

Shipments Of Gypsum Increase

Special to the Gazette. 12-12-37

Delight, Dec. 11.—U. B. Lewis, who for the past 18 months has been trucking gypsum from Highland in large quantities is now shipping the product by rail. His present demand calls for about 15 to 20 cars a month.

Gypsum is used extensively in the manufacture of cement, wall board and many other items in common use.

It is estimated that millions of tons of this product are within a short distance of Highland and that because of the increasing demand the movement will be increased greatly within the near future. A new dock for loading into cars has just been completed.

Chance for Small In dustries Seen in Gypsum Deposits of Ark ansas

Widely Used In Variety of Manufactures

Products Range From
Building Needs to
Bric-a-Brac.

Outlets Expanding
Democrat 4-10-38
State's Deposits High in
Quality, Geologist
Says.

A wide range of products, some necessary, others handy, and many ornamental, is taken from a kind of limestone that Mother Nature thoughtfully included in the make-up of Arkansas.

This limestone is called gypsum, and it serves Mr. and Mrs. John Citizen in almost as many ways as they are cracked down on for taxes.

You may have seen gypsum in one of its common forms, a chalky, flour-like material known as plaster of Paris. It got that name from the most noted gypsum quarry in the world, near Paris, France.

Plaster of Paris, when moistened, will harden quickly, and that fact,

along with its plastic nature, its fine texture, and other qualities, gives the material no end of valuable uses.

If there are breaks in your walls when the paper hangers come, they mend the damage with plaster of Paris. It is mixed with glue and shaped into fancy designs on the cornices of stucco work. It is cast into statuettes and bric-a-brac, and helps to put the glaze on porcelain.

Useful to Dentist.

If you are measured for a set of teeth, the dentist will take your "impression" with plaster of Paris. You may buy a coarse form of it, called "land plaster," to condition your garden soil, or that field where you aim to plant alfalfa. The surgeon uses plaster of Paris to make a cast for a broken leg.

But the largest demand for this material is for blending into cement. A fair-sized cement mill requires hundreds of tons of it every month, and the cement-making industry thus provides a huge market for the output of gypsum quarries.

Arkansas has important deposits of gypsum in the vicinity of the Little Missouri river, running generally east and west along the flow of that stream, according to Dr. George Branner, state geologist.

The deposits are thinner than are found in Oklahoma and Texas, Dr. Branner said, which increases the cost of working them. But he added that they have a depth of 10 to 14 feet in some places, and are of excellent quality. He thinks there are opportunities for small industries using this material and manufacturing for the home market, in which they would be protected to an extent by the cost of shipping competing products from outside sources.

Growing in Southwest.

Some gypsum has been quarried in the state, but not in a very large way, and the deposits remain little developed. The best known deposits are in Pike and Howard counties, Dr. Branner said.

In Texas and Oklahoma, industries using gypsum are expanding on a considerable scale, and an account in Farm and Ranch of the products they are turning out may have value in suggesting possibilities of small industries drawing on the Arkansas deposits. The article says in part:

"Gypsum products have given us new ideas in home and office building construction. They are particularly adapted to inexpensive but substantial and satisfactory improvements and construction of farm buildings.

"Wallboard of gypsum for remodeling kitchens and other interiors, which is now being encouraged by extension services in kitchen and bedroom contests, is being extensively used. It is easily put in place by any person who can use a hammer and saw. It can be painted, papered or decorated in various other ways to suit the taste of the housewife, and it is fireproof as well as an insulator against cold and heat.

"Gypsum wallboard also finds its place in construction and remodeling of chicken houses and other out-buildings on the farm.

"Today we find gypsum fireproof walls, gypsum lath on which is applied plaster made of gypsum. We use gypsum in making wall boards, vermin and fireproof; in other forms for the correction of the acoustics of music halls and other rooms; as a sound deadener and as a tile used in construction work. It is used in wood fillers and in numerous other ways.

Helps Save Land.

"One of the latest experiments in the use of gypsum is in soil conservation work in the wind-blown areas of the country. It has been observed that the least obstruction halts the drifting of top soil. Therefore, in this experiment terraces were constructed and gypsum was spread along the tops of the ridges. When it set, it held the terraces and acted as an obstruction to the moving soil. The gypsum coating is easily broken and when cultivated, is quickly absorbed into the soil during the wet seasons.

"Gypsum is also beneficial in conditioning acid soils. In this respect it is especially beneficial in the production of legumes when used as a top dressing. The peanut industry in some sections of the country is a large user of gypsum. Gypsum is used with great success wherever a soil floculant or loosener is needed and wherever the soil is deficient in calcium.

"The development of new products and new uses for gypsum is not uncommon. While its uses are numerous and varied at the present time, no one can say what the future holds for the industry in the way of new and useful commodities made from this mineral, the deposits of which are so abundant in the Southwest."

Gypsum Deposits Sought In South Arkansas.

1-6-39

The Arkansas Geological Survey wants to find several large deposits of gypsum in southern Arkansas, with the virtual assurance that a new mining industry can be opened in the state if the deposits are located.

Geologist George C. Branner expressed conviction yesterday deposits of "considerable size" could be found in Pike and Howard counties, if the state had sufficient cash to go prospecting. The United States Gypsum Company advised more than two years ago that it is seeking deposits west of the Mississippi river in sufficient size to justify large scale mining, he said.

Gypsum is being mined in small volume in Pike and Howard counties.

Dr. Branner's office is preparing an application for a WPA project to conduct the prospecting work. It is estimated the work would require about 12 men. Gypsum is used in plasters, to retard setting of cement, and for other purposes.

Committee Approves Reduced Rate on Gypsum.

9-8-39 Gazette

T. E. Wood, chief of the Rates and Transportation Division of the Arkansas Corporation Commission, returned yesterday from St. Louis, Mo., where approval for a reduction in rates on shipments of gypsum from Highland and Murfreesboro was obtained from the Executive Committee of railroads operating in the Southwest.

The proposal had been disapproved by the General Freight Committee of the Southwestern Freight Bureau, from which appeal was taken to the Executive Committee, before which Mr. Wood was a witness.

He explained approval of the Southern Freight Association must be obtained before the rates can become effective. Under the proposed reductions, gypsum could be shipped from Highland and Murfreesboro to Birmingham and North Birmingham, Ala., for \$4 a net ton and from the two Arkansas towns to Spocari, Ala., for \$3.60 a net ton. The present rate is based on a combination through Memphis and is \$4.80 a ton.

Mr. Wood said introduction of the reduced rates would result in increased operation of the Pike county gypsum mines, giving employment to many persons. Shipments, which have been few in past years because of high freight rates, would be increased to 15 to 20 cars a week, he said.

Railroads Prepare to Reduce Intrastate Gypsum Rates.

1-25-40 Gazette

Advised that railroads are preparing to inaugurate greatly reduced rates for transportation of gypsum rock from one Arkansas point to another, the Arkansas Corporation Commission yesterday postponed until February 7 a scheduled hearing on an application for reductions similar to those proposed.

A rate expert estimated the reductions would average about 50 per cent of present charges. The new tariff, reportedly approved by the Southwestern Freight Bureau, probably will be submitted to the state commission for approval within a few days.

The application for reduced rates was filed several weeks ago by M. W. Greeson and V. B. Lewis of Prescott, who have extensive gypsum mining interests in Pike county. They complained that lack of carload commodity rates for shipment of gypsum intrastate forced them to pay "class" rates, considerably higher than commodity rates, on shipments of crude gypsum.

Gypsum In Pike County Explored

4-12-40

The U. S. Gypsum Company of Chicago is exploring exhaustively gypsum deposits in Pike county, state Geologist George C. Branner disclosed yesterday. A crew of workmen employed on the state mineral survey discovered gypsum ranging in thickness from three to 24 feet while making drilling tests in the area. He said tests had shown the deposit was two miles long and half a mile wide.

Gypsum is hydrous calcium sulphate. It is used as a dressing for soils and for making plaster of paris.

Survey Report Utilized.

The state survey was called to attention of the Chicago company by M. W. Greeson of Prescott, president of the Murfreesboro-Nashville Railway Company and a member of the state Flood Control Commission.

"On March 26, this company unloaded a Sullivan core drill at Mur-

freesboro to use in making a thorough exploration of the gypsum area and began drilling on that date," Dr. Branner said. "The company is prepared to drill to a depth of 250 feet, thus thoroughly exploring the lower levels in the district. Four holes have been completed."

The state mineral survey, sponsored by the Arkansas Geological Survey, has had a crew of its workers drilling test holes since September 19 last year.

Extent of Deposit Determined.

"This drilling program," Dr. Branner said, "has determined the areal extent, thickness and amount of overburden of this gypsum deposit. Before this survey only a few details of size and thickness of the gypsum deposit were known. The state mineral survey, under the direction of its project engineer, R. E. Vandruff, has drilled 16 prospect holes of an average depth of 60 feet.

"After completion of the field work, an estimate of the available tonnage of gypsum and the amount of overburden at any given point will be made. Elevation of the gypsum is being determined in each drill hole and a contour map of the gypsum will be made."