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400 E. 1 ST., GRANTS PASS
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F. W. LIBBEY
MINING ENGINEER

JOHN ELIOT ALLEN
GEOLOGIST

STATE DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY AND
MINERAL INDUSTRIES

702 WOODLARK BUILDING
PORTLAND, OREGON

2102 COURT ST., BAKER
HUGH K. LANCASTER
FIELD ENGINEER

August 15, 1942.

*File
as mine report
under
J. Edwin Johnson
brine Malheur
County*

Mr. F. W. Libbey
702 Woodlark Building
Portland, Oregon.

Dear Mr. Libbey:

I have just returned from a field trip to the northern Malheur County Area. My report on the Lackey cinnabar prospect near Weiser, on the Oregon side, will be mailed as soon as we have the assay results.

I saw Mr. J. Edwin Johnson, the county engineer at Vale, Oregon. He is interested in a saline deposit located in Sec. 8, R 45E, T 17S, a few miles northeast of Vale. He states that the wells drilled on this property to a depth of 12 feet, show salt water carrying 8 oz. of salt per gallon of water. The property which he has under contract covers 150 acres. He states that the water from different parts of the property shows variable percentages of sodium chloride, potassium chloride and magnesium chloride. The immediate purpose of my visit was to see the property and have him ~~drill~~ some wells while I was present for sampling. However, the day before I arrived, the Reclamation Service blocked the road into the property with one of their ditch construction projects, and we were unable to drill or take samples.

Mr. Johnson has an idea that the salt can be obtained from the water by solar evaporation, and processed as commercial salt for the stock men in that vicinity. He says that salt blocks sell for \$1 a piece in that area, and that he believes he could process them for less.

At some future date when it is possible for us to accompany him to the property, and the drilling equipment can be moved in, I plan to make another trip and take samples of the water for analysis.

Mr. Johnson believes that there may be a possibility of a layer of salt at his property which, of course, could only be proven by deeper drilling with a churn drill and taking drive samples.

RECEIVED
AUG 18 1942

STATE DEPT OF GEOLOGY
& MINERAL INDS.

8/15/42.

I plan to spend at least the next week in the office while Hugh is away, and take care of the analytical work. In fact, it would be undesirable to take the State car out for any more trips until the front tires are recapped, inasmuch as they are worn to a state where recapping is necessary.

Sincerely,

Les Richards

Les Richards

8-17-42

Received your wire to Hugh and
have taken care of sending the tires.
They will go out on this evening trip.
Les