

# Silica Industry Marks Its First Anniversary

This week marks the first anniversary of the Bristol Silica Co. whose plant is located in the town of Rogue River and whose offices are here in Grants Pass. Just a year ago this week, the first structure for the plant was erected although goods were not shipped until the middle of August.

Although there are several silica deposits in the northwest, both quartz and quartzite, the only ones approaching the Bristol property in purity and magnitude are north of Spokane, Wash., a distance by rail to Portland of more than a hundred miles farther than the local deposit. Dr. Edwin T. Hodge, consulting geologist for the corps of engineers, U. S. army, after a detailed study of the silica deposits adjacent to the lower Columbia river industrial area, published two volumes under the date of January, 1938. No mention was made of the Bristol deposit as it had not been discovered at that date.

Silica is an abrasive rock, white in color and next in hardness to that of precious stones. The industrial applications of silica are numerous. Glass and pottery are compounds of silica with various metallic oxides. It is used extensively in metallurgical operations as a flux. With the coming of Bonneville power, silica takes on added importance as it is a necessary ingredient in large industrial plants.

In addition to industrial silica, the Bristol Silica Co., produces Crystal grit, a poultry grit.