

# Arkansans Buy Titanium Plant

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Arkansas capital has gained possession of the state's only mining and milling plant for the production of titanium, a strategic war metal which is a necessary alloy for steel, it was learned yesterday.

As result of the purchase of a milling plant and mining property at Magnet Cove, Hot Spring county, by four Arkansas investors, the Magnet Cove Rutile Company was incorporated yesterday and papers filed in the office of Secretary of State C. G. Hall.

The investors—J. W. Ramsey and J. C. Cuffman, Malvern business men; P. C. Upton, Little Rock independent bauxite producer, and state Geologist Joe W. Kimzey—purchased the Magnet Cove property at a sale to execute a Hot Spring Circuit Court judgment, for \$29,500 Thursday.

The property was put on sale as the result of a judgment for \$370,000 and interest obtained by interests connected with the Titanium Alloy Manufacturing Company of America, who held notes of the Titanium Alloy Company of Arkansas.

The Titanium Alloy Company of Arkansas, which was controlled by the larger company, recently completed installation of a mill which cost an estimated \$300,000. More recently it began mining rutile, the titanium ore.

The larger company is said to have controlled the Magnet Cove property, consisting of about 600 acres, early in the century. In 1932 a Tulsa, Okla., group obtained possession and produced the mineral for several years. Titanium of

Arkansas obtained possession about two years ago.

Capital of \$31,000.

The company incorporated yesterday began business with paid-in capital of \$31,000. Its officers are Mr. Ramsey, president; Mr. Cuffman, secretary-treasurer, and Mr. Upton, general manager. Mr. Upton said last night he would divide his time between bauxite mining work here and the titanium mine at Magnet Cove.

Operation of the Magnet Cove mine and mill was continued without interruption after purchase of the property last week. Approximately 30 men on the job are producing an average of three and a half tons of titanium daily. The mill has a capacity for 20 tons.

Ten-Year-Supply.

An estimated 10-year supply of the mineral lies in the ground at the Hot Spring county mine, only one in the state and one of the few in this country. The other principal source of domestic titanium is in Florida, but the country depends for much of its supply on foreign sources.

Besides being an alloy of steel, the mineral is one of the principal ingredients of welding torches, which consume much of present production. Titanium also is used as a paint pigment.

## Public Informed Of Titanium, New Metal

Chicago, Feb. 28 (AP).—Titanium, a wartime secret laboratory metal curiosity, was given a public unveiling by the United States Bureau of Mines today.

R. S. Dean, assistant director of the bureau, said titanium is fit for commercial use and predicted its rise to a position comparable with aluminum and steel. Under present conditions he said titanium would cost about \$1 a pound to manufacture.

These are the properties and advantages of titanium: Weighs less than aluminum and is about one-half the weight of steel, in comparable strength; in volume aluminum is about three times the size of an equally strong piece of titanium and steel, about twice the size; titanium is the fifth most common element on earth and is widely dispersed throughout the globe.

Production of titanium by the Bureau of Mines has reached 500 pounds a week.

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