STATE OF OREGON
DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY AND MINERAL INDUSTRIES
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VALUE OF OREGON'S MINERAL PRODUCTION FOR 1954*

Total value of Oregon's mineral production for 1954 was $32,223,000. This figure is given in an advanced summary just released by the U.S. Bureau of Mines in cooperation with the State of Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries.

The 1954 total shows an increase of nearly 8 million dollars over the 1953 figures, but the rise can be credited largely to a better collection of data on sand and gravel. A regional canvass of sand and gravel producers brought to light many operations not previously accounted for and raised the production figure for that industry by 5½ million dollars.

With the exception of chromite, metals production declined in 1954, although values for quicksilver increased. Production of nickel from the deposit on Nickel Mountain in Douglas County became a reality in 1954. The Hanna Nickel Smelting Company reportedly produced about 300,000 pounds of nickel contained in ferronickel.

Production of nonmetallics continued at a high level in 1954, with an increase in output of cement, expanded shale, pumice, silica, and stone. The production breakdown follows:

Mineral	Quantity	Value
Chromite - short tons, gross weight	6,665	536,387
Clays (except for cement) - short tons	262,247	305,035
Coal - short tons	1/	1/
Copper (recoverable content of ores, etc.) - short tons	5	2,950
Gold (recoverable content of ores, etc.) - fine ounces	6,520	228,200
Lead (recoverable content of ores, etc.) - short tons	5	1,370
Mercury - 76-pound flasks	491	129,814
Nickel ore - short tons, nickel content	1,993	1/
Pumice and pumicite - short tons	67,852	177,515
Sand and gravel - short tons	13,229,781	14,183,024
Silver (recoverable content of ores, etc.) - fine oz.	14,335	12,974
Stone (except limestone for cement) - short tons	5,160,437	7,206,874
Undistributed: Carbon dioxide, cement, diatomite, gem stones, quartz, tungsten concentrates, and minerals whose value must be concealed for particular years (indicated in appropriate column by footnote 1).	---	9,439,205
Total Oregon	---	$32,223,000

1/ Value included with "Undistributed."

*Graph showing Oregon Mineral Production 1850-1954 on following page.

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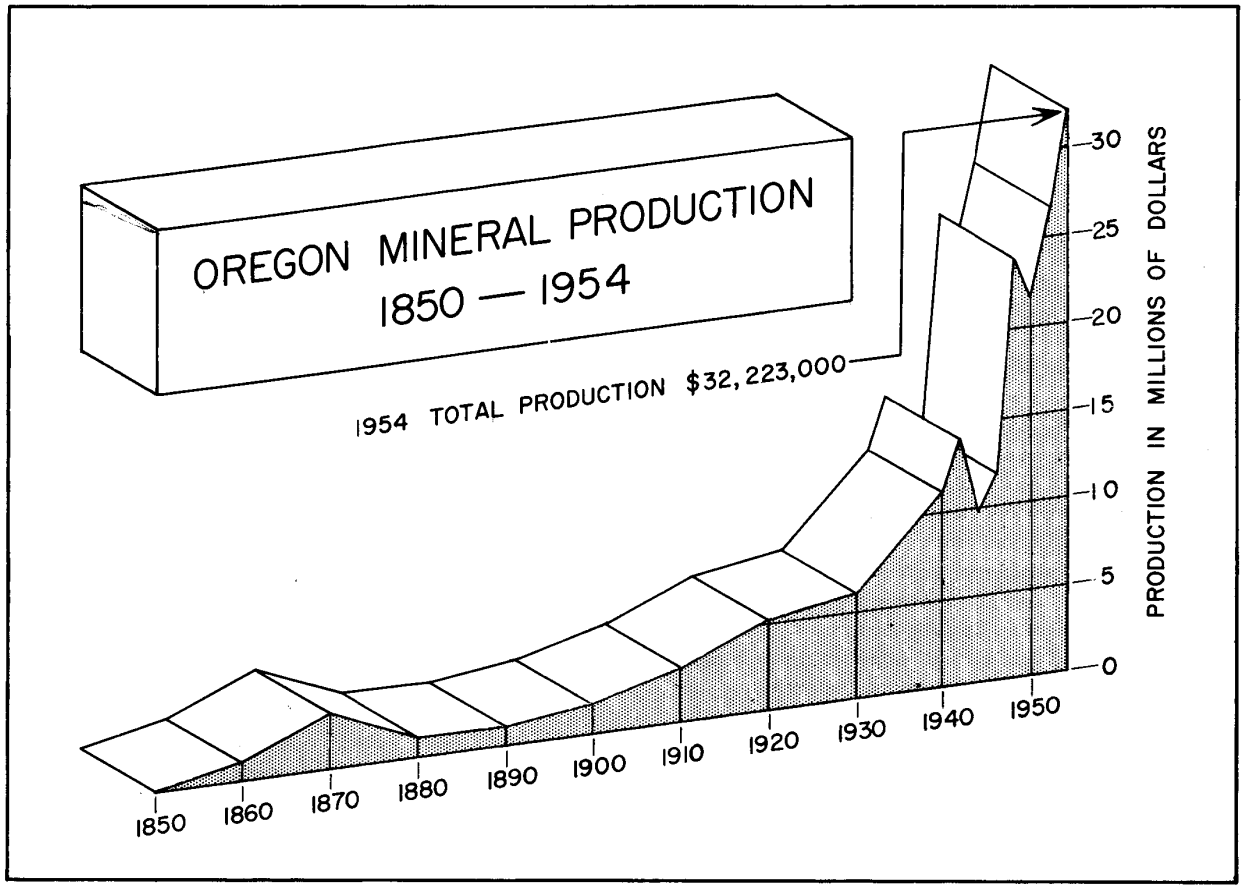

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CHROMITE PRODUCTION IN 1954

Chromite production in Oregon in 1954 totaled 6,665 short tons valued at $536,387, an increase of 7 percent tonnage and 11 percent value over 1953 figures. Preliminary estimates released in December 1954 of 10,000 short tons valued at about $785,000 erroneously included production figures of California producers. Production statistics for Oregon chromite in 1954 are given in the table below:

County	Number of Operations Reported	Value		Short Tons, Gross Weight		
		1953	1954	45% Cr_2O_3 and over	Under 45% Cr_2O_3	Total
Coos	-	$ 1,528	$ ---	---	---	---
Curry	8	64,947	94,236	1,051	30	1,081
Douglas	5	15,576	20,581	209	64	273
Grant	3	91,510	1/	1/	1/	1/
Jackson	3	1/	6,134	36	32	68
Josephine	19	292,007	256,888	2,303	952	3,255
Unassigned 2/	5	18,885	158,548	1,936	52	1,988
Totals	43	$484,453	$536,387	5,535	1,130	6,665

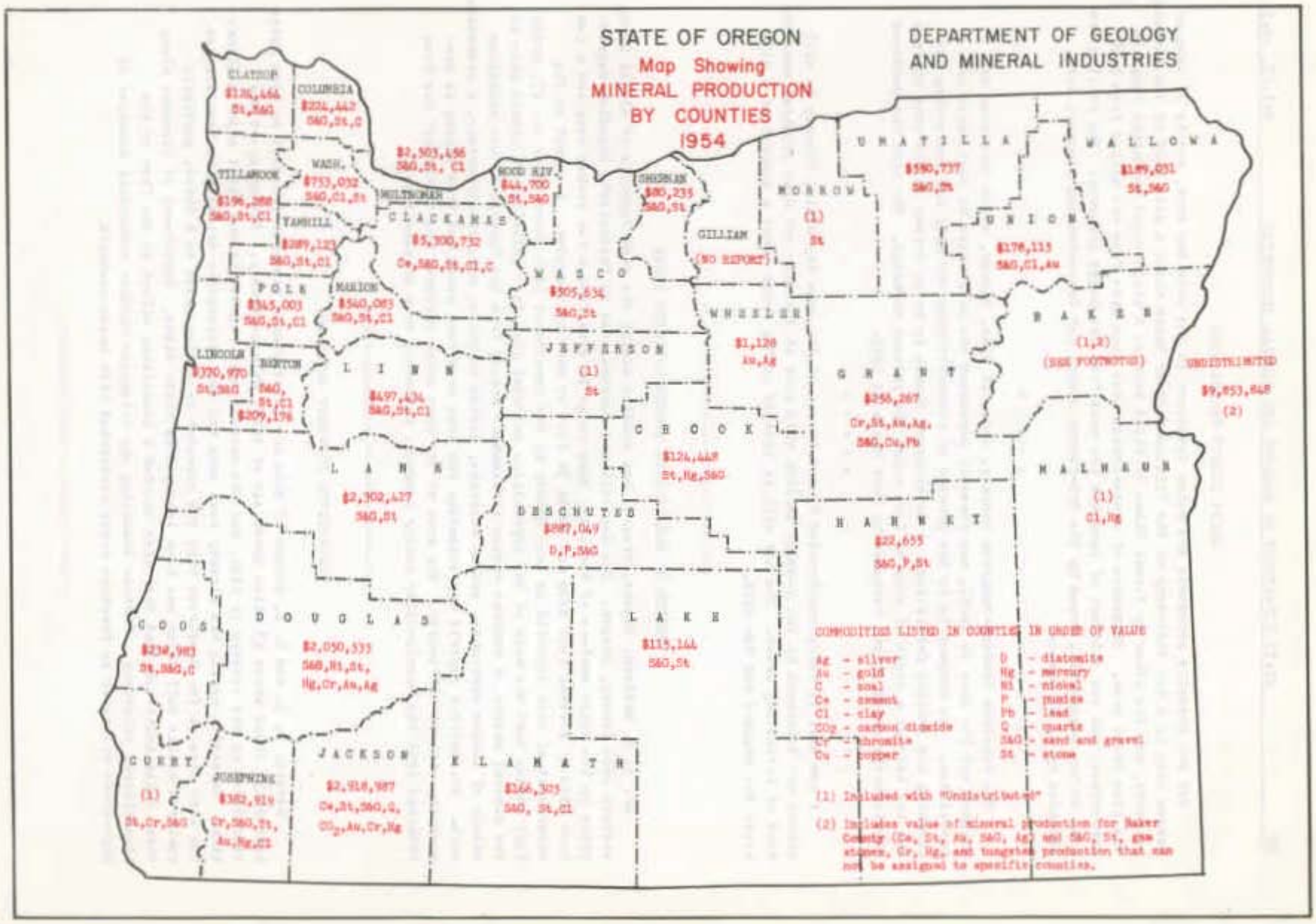
1/ Included with unassigned to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

2/ In addition to data under footnote 1/, includes value and production figures for operations for which county locations were not determined.

STATE OF OREGON

Map Showing MINERAL PRODUCTION BY COUNTIES 1954

DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY AND MINERAL INDUSTRIES



COMMODITIES LISTED IN COUNTIES IN ORDER OF VALUE

Ag - silver	D - diatomite
Au - gold	Hg - mercury
C - coal	Ni - nickel
Ce - cement	P - pumice
Cl - clay	Pb - lead
CO_2 - carbon dioxide	Q - quartz
Cr - chromite	Sand - sand and gravel
Cu - copper	St - stone

(1) Included with "Undistributed"

(2) Includes value of mineral production for Baker County (Ce, St, Au, Sand, Ag) and Sand, St, gem stones, Cr, Hg, and tungsten production that can not be assigned to specific counties.

GRANT COUNTY CHROME NEWS

Two new chromite prospects are being developed in the John Day area, one by Al Dunn of Canyon City at a new discovery on the William Gardner Ranch about a mile west of the Kingsley property, and the other by Vernal Ulman of Pilot Rock on a claim owned by Ronald Beggs in the Pine Creek area. Shipments of concentrates have been made from ore milled from both properties, and one shipment of lump ore was made from the Beggs property. The milling was done in the custom mill owned by the Tri-County Mining and Concentrating Company, Inc., operated by J. A. Curzon.

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The Comstock Uranium-Tungsten Company, Inc., of Elko, Nevada, which took over the Haggard and New mine in April, has recently purchased the mill built by Burt Hayes and associates. The Company is in the process of reconditioning the mill and increasing the crushing and tabling facilities. A development tunnel is being driven on the mine to open the ore body at a depth of some 40 feet below the present workings. The mine has produced consistently since it was reopened by Burt Hayes in 1953.

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A new mill is being constructed by Art Newman of the John Day Mining Company to mill chrome ore developed by the company earlier this year at the old Ward mine situated near the head of Little Dog Creek. The new mill is located on Dog Creek about a quarter of a mile below the Haggard and New mill.

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MINING OF ALKALI LAKE SODIUM DEPOSITS BEGUN

Mr. A. M. Matlock, Eugene, Oregon, has started mining the soda deposits of Alkali Lake, eastern Lake County, Oregon. The deposits are concentrated in "potholes", roundish depressions in the playa surface of the lake, that range in size from a few inches deep and a few feet wide to several feet deep and 20 to 30 feet or more in diameter. A report on the occurrence of soda deposits in Lake County by the Department (GMI Short Paper No. 17, price 15¢) states that the bulk of the crystalline material from the "potholes" of Alkali Lake is the mineral natron, a hydrous sodium carbonate. Brines from the "potholes" are solutions mainly of sodium carbonate, sodium chloride, sodium sulphate, and, subordinately, a potassium salt. Mr. Matlock reports approximately 100 tons have been mined and that mining is progressing without difficulty. The area of the lake which includes the "potholes" has been obtained from the Favell-Utley Realty Company, Lakeview, on a 10-year lease.

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QUICKSILVER PROPERTY EXPLORED

Messrs. B. E. and R. L. Jordan of Vale are developing a cinnabar prospect on Hope Butte near Bully Creek about 13 miles northwest of Vale, Malheur County. The prospect was discovered by the Jordans in 1951, but the current work represents the first major exploration. Extensive dozing has already been done and two exploratory drifts have been started. The work done so far discloses that the cinnabar is disseminated in a thick, partially opalized acidic tuff which has been intruded by basic dikes. Enrichment of cinnabar along these dikes indicates that they have exerted a localizing effect on the flow of the mineralizing solutions. Further tunneling may determine whether commercial tonnages of high-grade ore occur in fracture zones associated with these contacts.

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DOMESTIC METAL PRICES

From E&MJ Metal and Mineral Markets, September 15, 1955

Copper - 44.26 cents per pound, refinery (domestic average).
Lead - 15 cents per pound New York.
Zinc - 13 cents per pound East St. Louis.
Quicksilver - $260-265 per 76-pound flask New York.
Silver - (foreign) 90 3/4 cents per ounce New York; (domestic) 90 1/2 cents government price.
Aluminum - per pound f.o.b. shipping point (freight allowed) 30-pound ingot 99+ percent, 24.4 cents per pound; in pigs, 22.5 cents.
Antimony - 99½ percent grade, domestic, bulk, Laredo, 33 cents per pound.
Bismuth - $2.25 per pound in ton lots.
Cadmium - delivered, $1.70 per pound.
Cobalt - per pound in 500- to 600-pound containers, $2.60.
Cobalt ore - per pound of cobalt contained f.o.b. Cobalt, Ontario, 9-percent grade, $1.30; 10 percent $1.40.
Gallium - per gram in 1000-gram lots, $3.00.
Germanium - per pound $295.
Iridium - per ounce troy $100-110.
Lithium - per pound 98 percent $11-14.
Nickel - per pound electrolytic cathodes f.o.b. Port Colborne, Ontario, 64½ cents duty included.
Osmium - per ounce troy $80-100.
Palladium - per ounce troy $22-24.
Platinum - per ounce troy $91-94.
Selenium - per pound $9-10.
Titanium - per pound 99.3+ percent, maximum .3 percent iron, $3.95.
Titanium ore - per long ton, ilmenite 59.5 percent TiO_2 f.o.b. Atlantic Seaboard $20; rutile per pound, minimum 94 percent, concentrate 9-10 cents.
Tungsten - per pound 98.8 percent, minimum 1,000-pound lots, $4.50.
Zirconium - per pound, sponge, $10.

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LAKE COUNTY URANIUM CLAIMS LEASED

Thornburg Bros. Mining Company, Grand Junction, Colorado, are leasing both the White King and Lucky Lass uranium claims, Lake County. The White King claim, Oregon's first commercial-appearing uranium prospect, was discovered by John Roush and Don Tracy of Lakeview early this summer. The Lucky Lass claim nearby was owned by Bob Adams, Jr., and associates, Lakeview.

The Company is exploring both mines and at present has a drill at the White King. Underground development work is planned for this winter. If sufficient reserves are proved, it is expected that a mill will be built.

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SCHLICKER JOINS DEPARTMENT STAFF

Herbert G. Schlicker, formerly Assistant Soils Engineer for the State Highway Department, joined the Department as a geologist September 1. He graduated from Oregon State College in 1950 in Geology and obtained a Master's Degree in 1953. Subject for his thesis was "Columbia River basalt in relation to the stratigraphy of northwest Oregon." in addition to his experience with the State Highway Department, Mr. Schlicker worked in subsurface geology with the Texas Company in New Orleans.

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A TYPICAL PROSPECTOR

At this time when there is considerable pressure from certain governmental agencies and outdoor organizations for change in the mining laws because, according to them, the laws promote "timber grabs", "acquisition of free summer home sites", "stoppage of access roads", etc., etc., the impression is sometimes left that all miners and prospectors are opportunists whose motives and ethics should be questioned. The few offenders of the basic mining law (and it is believed that even they can be controlled if the law were properly enforced) are publicised as representative of the mining industry. The real miner and the real prospector, for whom the law was written in 1872, seldom receive favorable publicity.

An editorial in the Oregon Statesman, Salem, came to the attention of the editor recently and is reproduced below. Although "Tex" Peel never located the mother lode, his quest for metals is typical of the prospector, even today. And changes in the mining law would curtail this type of individual enterprise!

Ed.

A story in the Grants Pass Courier is reminiscent of the Old West, the West of the gold miners, which was far more glamorous than the West of beef cattle and cowboys. Only this story wasn't glamorous at all. It told that an 80-year-old gold miner, George "Tex" Peel" had been found dead in his lonely cabin. Even the place names are suggestive. "Tex" had a mine on "Bybee Gulch, above Hansen Gulch some five miles west of Cave Junction." His cabin was "on a tributary of Canyon Creek on the divide between Illinois and Chetco Riversheds." (The late Ernest Haycox surely could have made something out of this).

For 41 years Peel had sought the "mother lode" in Josephine County. He had filed in 1945 on the claim he was lately working. His death wasn't discovered until a fellow miner bringing him some provisions found his body - he evidently had suffocated when his bedding caught afire. He left no relatives, so under the authority of a deputy coroner they "blasted a grave in the rocky hillside and buried the old miner on the claim he had worked so long."

Perhaps down in Texas, where Peel was born in 1874, a few may speak now and then of a chap who went west years ago to seek his fortune, whose letters long since had ceased to come. Another gold miner reached the end of his life trail. He didn't find much of the gold that lured him through life, but he did find rest in the mountains that were his familiar friends.

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STOCKPILE ENDING?

Future stockpile programming may well be indefinite and shaky because of four factors: heavy industrial demands for hard-to-get materials going into the stockpile (aluminum, copper and nickel, for example); increasing desire by the Administration to balance the budget by election year; nearing completions on many materials on the stockpile schedule; and a rumored new concept in H-bomb wars, which would put a premium on immediate utilization of arms and equipment - opposed to the present stockpile program, which requires a longer conversion time of basic stockpiled materials into weapons and equipment.

(E&MJ Metal and Mineral Markets, September 15, 1955)

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TELEPHONE NUMBER CHANGED

Telephone number of the Department's office at Portland has been changed. The new number is CApitol 6-2161, extension 488. Telephone numbers for the Baker and Grants Pass offices remain the same. The Baker office number is JAckson 3-3133, and the Grants Pass number is GReenwood 6-2496.

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