

Grant Ore Study Now Completed

Quantity, Quality of Chromium Deposits Determined by Big Crew

CANYON CITY, Jan. 6.—Work has been finished on the exploration project in Grant county, known as project No. 203, authorized under the strategic minerals act, passed by congress August 9, 1939. The act authorized and provided funds for investigation of quantity and quality of minerals that are essential, possibly vital, in the manufacture of munitions in war time. Project No. 203 provided for investigation and exploration of chromium deposits in Grant county.

Quantity, Quality Never Been Known

It has long been known that a large body of chrome ore lay in the valley of the John Day river near Canyon City, about 36 miles long and about six miles wide, but as to the quantity and quality little was known, although some was taken out during the World war.

Under the strategic minerals act a crew was assigned to Grant county to map out this chrome bearing area, and the topography of the country, in a block approximately 15 miles square, with Canyon City as the center. This preliminary surveying work was completed in mid-summer. Then the exploration crew of the bureau of mines, with its diamond drillers and helpers moved in, and for 60 days about 25 men were at work in areas designated in the preliminary survey, drilling holes and taking samples of ore bodies. In its work the bureau of mines crew also built roads into the mountains where chrome ore deposits lie and also, where necessary, removed top soil with bulldozers to prepare for diamond drillers.

Two diamond drills were employed, some of the time in two 8-hour shifts, and part of the time in three 8-hour shifts. The work was chiefly confined to Little Canyon mountain, Bald mountain and Little Indian creek.

The diamond drill cores provided a sample of the ore body through which the machine drilled. When a bit had gone down a certain number of feet, generally from five to eight, it was removed, the core taken out by tapping the core barrel, broken into suitable lengths, and shipped to the metallurgical laboratory at Reno, Nev., to be assayed.

Accurate and complete data was kept of all work and of all assays. Hence the bureau of mines at Washington has finger tip data on all ore tested, its exact location, kind, quality and quantity and ownership of strategic minerals in this area.