

STATE DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY AND
MINERAL INDUSTRIES

702 WOODLARK BUILDING
PORTLAND, OREGON

September 25, 1946

Mr. Hollis Dole
State Assay Laboratory
Grants Pass, Oregon

Dear Holly:

First, I would like to compliment you on the reports which you have been submitting. I think they are very good.

I thought you might be interested in the Hamish clay samples which you submitted. Sample no. 1 is the same material as that brought to this office by Ken Harblen and which Raymond Ladoo, well-known consulting mining engineer, thought had possibilities as a source of both clay and feldspar. Besides the montmorillonite present in this sample are the feldspar grains which have an index circa 1.55. They are either basic oligoclase or acid andesine.

As you suspected, samples 2 and 3 are probably common clays - certainly they are not bentonitic. They are isotropic or only very slightly birefringent, with an index ranging from 1.50 to 1.52.

As Mr. Libbey has probably explained to you, Esther Miller used this clay in a number of blends and found it satisfactory in some of them. Ladoo, when I showed him the clay, thought that it might very well bleach white so that it could be used as a paper filler.

I hope that Hamish does get the additional prospecting completed this fall and that the gravel road is put in so that you can check on this property again. Apparently the flinty clays which are not bentonitic have very little relation to the bentonitic material, and if you are interested in the origin of bentonites, I will be glad to send you a copy of a very recent U.S.G.S. report on them.

Sincerely,

Wallace D. Lowry

WDL:jr