

# State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries

702 Woodlark Building  
Portland, Oregon

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
Bureau of Mines  
Moscow, Idaho

January 2, 1943

Mr. W. M. Schmeykal  
919 North 19th Street  
Boise, Idaho

Dear Mr. Schmeykal:

I have received a report on the calcite crystal which you recently sent me. Our microscopist at Salt Lake states that the crystal is not of optical grade because of fractures and imperfections. There is, however, a possibility that the deposit from which the crystal was obtained may contain optical calcite.

The requirements for optical calcite, as quoted by Bausch and Lomb Optical Company, call for crystals at least an inch by  $1\frac{1}{2}$  to 2 inches in size. They must be free from all fractures and inclusions and transparent. They offer \$40 a pound for suitable crystals. Calcite crystals of lower grade are of no particular value.

The mining of optical calcite should be done with extreme care in order that the crystals be not deformed by strain or pressure. I suggest that, if you find other specimens which you think might be of optical grade, you submit them direct to Bausch and Lomb Optical Company, Rochester, New York.

Yours very truly,

S. H. Lomin  
District Engineer