

### Attempt Will Be Made To Mine Copper Ore

*Democrat 2-13-30*  
St. Joe, Feb. 13.—(Special.)—A test to determine the merits of the copper ore deposits in the Tomahawk country, 10 miles northeast of St. Joe, is shortly to be made, due to the efforts of George McLain, resident of Maumee, who owns a large acreage there.

In past years much copper ore has been mined in this territory in a crude way. The distance from the railroad and the rugged nature of the country have made the transportation of the ore too costly.

Before the Missouri & North Arkansas railroad came to this section, a crude smelter was built on the Tomahawk, and the first attempt at smelting the ore resulted in the mass running together into a solid chunk weighing two tons or more. The smelter was abandoned, and two or three years ago the solid mass produced by the smelter mysteriously disappeared.

A short time ago Mr. McLain interested Miles S. Proctor, a road contractor, in his project, and this week Proctor is moving one of his largest steam shovels onto the property to be used in uncovering the ledges which it is claimed are of rich copper ore. Mining men are watching the enterprise with interest, as some of the copper ore from the locality has assayed 40 per cent.

### Local Contractor Is Using Steam Shovel to Find Rich "Mother Lode" in Old Mine

*Democrat 3-25-30*  
St. Joe, March 25.—(Special.)—The rugged and desolate hills of northern Searcy county that more than three decades ago sounded with the hum of mining machinery, and the grinding of ore mills, and have not heard those sounds for the past 15 years, will experience them again if the high hopes of mining operators now at work 10 miles northeast of St. Joe are not in vain.

More than 40 years ago it was discovered that there were pocket deposits of copper in these hills, and mining was begun there. Soon the pockets yielded so abundantly and the ore proved to be so rich in copper, that mining was undertaken on a large scale. Finally machinery, then modern, was installed, ore mills were constructed, and smelters equipped. The mine, located in section 6-16-17, in Searcy county, came to be known as "The Copper Mine." The ore was mined, milled and smelted there, and the metal was hauled to the nearest railroad at Eureka Springs. Mule teams freighted the product over rough mountain roads, and for a time the mines operated at a profit.

In a few years the building of long tunnels into the hills and the apparent "playing out" of the deposits made the undertaking unprofitable, and for a time the mine suspended. Later it resumed under the management of Hackett & Miller, and with the coming of the Missouri & North Arkansas railroad, the ore and smelted copper were hauled to Gilbert and the mines operated at a profit for a short time.

During the World war, when the zinc and copper mines of this section were being operated to capacity, little towns sprung up around the mines. With the post-war deflation, all these mines closed down and the copper mine with them.

At the larger mines there were buildings housing on an average of \$100,000 worth of machinery each. Following the shut-down after the war, these buildings gradually became dilapidated and began to rot down, while the costly machinery rusted and became a pile of debris. Last year, County Assessor Albert Horton readjusted the valuation on a number of these mining properties.

### Three-Ton Ore Deposit Found Steam Shovel Working Old Copper Mine, Seeks Main Ledge.

St. Joe, April 24.—(Special.)—A chunk of copper ore weighing three tons and assaying above 40 per cent copper was unearthed by the big steam shovel which is being operated by Miles Proctor, Little Rock road contractor, at an old copper mine, seven miles northeast of St. Joe, this week.

For several weeks this steam shovel has been tearing through the old caved-in tunnels of the mine and into the mountain in search of the "mother lode," which it is believed will be found at a lower level than that on which the mine was at one time operated.

Properties which had previously been carried on the books at \$50,000 were cut down to the value of the bare land, which averaged about \$5 an acre. There always has been a belief among mining men that the rich pockets of zinc, copper and lead ores which have been mined here in the past, sprung from some "mother" lode, and that when these parent deposits were finally located, rich mines would be developed.

**Contract Is Let.**  
Recently George McClain of Maumee, W. W. Fendley of Marshall and Gus Sawyer became possessed of the 120 acres comprising the old "Copper Mine" property, and have contracted with a road contractor, Miles Proctor of Little Rock, to make extensive excavations. Now a steam shovel is eating its way through the hills and bluffs penetrated by the tunnels of the old mines. Rich chunks of ore are being found, assaying from 38 to 44 per cent pure copper. Some pockets are being found containing a half ton of this rich ore.

But the new owners are not satisfied with the finding of the pockets. The shovel is digging deeper into the earth, seeking the mother lode. Soon drills will also be started. The present market for copper makes it certain that if a substantial ledge is struck, the mine will be very rich, so high have been the assays of the detached pieces that have been found. Mr. Proctor is in immediate charge of the operations.

The reopening of the old "Copper Mine" is to be followed, it is reliably reported, by the opening of the zinc and lead mines north of St. Joe, which have been inoperative since the World war. Local mine owners have refused to sell their properties, maintaining that with lower labor costs and cheaper hauling to the railroad as the result of good roads, that the mines can be profitably operated by digging into the pocket formations, even if the deeper ledges are not located. However, several will start drills to test out the formations on their properties, and each one in hoping to locate the deeper and richer deposits which they believe they will find.

This mine and others in the neighborhood were operated at a profit for many years, but were temporarily suspended a few years ago. It is said that these mines depended for their operation too much on pockets of ore which were soon mined out. The present operations at the old copper mine are to discover the main ledges.

The property has been acquired by George McClain of Maumee and W. W. Fendley of Marshall, who have interested Mr. Proctor in the project of opening the mine. The pockets which are now being opened are increasing in size and richness, and those interested in the project are enthusiastic.

### Exact Value of Each Grade Of Coal Shown in New Classification

(Science Service.)

New York.—Exact specifications for every type of coal can now be had to show the household and industrial consumer the actual value of his purchases.

After seven years of effort towards complete classification, charts and tables have been published by the American Standards Association, which list in everyday terms the different grades of coal and tell their respective values as fuels.

In ordering coal the cautious buyer can for the first time be assured of the quality and texture of his purchase by listing the specifications for whatever grade is adapted to his uses. The hit and miss method of buying is eliminated.

For instance, "(62-146)na" on an order blank would mean a coal containing 62 per cent of fixed carbon, that part of the coal which determines its heating capacity, and 14,600 units of heat per pound. The parenthesis indicates that the coal is to be mineral-free, while "na" means non-agglutinating, that is, that the lumps will not stick together. These tables, in which the four main types, anthracite, bituminous, subbituminous and lignite, are divided up into 13 grades, show all the characteristics of the various kinds, with symbols to represent each characteristic.

The specifications will be used by the NRA as a basis for classifying the output of mines.

In purchasing the 500,000,000 tons yearly output of over 6,000 mines in this country the average industrial or household consumer formerly had very little idea about the properties of coal which should be scientifically tabulated to show the one best adapted to any particular use. For over 100 years many systems of classifying coal have been used, but none has been adopted generally.

