

CHROMITE IN THE UNITED STATES

Significant articles have appeared recently in the mining journals concerning a higher and more equitable price to the man who mines and markets the chrome ore used in making ferrochrome now selling at \$400 a ton. The Geological Survey has suggested an increased and more stable price for chromite as a most effective means of increasing domestic production by encouraging and arousing the small producer to do his utmost.

The price of 40 per cent chromite at the beginning of 1917 was \$15 a ton, that is, 37½ cents a unit of chromic oxide, but at the end of the year the price had been raised to 70 cents a unit, or \$28 a ton. The actual price reported to the U. S. Geological Survey ranged from \$10 to \$50 a ton and the average price of the ore sold during the year by producers was a little more than \$24 a ton. Early in 1918 the price for 40 per cent ore reached 85 cents a unit (\$34 a ton). The impending crisis resulting from lack of ships to import the ore needed for war purposes has impelled the principal consumer, the Electro-Metallurgical Co., of New York, to advance prices greatly in the hope of increasing domestic production. The statement of the company was published March 17, 1918, in the form of an appeal, as follows:

To Pacific coast prospectors and miners: The California Chrome Co., which has operated in California and Oregon for the last two years, will contract for the balance of this year for chrome ore at a minimum price of \$1.25 per unit for 38 per cent chromic oxide and upward. Premiums will be paid for early delivery. Advances will be made on good prospects for development work. Settlements in full will be made on independent chemists' sampling and analysis on receipt of bills of lading and weight certificate.

All low-grade chrome ores cannot be concentrated to advantage. This is especially true of low-grade ores in which the chromium has been replaced by aluminum and iron. Chrome ore rich in magnetite may under some conditions be successfully handled by a magnetic separator. Concentrating plants have been a feature of the chrome industry in Canada ever since 1898.

The measure of normal annual consumption of chromite for all the various uses before the war may best be expressed by the sum of domestic production and imports in 1913, about 65,000 long tons. On account of the greatly augmented demands of war conditions it has been estimated by the committee on mineral imports and exports of the Shipping and War Trade

boards that the needs of the United States in 1918 will be equivalent to about 130,000 long tons of 50 per cent ore, of which 67,500 tons will be needed for ferrochrome, 40,000 tons for making bichromates and other chemicals for tanning, etc., and 22,500 tons for refractory purposes.

MOND NICKEL COMPANY.

At the annual meeting of the Mond Nickel Company, Limited, held in London recently, particulars of which are contained in British exchanges to hand, it was shown that owing to the scarcity of labor and material the company had not been able to complete the extension intended. The Chairman, Mr. Robert Mond, said that satisfactory progress was being made in the erection of the fifth unit, and that some steps were being taken towards the erection of a sixth. He said that the management in Canada, not having suffered to the same extent as the parent company in Great Britain, had made much better progress in construction work. In spite of the shortage of labor, the company had not only substantially increased its output of Bessemer matte, but had also been able to put itself in a position to supply for the intended increase of the refining plant. Their supplies of matte in Canada for the refining work had, he said, been brought across the Atlantic without interruption, while the Government authorities had provided the company with the necessary permission to secure the requisite material to maintain the plant in full working order.—The Globe.

RICH ORE FOUND AT LANARK MINE

A rich strike is reported at the Lanark mine, Illecil-lewaet, B.C., one of the oldest mines of British Columbia. One ore shoot has been uncovered for 350 ft., and the ends are not reached. There are fourteen inches of clear lead and copper ore and four to five feet of concentrating ore running 20 to 25 per cent lead. The clear ore runs from 50 to 70 per cent lead and from 40 to 100 ounces silver to the ton, and has been assayed to 248 ounces of silver. The company is running a cut into the shoot 90 ft. deep and \$40,000 worth of machinery is being installed.

Permission has been granted by Mr. George Wilkinson, Chief Inspector of Mines for British Columbia, for the opening of the Jingle Pot Coal Mine, Vancouver-Nanaimo Coal Mining Co., Ltd., which was ordered sealed ten months ago owing to the discovery of fire. In the interim, the mine has been flooded.

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