

## Output of Nation's Gold-Silver Mines Slumps Due to War Curbs

Production of silver in the United States totaled 5,895,000 ounces in September compared with 6,005,000 ounces in August and 8,071,000 ounces in September, 1943, according to the U. S. Bureau of Mines. Of the September total, 3,604,000 ounces were of foreign origin and 2,291,000 ounces came from domestic sources. In September a year ago 5,285,000 ounces were of foreign origin and 2,786,000 ounces domestic.

For the first nine months of 1944 silver production aggregated 58,633,000 ounces with 29,601,000 ounces from foreign sources and 29,032,000 ounces domestic. In the like period of 1943 the total production was 73,136,000 ounces, of which 39,829,000 ounces were foreign and 33,307,000 ounces domestic.

Gold production in the United States is headed for another low record with the probability that 1944 output will aggregate around 1,000,000 ounces. This would be the lowest production since before the California gold rush. The previous low was in 1943 when the output totaled 1,365,223 ounces. The top was in 1940 with an output in excess of 6,000,000 ounces.

The mining of gold was stopped at the start of the war except where mined in conjunction with a strategic metal. Although there recently has been some easing of the restrictions, they have not helped production materially.

According to the American Bureau of Metal Statistics, U. S. gold production for the first nine months amounted to 755,998 ounces against 1,168,470 in the like 1943 period.

Canada's gold output in 1944, it is estimated, will reach around 2,950,000 ounces, which would compare with 3,652,376 ounces in 1943. South African gold production this year, it is thought, will run close to 12,350,000 ounces as compared with 12,799,518 ounces in 1943.

## Texaco Men On Leave To Get Bonds

SUNBURST.—A Christmas gift of a \$100 war savings bond will be purchased during the sixth war loan drive for each of the more than 5,000 employees of the Texas company on military leave of absence, according to word received here by W. G. Copeland, refinery superintendent, from the company's president, Harry T. Klein. Approximately 54 Texaco employees from this district who are on military leave will receive bonds this Christmas.

More than 5,000 Texaco men and women are now serving with the armed forces. A number have been promoted from the ranks to become officers. Many have been decorated for bravery. One has received the congressional medal of honor.

Last year each Texaco employe on military leave received a \$50 war bond at Christmas.

### TWO TRIES

"I hear you had a date with Siamese twins last night. Have a good time?"  
"Well, yes and no."

### THE AGE OF SPEED

Down in South America they have discovered a sheep that can run 60 miles an hour.

It takes that kind of lamb to keep up with Mary nowadays.

## MOTORISTS WARNED OF GAS RULING

Motorists who use gasoline illegally to travel to winter resorts face the loss of their mileage rations, the Office of Price Administration warns.

Administrator Chester Bowles said that OPA is now preparing an enforcement program to prevent illegal use of rations in winter vacation travel. Motorists who misuse their rations, he said, will be called before hearing commissioners who have the power to revoke not only the supplemental "B" or "C" rations, but basic "A" rations as well.

In a communication today to local War Price and Rationing boards throughout the nation, OPA reviewed the mileage regulations governing vacation travel to resorts and pointed out that boards must deny gasoline for this purpose.

Bowles recalled that many thousands of drivers were stranded with their cars in Florida and other winter resort areas last spring because ration boards could not issue mileage rations to them for the return trip north. In addition, he said, local boards in many states revoked rations of hundreds of motorists who used gasoline illegally to reach resort areas.

"Last winter," Bowles said, "thousands of irresponsible people anxious to obtain special advantage for themselves went to their local boards and pleaded that they were changing their occupation and moving their residence permanently to southern resort cities. Hundreds even presented 'documentary proof' in the form of letters and telegrams, many of which turned out to be phony evidence. These people assured that after their winter vacations were over they could go to the southern ration boards, claim that they were again moving their permanent residence because of a change in occupation, and obtain rations for the trip back north."

"Our OPA ration boards in Florida and other southern states very rightly refused to issue gasoline for the return trip, and as a result many thousands of drivers were stranded. And many of these people, when they did return home, were called before their local boards for hearings on charges that they had used their rations illegally to go south."

"I am sure that again we can count on the vast majority of motorists to abide by the regulations so that everyone may have his fair share of the available civilian gasoline supplies. But to the few who seek to obtain unfair advantage, I want to say that this winter we are strengthening our ration revocation procedure still further."

## State Talc Mine Rated as One Supplying Vital Wartime Need

Rated as one of the world's most important mines, from a war need standpoint, is a block talc property now being operated 25 miles south of Ennis in Madison county, by L. F. Teutsch, 47, former tool salesman.

First shipment of the talc, some found in blocks weighing 100 pounds or more, was made in 1942 to a laboratory in Tennessee, with tests demonstrating that the Montana talc was superior to any from Germany or Italy, previously the only sources of supply.

There was an instant demand for the full output of the mine, since the talc was found superior to any other in insulating the interior of tubes used in radar and other war devices.

Initial shipments were made by express, in thousand-pound lots. So great was the need for the talc that bureau of mines engineers were assigned the task of doing exploratory work in an effort to uncover a greater supply.

Their quest was successful and during the past three months the mine has produced and shipped 90 tons, filling two freight cars.

Talc from the Montana mine is said to be more desirable than any other in the world because it is very low in iron and calcium, unlike most of that previously imported from Germany and Italy, and hence does not crack when heated, making it ideal for the lining of radar and radio tubes.

Even after the war ends, demand for talc from this mine is expected to continue, with expansion of the use of electronic tubes in normal industry.

## ADDITIONAL RED TAPE ELIMINATED

Petroleum operators are no longer required to report surplus stocks of any critical materials except tubular goods.

It will be necessary to report surplus stocks of tubular goods when the surplus, at an individual location or stockpile, is in excess of 1,000 feet of casing, tubing, or pipe from two to eight inches in internal diameter, or in excess of 500 feet of tubular goods over eight inches in diameter. Surpluses of refinery and of distribution and marketing materials need not be reported. Before the amendment, petroleum operators were required to report surplus material of all kinds.

## Texaco Lands Casing In Test Near Conrad

The Texas company has landed pipe at 1990 in its No. 1 Howde, wildcat two miles northeast of Conrad, and is scheduled to drill in within the next few days. Location is C NW NE SW 8-28-2W.

### Oil Trade Notes

Two amendments providing for the restoration to gasoline dealers and distributors of legitimate inventory losses are announced by the Office of Price Administration.

The first amends the existing procedures for replenishment of gasoline losses by accident or normal handling, or accidental losses of coupons, to allow dealers a second chance to take advantage of this procedure if they did not know of the rules in time to apply within the period allowed.

The second provides a method by which dealers who have received counterfeit or other invalid coupons, in spite of taking all reasonable precautions to prevent this, may be "bailed out" within limitations for debits entered against their inventories as a result of passing on these invalid coupons to their suppliers.

Between them, the two amendments are expected to straighten out the bulk of the inventory problems that rationing has brought gasoline dealers.

Gasoline dealers and distributors will get a second chance to take advantage of existing rules for recovery of accidental losses of inventory if they did not know of the rules in time to apply within the period specified, the Office of Price Administration has announced.

This second chance is provided by an amendment to the gasoline rationing regulations authorizing OPA district directors to waive the three-months limitation set for this type of application and to accept applications for shortages that occurred more than three months ago, if an applicant can show either that he did not know of the replenishment provisions or that he did not know of the three-months limitation.

### M-SCOPE and MT-SCOPE

For locating of ore bodies, veins, pockets and faults.

FREE LITERATURE upon request. Also contracted geophysical surveys. Latest pamphlet on geophysical prospecting, illustrated for mining engineers and prospectors, postpaid for 50 cents.

You cannot afford to be without this information.

Fisher Research Laboratory  
Palo Alto, California

## Shows Every Montana Wildcat-- Now Revised to October 1!

This is the best buy we have ever seen in a map—James C. Bransford's painstaking effort—showing the location, the depth and results found in EVERY ONE of Montana's more than 900 wildcat wells!!! We have sold more than 30 since we first advertised them a few weeks ago—and every buyer is more than pleased with them. Gives at a glance, information that would otherwise require weeks of research. In addition to wildcats, shows boundaries and county seats, and includes two comprehensive cross sections. Covers 36 by 50 inches, with all information clearly legible. Every item checked with files of the Montana Oil Conservation Board. May be seen at our office. Invaluable to those who want a quick comprehensive method of acquainting themselves with Montana's oil development to date. Per copy, \$5—and worth much more.

### MONTANA OIL JOURNAL

SUPPLY DEPARTMENT

518 First Avenue South

Great Falls, Montana

# Ingersoll-Rand MINING EQUIPMENT

Compressors (15 to 90 Horsepower sizes)

Holsts	Hand Shankng Devices
Sinker Drills	Centrifugal Pumps
Stopehammer Drills	Drifter Drills
Jackhammer Mountings	Pneumatic Grinders
Jackbit Grinders	Jackbits
Jackrods and Drill Steel	Jackmills
Rock Drill Mountings	

Hand Blacksmith Tools—for Bits and Shanks  
Oil Furnaces — for Forging and Tempering

INGERSOLL-RAND ACCESSORIES OF ALL KINDS

## MONTANA HARDWARE CO.

BUTTE — GREAT FALLS