it is certian that some form of classification of the furnace feed is necessary.

Much research work will have to be done to produce a satisfactory product and a satisfactory process.

James S. Adams, corundum:

This deposit is about 20 miles from Yerington on the road to the Nevada Hot Springs.

It is reported that the prospect is being explored by the U. S. Bureau of Mines. The surface has been trenched and from that, it appears that the deposit may be 300' long by 100' wide. The Bureau of Mines has let a contract for 360 feet of drifting and crosscutting. At the time of the visit, a crosscut had been driven 65' and the downward extension of the deposit is expected to be cut in the next few rounds.

If the deposit comes up to the Bureau of Mines expectation, it is reported that the Government will construct a mill on the property. The operation will be turned over to Mr. Adams and associates who will reimburse the government for the cost of the mill from a royalty from the product.

Drew Wilson, Yerington:

2 Drew Wilson presents himself as being the sole owner of the Cowboy group of Tungsten claims, about 40 miles south of Yerington in the vicinity of Pine Grove.

The claims are for sale or lease. Royalty 10% and a monthly minimum of \$150.00 or \$200.00. Purchase price \$300,000.00. Some equipment is available, compressor, air drills, cars and track.

One of the best prospect, partly developed, is on the Cowboy #6. The ore is reported to be 15 -20 feet wide and could be mined with power shovel or bulldozer. The grade of the ore is reported to be 1% WO₃ with about 0.20% Mo..

The following have been interested in the claims:

Norman Annett,

Cord,

U.S. Vanadium Co.,

C.E. Eastman (drove a little more than three hundred feet of drifts and crosscuts but did not develop much ore).

H.B. Chessher,

Chessher has a map of the property and the workings which. Mr. Wilson says you have his authority to ask for a copy of the map.

Mr. Wilson and F. M. McClane have three perlite claims about 26 miles south of Yerington (one half mile west of Webster Summitt on the road to the Morgan Ranch). The deposit should be about 3 miles southeast of the Pine Grove Mine. At the present time the perlite has been located as slide claims. Placer location will be filed in the near future. The claims are for sale or lease.

C. E. Martin, Yerington:

Mr. Martin and Mr McClane have some additional perlite claims in the same area as those in which Drew Wilson holds an interest. Mr. Martin is one of the members of the Yerington police force (#1).

It is understood that some road (1-1/2 miles) will have to be constructed to get to the Drew Wilson claims.