Manganese Trials Reported by Bureau

As indicative of the new development in the production of domestic manganese, the U. S. Bureau of mines recently answered an inquiry from an Oregon congressman, stating that trial runs of manganese were successfully made on ore containing as little as 10 percent manganese.

A pilot plant is now being constructed in Tennessee under a U. S. patent and license from the department of the interior by the Electro Manganese Corporation, Minneapolis. Says the bureau of mines in regard to the trials: "The electrolytic method may utilize low-grade ores. It has been established that it can be successfully operated on ores containing as low as 10 percent manganese. However, this plant runs at a cost in excess of larger plants and also at a cost higher than those producing ferromanganese from ferro-grade ores.

"Costs of a plant this size (one ton per day) may exceed 20 cents a pound."

Indicative of the many deposits of manganese found in Baker mining districts is the finding of a good sized body of this ore five miles northwest of Whitney last week by J. W. Brinkerhoff on the Black Dragon claim. The samples of the ore brought in to town show a heavy percentage of manganese, assaying about 40 percent. This deposit is not many miles by an easy road to a rail point and the owners are seeking to send samples to some of the larger metallurgical interests in an attempt to interest them.