

SULPHUR AND PYRITES

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ol. 39, no. 7, July 1932,

A State constitutional amendment adopted by the voters at the November elections provides that there shall be no ad valorem taxes levied on sulphur deposits in the State. The severance tax on sulphur, however, was fixed by the legislature at 27 cents per long ton.

CALIFORNIA

Production of sulphur in California was reported for the first time in a number of years. The output amounted to 745 tons and came from two producers in Inyo County. The larger producer, known as the Crater Group, started work on the property last October, and production came entirely from development. The mine-run sulphur which was shipped averaged 97 percent and was used mostly for experimental and test work.

During the year it was reported that the United Verde Extension Mining Co. was developing under option a sulphur deposit at the Leviathan mine in an old crater 40 miles south of Lake Tahoe, Alpine County.

UTAH

No production of sulphur was reported from Utah in 1932. During the past year the Utah Sulphur Industries has been installing new equipment and making other improvements at its properties at Sulphurdale, Beaver County. The sulphur deposit occurs in the crater of an old volcano, and sulphur is recovered from the ore by flotation. Thoenen² has estimated the cost of 85 percent sulphur concentrates at Sulphurdale as \$7 to \$12.90 per short ton. The company expects to start production and shipments early in 1933.

COLORADO

A small quantity of sulphur-bearing material was produced by the P. T. & S. Chemical Co. near Austin, Delta County. The material, which contains 45 percent sulphur, is dug from opencuts by hand and sold to farmers in the vicinity as a fertilizer.

NEW MEXICO

In 1932 an act was passed which was designed to extend the development of sulphur on the public domain in New Mexico. The act was an amendment to that entitled "An act to promote the production of sulphur upon the public domain within the State of Louisiana", which was approved April 17, 1926. The measure provides for a prospecting permit and later a leasing permit at a certain royalty on the value of the sulphur output.

WORLD PRODUCTION

The World production of sulphur in 1932 is estimated at 1,400,000 long tons, a decline of 1,170,000 tons from the preceding year. The following table shows the production of sulphur in the principal producing countries during the last 5 years.

² Thoenen, J. R., Economics of Potash Recovery from Wyomingite and Alunite: Rept. of Investigations 3190, Bureau of Mines, November 1932, p. 9.