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OREGON MINERAL PRODUCTION IN 1951*

Oregon's 1951 mineral production as just reported by the U.S. Bureau of Mines totals nearly $28½ millions, and is the largest in dollar value ever attained despite low returns in value of metallic minerals. By far the greatest returns are in construction materials such as sand, gravel, stone, and cement. The breakdown of production of the different materials is as follows:

Mineral	Quantity	Value
Antimony ore and concentrate - short tons, gross weight	-	-
Carbon dioxide, natural (estimated) - thousand cubic feet	1/	1/
Chromite - short tons, gross weight	754	$ 63,000
Clays (except for cement) - thousand short tons	95	105,000
Coal - thousand short tons	-	-
Copper (recoverable content of ores, etc.) - short tons	11	5,000
Gold (recoverable content of ores, etc.) - troy ounces	7,927	277,000
Lead (recoverable content of ores, etc.) - short tons	2	1,000
Mercury - 76-pound flasks	1,177	247,000
Perlite (crude) - short tons	1/	1/
Pumice and pumicite - short tons	47,026	137,000
Sand and gravel - thousand short tons	10,504	9,117,000
Silver (recoverable content of ores, etc.) - thousand troy ounces	6	6,000
Stone (except limestone for cement and lime) - thousand short tons	8,722	10,831,000
Tungsten concentrate - short tons, 60-percent WO_3 basis	1	3,000
Zinc (recoverable content of ores, etc.) - short tons	3	1,000
Undistributed: Asbestos (1949-1951), cement, diatomite, gem stones, lime (1950-1951), quartz, stone (dimension granite, 1949; dimension and crushed granite, 1950), and minerals whose value must be concealed for particular years (indicated in appropriate column by footnote reference 1/)	-	7,608,000
Total Oregon	-	$28,401,000
Clays sold or used for cement - thousand short tons	57	$ 57,000

1/ Value included with "Undistributed."

*Graph showing Oregon Mineral Production 1850-1951 on following page.

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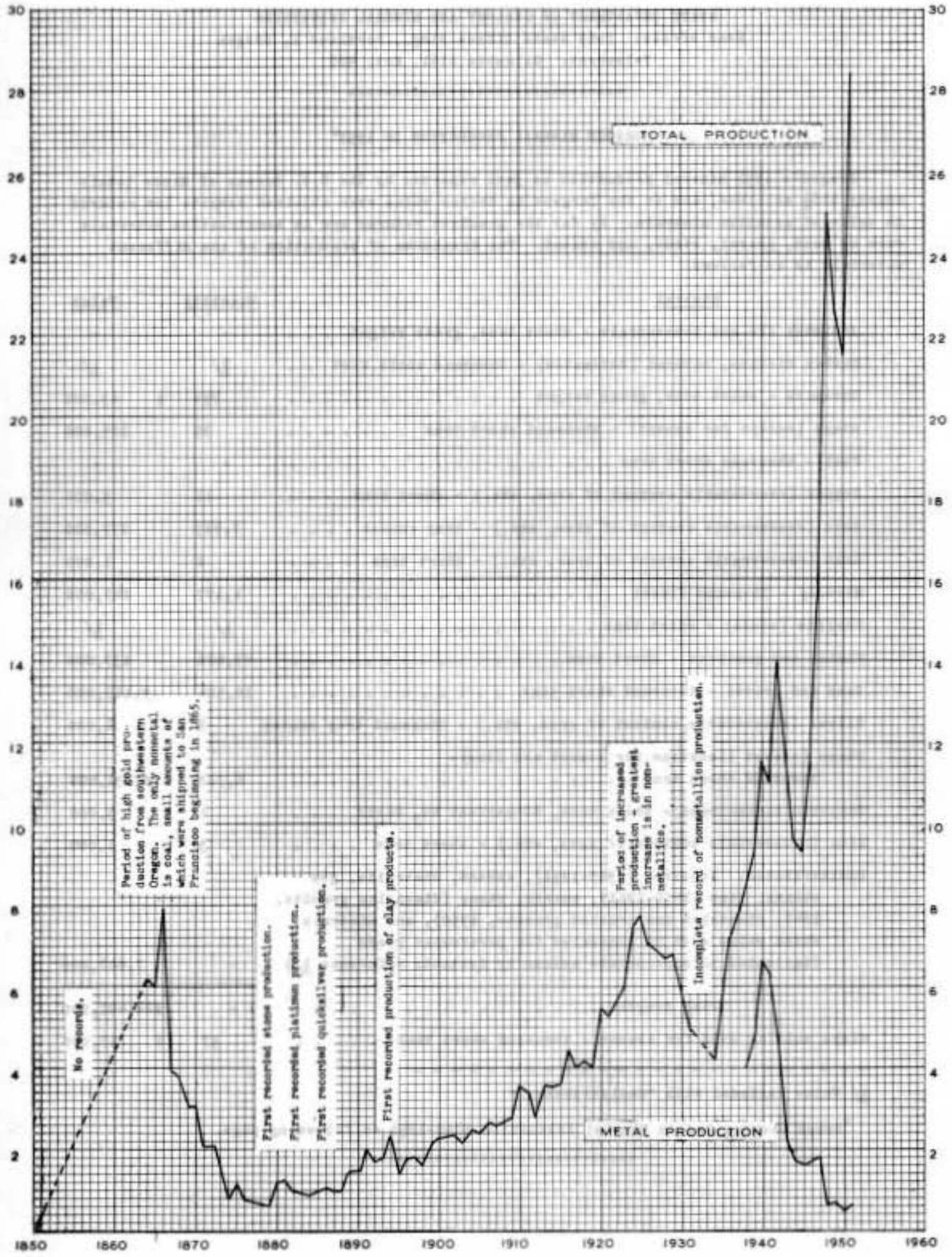
OREGON MINERAL PRODUCTION

(IN MILLIONS OF DOLLARS)



EASTERN OREGON MINING NEWS

Mr. Anthony Brandenthaler, Baker, Oregon, has announced the start of construction of a lime burning plant in Baker. The first kiln of a contemplated battery of three is now being prepared for shipment to Baker from California. Road building to the quarry site on Marble Creek about 8 miles west of Baker will begin about October 1. The limestone deposit on Marble Creek was diamond drilled several years ago and results showed exceptionally pure stone. It is planned to convert wood waste from sawmill operations into gas for burning limestone.

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The Morrison-Knudsen Company, Boise, Idaho, is carrying on exploration work on a deposit of limestone west of Durkee, Baker County, Oregon. Bulldozing and road building has been under way for the past two months and now diamond drilling will be done.

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William Wendt, Baker, Oregon, is installing a 5-ton mill to test a free milling ore showing at the Sanger mine east of Baker in Baker County. The Sanger is one of the famous early-day gold producers of eastern Oregon. The vein which will be tested was discovered several years ago and has been under development for the past two summers. A length in excess of 300 feet along the vein has been indicated.

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Burt Hayes, who shipped the first chrome concentrates from the John Day area to the Grants Pass purchasing depot in 1952, is building a small concentrating mill on Dog Creek about 7 miles southeast of John Day, Grant County, Oregon. Hayes has leased the property from Ray Summers, John Day.

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The United Mining and Metals Corporation, Cottage Grove, Oregon, is installing a new pipeline on the High Bar Placer above Pine Creek in Baker County. Water will be pumped to a reservoir from Burnt River and thence pumped to giants at the pit. Operations are in charge of Mr. H. L. Bruneau.

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According to The Stockpile, the Buffalo mine in eastern Grant County, Oregon, is active and is being operated by Jim Jackson and Bill Coxe who have leased the property from the Boaz Mining Company, Seattle. The Buffalo has a long record of production of both high-grade shipping ore and milling ore. Concentrates are shipped to the Tacoma Smelter.

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ZIRCONIUM AND HAFNIUM

The U.S. Bureau of Mines has announced that production of zirconium at the Northwest Electrodevelopment Laboratory, Albany, Oregon, is currently maintained at an average rate of about 22,000 pounds per month. The entire output is consigned to the Atomic Energy Commission. July production of hafnium amounted to 896 pounds, also sent to the Atomic Energy Commission.

Zirconium and hafnium are associated in the mineral zircon, zirconium silicate.

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CHROMITE IN JUNE 1953

Domestic chromite production in June 1953 amounted to 2,825 short tons, an increase of 73 percent compared to production in May, according to the U.S. Bureau of Mines Chromite Report No. 41. All of the production originated in California and Oregon and was received at the Grants Pass ore purchasing depot at Grants Pass, Oregon. Shipments for the first six months of 1953 amounted to 9,780 short tons. This amount was 120 percent greater than shipments during the first six months of 1952.

Total consumption of all grades of chromite in the United States during the first half of 1953 was 17 percent greater than the previous half year high which was attained in the second half of 1951.

Consumption of chromite for chemical purposes during June was less than 1 percent below the monthly average during the peak year of 1951, increasing 9 percent over May 1953. Refractory use gained 5 percent during June 1953 but metallurgical use dropped 9 percent, reversing the recent upward trend in total consumption of all grades of chromite with the total falling 3 percent below the May record high. Imports during June 1953 totalled 189,132 short tons. For the first six months of 1953 imports amounted to 1,071,128 short tons of which metallurgical grade totalled 562,068 long tons, refractory grade 307,065 long tons, and chemical grade 87,231 long tons. This compares with total imports of 1,700,209 for the whole of 1952. Imports are reported in long tons; other statistics in short tons.

Countries from which metallurgical grade chromite was imported during the first six months of 1953 in order of importance were: Turkey (208,786 tons), Southern Rhodesia (133,247 tons), Union of South Africa (94,357 tons), New Caledonia (36,815 tons), Philippines (34,659 tons), Yugoslavia (22,455 tons), Cuba (16,300 tons), India (6,056 tons), Sierra Leone (6,000 tons), Pakistan (3,060 tons), Greece (335 tons), Afghanistan (42 tons).

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MOUAT CHROME MINE GOES INTO PRODUCTION

According to the August Commodity Report of the U.S. Bureau of Mines, the American Chrome Company which has reactivated the Mouat chromite project in Stillwater County, Montana, has gone into production at a current rate of about 500 tons of ore daily. Plans are to double this output. The American Chrome Company has a contract to supply the government with 900,000 tons of chromite concentrates over a period of 8 years. The property was developed and a concentrating mill erected at the mine in World War II under the management of Anaconda Copper Mining Company. After the war the property remained inactive until taken over by the American Chrome Company.

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QUEEN OF BRONZE, JAPAN MAKE COPPER AGREEMENT

As reported by Mining World, August 1953, the Queen of Bronze Mining and Smelting Company of Grants Pass, Oregon, has agreed to export between 19,000 and 28,000 tons (copper content) of copper concentrate over a year's time to the Tokyo Boeki Shokai, a Japanese trading company, for use in Japanese smelters.

The initial shipment, which is expected to reach Japan by September, will be about 1,000 tons. The Queen of Bronze mine in Josephine County, Oregon, is said to have a stock of about 4,000 tons of copper concentrate. The mine had been closed since the end of World War II.

The copper will be divided among six leading Japanese copper smelters and will be used to reduce smelting costs and also to meet the shortage of scrap copper.

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DMEA ACTIVITIES IN OREGON
(July 15 to August 15, 1953)

The status and location of Defense Minerals Exploration Administration contracts approved and accepted to date in Oregon is indicated in the tabulation below.

Operator	Location (County)	Commodity	Amount	Status
Paul W. Wise	Malheur	Mercury	$34,727	Terminated
Waite Minerals	Josephine	Copper	30,000	Terminated
Owen Pigmon	Crook	Mercury	20,460	Terminated
Bonanza Oil and Mine Corporation	Douglas	Mercury	50,056	Active
Roba and Westfall	Grant	Mercury	20,140	Active
Strickland Butte Mines (Page and Page)	Crook	Mercury	5,600	Active

Summary of Active Projects

Bonanza Oil and Mine Corporation

Drifting is in progress on the 830 level and the 1050 level of the Bonanza mine.

Strickland Butte Mines

Bulldozer trenching at the Strickland Butte prospect was completed during the first part of August.

Roba and Westfall

Preparatory work is in progress. It is anticipated that shaft sinking will be commenced in the near future.

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CEMENT COMPANY EXPANDS ACTIVITIES

According to Commerce, published by the Portland Chamber of Commerce, the Oregon Portland Cement Company, Frank E. McCaslin, President, has announced a $1,000,000 expansion program at the plant of the Oregon Portland Cement Company at Lime, Baker County, Oregon. The project now in progress will increase conveying and crushing capacity and will modernize the kiln firing system in order to boost production. The announcement states that capacity of the plant will be increased sufficiently to provide cement needed for Snake River dam construction. It is expected that the expansion initially planned will be completed by the end of 1953. The O.P.C. quarry is near the present plant site and in addition the company has large deposits of limestone on Fox Creek in Baker County on the Snake River side of the divide a few miles from the Lime plant.

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MINERAL PRODUCTION IN CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES

According to the U.S. Bureau of Mines, value of mineral production in continental United States in 1951 was $13,524,000,000 compared to $11,855,000,000 in 1950. Texas led all the states in 1951 with production valued at $3,268,555,000 (because of the huge production of oil and gas). Pennsylvania was second with $1,289,226,000 (principally because of the large coal production). California was third with a production of $1,208,920,000 (mainly because of large oil and gas production).

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QUICKSILVER

E&MJ Metal and Mineral Markets, issue of September 10, reports that the market for quicksilver was inactive and prices unsettled. Market quotations for the metal ranged from $186 to $189 per flask which showed a drop of about $2 per flask under the level of the previous week. The United States Government is apparently not in the market, and under this condition lower quotations may be expected. Reportedly high market price stimulated Mexican production. The chlorine program which required large supplies of mercury for mercury cells seems to be coming to an end.

The U.S. Bureau of Mines reports that the mercury industry in the second quarter of 1953 was featured by a decline in receipts of the metal from abroad. Imports in the second quarter amounted to 6,431 flasks. This compares with 24,265 flasks for the first quarter of 1953 and 68,686 flasks for the full 1952 period. Domestic production for the first six months of 1953 amounted to 7,320 flasks. Total 1952 production amounted to 12,547 flasks. This domestic output showed a continued upward trend but was small compared to the long-time history of domestic mercury mining. The eight leading domestic producers which accounted for 93 percent of the total production were Abbott (Lake County), New Idria, including San Carlos (San Bernite County), Culver-Baer, Cloverdale, and Mt. Jackson, including Great Eastern (Sonoma County), California; Hermes (Valley County), Idaho; Cordero (Humboldt County) Nevada; and Bonanza (Douglas County) Oregon. In addition twenty-one other properties were productive during the second quarter of 1953. Imports in order of importance during the first quarter of 1953 came from: Spain (12,417 flasks), Italy (7,264 flasks), Mexico (2,854 flasks), Yugoslavia (1,652 flasks), Miscellaneous (78 flasks). Imports during the second quarter in order of importance were: Mexico (3,469 flasks), Italy (1,179 flasks), Yugoslavia (1,131 flasks), Spain (624 flasks), miscellaneous (28 flasks).

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ATKINSON DREDGE LEASE IS TAKEN BY VERNER ALLEN

Dredging lease in Hells Canyon area of Snake River which forms the Idaho-Oregon boundary line, has been taken over from S. K. Atkinson of Boise by Verner Allen of San Francisco. Transfer of the lease was approved by both the Idaho and Oregon land boards.

The Atkinson lease was approved more than a year ago after a public hearing at which Mr. Atkinson estimated that a dredging operation in Hells Canyon gorge could recover about $171,000,000 worth of gold, monazite, and other metals.

(From Mining and Industrial News, p. 14, August 1953.)

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STAINLESS STEEL OUTPUT IS RISING AT 16 PERCENT YEARLY RATE

The production of stainless steel ingots increased an average of 16 percent a year from 1940 to 1951, according to statistics by American Iron and Steel Institute. At the same time the total physical output of the country increased an average of 5 percent a year, according to the Department of Commerce. Stainless ingots are converted by the steel industry to nearly all the forms in which other steel is sold, such as bars, sheets, pipe, etc.

Since 1935, when the official statistics on stainless steel were first compiled, the ingot output of this metal has increased more than 12 times to a total of approximately 930,000 net tons in 1952, compared with the record high of nearly 934,000 tons in 1951. The combined output of two light metals, including primary and secondary or reclaimed metal, set a record in 1952 of over 1.3 million tons, nearly 12 times the 1935 production.

(From Steel Facts, June 1953.)

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