Imperial Gold Mines
Working Old Sylvanite

Mining was put under way late this fall at the old Sylvanite property near Gold Hill, Ore., by Imperial Gold Mines, Inc., headed by W. D. McDonald. F. F. Stimson is vice-president and Donald McDonald, secretary-treasurer. All are residents of Seattle.

First ore produced was milled in the old 10-stamp plant on the property while the company constructed a new flotation mill, which was expected to be running by Jan. 1.

Jack Coons is mine foreman and John K. Jackson resident manager.

The main vein is reported to have a width of 40 to 45 ft., with a nearly vertical dip. It is planned to use the "breakdown" or "powder blasting" system of mining. Current development consists primarily in raising 350 ft. from the upper 1,200 ft. tunnel to the surface. This for the double purpose of establishing ventilation and of tapping ore along the contact of the Sylvanite vein and an argillite dike. Principal development consists of two tunnels, 1,200 and 1,500 ft., with an incline shaft down 750 ft. from the lower.

Donald McDonald reports there is approximately 100,000 tons of commercial ore on the dump, with an equal amount broken in a stope above the lower tunnel. Initial operation of the new mill will be confined largely to this feed. A "displosion" mill designed by Mr. McDonald will be installed. As he explains it, the mill consists of opposed swing hammer units rotating in opposite directions at approximately 2,000 rpm. The hammers serve more as impellers than as impact units, grinding being accomplished by meeting of the ore fragments at high velocity. Classification is pneumatic and sizing depends upon amount of air admitted and the height of the draft tube from the mill housing.

About 20 men are employed by the Imperial Gold Mines, Inc., at its Sylvanite mine in Jackson County near Gold Hill, Oregon. The company recently installed a new hoist, modern assaying office, and is adding a cyanide plant to treat the flotation mill concentrates. Headquarters are in the Lloyd Building, Seattle, Washington. W. D. McDonald is president; F. F. Stimson, vice-president; and Donald McDonald, secretary-treasurer, all of Seattle. John K. Jackson is resident manager at Gold Hill and others on the operating staff at the mine include J. H. Coons, general superintendent, and Otis Redwine, mill foreman. J. E. Morrison of Grants Pass is chief engineer. Ore is being mined from a footwall drift from the 400-foot station in the No. 1 shaft. The mill was started late in May.