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The information contained in this circular was gathered by a unit of the WPA State-wide Mineralogical Survey of Texas, a project sponsored by The University of Texas Bureau of Economic Geology. The purpose of this survey is to assemble information concerning mineral resources and to gather other geological data and make them available to the public. With this information in the hands of the public, it is reasonable to suppose that industries of value to the State may be developed. The following report is based on work done in Llano County by Work Project No. 18047.

POULTRY GRIT FROM GRANITE  
A New Industry in Texas\*/

By Carl Chelf, Supervisor

In quarrying granite, a great deal of material is handled which is below the proper specifications for dimension stone either because of size, incipient flaws, or discoloration. This material constitutes the grout and it is thrown aside. In the past there has been no market for this other than locally because of the shipping costs, and indeed it has often been an encumbrance at the quarries. The use of a great deal of this waste, properly ground and graded, is not new, but it is only recently that a plant has been established in Texas, The Llano Granite Products Company, to manufacture poultry grit, and a steady market is being developed in Texas which utilizes about a carload of the finished product a week. The mill is located near Llano in Llano County, Texas, at a gray granite quarry owned by G. A. Parkinson. The trade name of the poultry grit is Granitex. The mill has a capacity of a carload a day, and four sizes of crushed stone are milled.

Millling.--Granite chips roughly 6 x 12 inches in size are fed to a jaw crusher and the material falls into a cellar or bin. It is lifted by a belt and bucket conveyor; dropped on a perforated steel plate screen actuated by an eccentric. This screen removes most of the pebbles too large for the second set of graduated wire mesh screens below, which are arranged in the following sizes in the order named: 1/32", 1/16", 1/8", 3/16", and 1/4". Material passing these openings falls into storage bins below. Sizes passing the 1/32" are discarded. Gravels passing 1/16" are for chicks, 1/8" for pullets, 3/16" for hens, 1/4" for turkeys. Pebbles too large to pass the upper steel plate screen and the graduated sizes below are returned by way of the slightly inclined screens to a roller mill which further reduces them. The material falls into the mill bin whereupon it is carried to the screens once more by the conveyor. The four sizes are packed in 100-pound bags.

Heretofore granite poultry grit used in Texas, amounting possibly to 100 carloads per year, has been shipped in from Georgia and North Carolina. The production of poultry grit in Texas is a natural outgrowth of the granite quarry industry of the State and may be expected to continue and expand with the increasing development of the poultry industry.

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