It is reported that the production executive committee of the WPB has reversed its attitude in connection with the proposed alumina-from-clay plant to be located somewhere in the Northwest and to be operated by the Columbia Metals Corporation. The committee's approval is not the final decision, but it is believed the WPB will stand by the judgment of the committee. The proposed alumina plant construction was turned down by the War Manpower Commission because of tight labor conditions and the aluminum situation, which is no longer deemed critical. Clay for the plant will be obtained from one or more of four deposits: at Castle Rock, Washington; near Molalla and Cottage Grove, Oregon; and near Moscow, Idaho. J. O. Gallagher, Securities Building, Seattle, Washington, is president of the Columbia Metals concern.
According to reports, the proposed $4,000,000 pilot plant to recover clay from aluminum will be located in Marion County near Salem, Oregon. The DPC recently authorized the Columbia Metals Corporation to proceed with the project after it had been approved and then dropped by the WPB. The plan to locate the plant at Longview, Washington, and to develop clay deposits in that area has been abandoned because of the tight labor situation in the sawmill and lumbering district. J. O. Gallagher, Securities Building, Seattle, Washington, is president of the Columbia Metals company.
Oregon

It is reported that the contracts for the construction of three auxiliary buildings, some smaller units, a roadway, and railroad siding have been let by the Columbia Metals Corporation to the Chemical Construction Company, subsidiary of the American Cyanamid Company. This is part of the alumina-from-clay plant to be built at Salem, Oregon, by the Columbia Metals Corporation, J. O. Gallagher, Securities Building, Seattle, Washington, president. It is the second contract to be let on the project and amounts to about $75,000. Bids have not been called on the six main buildings. The plant is designed as a demonstration unit which uses the bisulphate process, developed by the Chemical Construction Company. It will have a daily output of 50 tons of alumina. Financed by the Defense Plant Corporation, the whole project has been granted $4,000,000 in federal funds.
Oregon

Construction of the pilot plant to recover aluminum from clay at Salem, Oregon, has been started by the Chemical Construction Company, a subsidiary of the American Cyanamid Company. The plant, which is being financed by the Defense Plant Corporation, will be operated by the Columbia Metals Corporation, headed by J. O. Gallagher, Securities Building, Seattle, Washington. Federal funds amounting to $4,000,000 have been approved for the project. The plant will demonstrate the ammonium sulphate process, owned by the Chemical Construction Company. The daily output of the first unit will be 50 tons of alumina which will be allocated to five aluminum plants in the Northwest. Approximately 10,000 kw. of Bonneville power will be used and this will constitute between 25 and 30 per cent of the total power needed. The rest will be obtained from 450 barrels of oil daily and 150 tons of coal or 150 units of hogged fuel (sawdust).
After a lapse of nine years the Main tunnel and North tunnel of the Santiam copper group, formerly worked by the Northwest Copper Company, have been opened up for examination. The property is located at the junction of Gold Creek and the Little North Fork of the Santiam in eastern Marion County, Oregon, about 55 miles southeast of Marion and 24 miles from the Southern Pacific railroad at Lyons. A considerable amount of work has already been accomplished including the rebuilding of flumes, extension of road work, and repairs to the hoist and compressors. Operations are under the personal direction of T. G. Donall who with the other owners, W. I. Staley and Frederick B. Andrews, Box 136, Salem, Oregon, is negotiating for the disposal of the property. William J. Elmendorf, who died a few years ago in Seattle, served as consulting engineer in charge of operations and his last reports showed approximately 4,000 tons of ore above the 60-foot level of the 96-foot winze from the North tunnel. A total of 1,250 feet of tunneling and various other extensions have been done at the property in the past 30 years. The Northwest Copper Company was incorporated in 1926 and started working the mine which it acquired from the Lotz-Larson interests. This company carried on development for a period of about two years during which time small ore shipments were made.