

MINERAL RESOURCE SURVEY OF TEXAS
Circular No. 1

A mineral resource survey of Texas has been started by the Works Progress administration, the Bureau of Economic Geology of The University of Texas acting as sponsor. The purpose of the survey is to assemble information available to the public. The project was approved in November 1936, and the funds became available in December 1935. The first counties to get actually underway under the project were those of District No. 9, where four counties—Burnet, Lee, Milam, and Travis—were started on January 27, 1936. At the present time, the mineral resource survey is in progress in thirteen counties as follows: Bell, Bexar, Burnet, Eastland, Falls, Glasscock, Lee, Limestone, Milam, Robertson, Taylor, and Travis. Arrangements for starting the survey have been largely completed in fifteen other counties. Through a separate project, sponsored by the State Planning Board, the results of the survey, as they are received in Austin, are being assembled for publication. The mineral resource survey is helping in the location of mineral products, from some of which it is reasonable to suppose industries of value to the State may be developed.

Road Building Materials

In practically all counties of the State useful information as to the location of road-building materials can be given to the County Commissioners and others carrying on the road-building program. Such information has already been given in some of the counties where the mineral resource survey is being made. In Travis and other counties, the terrace stream deposits containing gravel and sand are being studied and mapped.

Mineral and Mineral Products

In Bexar County, the greensand stratum found on Leon Creek, west of Kelly Field, has been examined and sampled. This greensand is now being used in treating water which requires softening. It also contains potash, an element which is valuable as a fertilizer. Mr. R. A. Jones, supervisor in this county, finds that the greensand stratum has a thickness of 90 feet. Mr. Jones says, "The greensand practically comprises hills south or west of Leon Creek and should it in the future be utilized on a large scale commercially it would be dug up at the surface by stripping with steam shovels."

Examination of building stone will be made in counties containing rock promising for this purpose. Building stone projects are now being opened in Travis and Burnet counties. Kaolin deposits are being examined in the Coastal Plain counties.

In Burnet County, an examination has been made of the asphalt deposits in the Cretaceous rock at Post Mountain and of the graphite deposits and copper veins. Dr. V. E. Barnes, supervisor in Burnet County, believes that the graphite beds could be used in working out the complicated structural conditions in the Precambrian rock of this region.

Inquiries as to Mineral Products in Texas

Inquiries relating to Texas mineral resources are received from time to time at The University of Texas. The following extracts from letters received since this survey was started will serve to indicate the wide interest in Texas mineral resources.

The Monett Clay Company, P. O. Box 291, Monett, Missouri:

"We are having so many inquiries from oil refineries for a fuller's earth clay, that it has become necessary that we enlarge our scope and include this clay in our production."

The Hartford-Empire Company, Hartford, Connecticut:

"In the interests of our customers, we are collecting information on sources of glass-making raw materials within your State. Therefore, we should like to learn how to obtain information regarding their location, extent, and approximate annual output."

The Filtrrol Company, 315 West Fifth Street, Los Angeles, California:

"This company is particularly interested in deposits of fuller's earth and bentonite, suitable for decolorizing or absorbent purposes. It will be greatly appreciated if you will supply us with information regarding the proposed survey, in order that we may be able to keep in touch with progress from time to time."

The Refinite Company, Omaha, Nebraska:

"We are interested in obtaining samples of clays, which would not only be available in commercial quantities, but also close to water transportation and workable. We would be interested in clays which carry roughly 20% alumina to 40%, or even 50%, silica, and as low a calcium carbonate content as possible."

C. J. Koenig, Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio:

"At the request of the United States Potters' Association we are undertaking a comprehensive investigation on the use of syenites in ceramic bodies. The supplies of the better grades of feldspars are rapidly becoming depleted and the potters are therefore looking for a substitute. We would greatly appreciate any information relative to such deposits in your state and to their distance from suitable means of transportation."

J. D. Kerr, Jr., Development Agent, Industrial Development Department, Missouri-Kansas-Texas Lines, Saint Louis, Missouri:

"Our Company is deeply interested in these mineral surveys. Our department is devoted to the development of raw materials in the territory we serve and has a definite use for the information developed by these surveys. We are 'selling' Texas resources all the time and these mineral surveys provide us with a valuable source of 'ammunition'."