Pioche Mines Huge Tonnage

Present availability of cheap power from the lately-completed Boulder dam line means far more than any ordinary mining revival to Pioche and to tributary mining centers in eastern Lincoln county, comprising one of the largest and most heavily mineralied silver-lead-znic districts in the country.

Mining men with knowledge of this area and of the magnitude of its ore resources realize that this low-cost electric power service signalizes in reality the economic birth of a great and rich mining region.

While the district has been productive for many years and lately has been shipping around 2500 tons per week to Utah plants for treatment, the ore has been of relatively low grade and costs incident to production and transportation have held profits at a low figure.

Low-cost power, enabling the operators to treat their product at the mines and greatly reducing the cost of mine operation, has the immediate effect of converting a vast tonnage of low-grade material, heretofore of no value, into ore from which, under quantity production, a profit can be realized.

Ore reserves of the Pioche district, of a grade that can be treated locally with profit, have been estimated variously from 10,000,000 to 20,000,000 tons of positive ore. The orebodies for the most part are flat, bedded replacement deposits in limestone, although some of lesser importance are found at the limestone-shale contact and in fissures in quartzite along intrusive dikes.

Leading companies and mines of the Pioche district are controlled by strongly financed groups and are in a position to provide milling plants of large capacity. Dominant in the control of most of the large mines are the wealthy National Lead Co., the International Smelting & Refining Co. and the W. F. Snyder organization of Salt Lake City.

Largest producer of the district has been the Combined Metals Reduction Co., owned jointly by the National Lead Co. and the Snyder group, which lately has announced plans for construction of an 800-ton mill and for extensive underground development, including a 4750-foot crosscut on the 1400-foot level to connect two main opening shafts.

Combined metals Reduction Co. was organized in 1923 as a subsidiary of Combined Metals Inc., a Snyder company, and was financed by the National Lead Co. under a 50-50 ownership agreement. At Pioche it was stated recently that National Lead now owns 75 per cent of the company's stock.

National Lead Co. is one of the country's largest producers and manufacturers of lead and chemicals, with capital of $100,000,000, a long record of dividends and with net profit of over $4,675,000 in 1930, latest year for which reports are available. Total dividends have aggregated around $90,000,000.

Property of the Combined Metals at Pioche embraces 6000 acres, developed by the 1450-foot four-compartment Caselton shaft and over 15,000 feet of lateral work. Large bedded deposits of sulphide ore in the limestone, contain, as mined, 6.5 per cent lead, 15 per cent zinc, around $1.50 gold and 8 ozs. silver per ton, with 26 per cent silica and 15 per cent iron.

Near Bauer, in Tooele county, Utah, the company owns some 50 claims with large bodies of low-grade lead ore and an 800-ton mill employing selective flotation and treating custom ore in addition to th product of its own mines.

Prince Consolidated Mining Co., second in the district in point of assets and ore reserves, is controlled jointly by the International Smelting & Refining Co. and W. F. Snyder & Co..

It owns a large area at Pioche and at Bullionville, with 110,000 tons of old mill tailings at the latter and nine miles of standard-gauge railroad. In 1924 the company acquired the formerly productive Virginia Louise mine, adjoining the Prince Cons. Pioche property.

Gross production of properties now owned by the Pioche Cons. Co. is placed at nearly $10,000,000 and a substantial total was paid in dividends prior to 1917. Diamond drilling has established the presence of important beds of sulphide ore below former workings, the ore sampling high in silver, zinc and manganese.

Comet Coalition Mines Co., with large properties in the Comet district 12 miles south of Pioche, is a consolidation of two or more old companies and is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the International Smelting & Refining Co., which is an Anaconda Copper subsidiary. The former company, Comet Mines Co., built a 50-ton flotation mill in 1915, which was later remodeled but has been idle for years.

Ore of the Comet properties, sampling high in silver, gold and lead, with some tungsten, occurs in nearly vertical fissures in quartzite and the veins have been developed to no appreciable depth.

The Bristol Silver Mines Co. has large property holdings, including that formerly operated by the Black Metal Mines Inc., near Jackrabbit, 16 miles northwest of Pioche and at the terminus of the branch railroad.

It is controlled by the Snyder interests of Salt Lake Ctiy and both properties have made a large production of manganiferous silver-lead-copper ore, shipped to the Bauer plant of the Combnied Metals Co. in Utah.

Nearly all of the ores of these properties are complex and the metallurgy of each section must be worked out before flow-sheets can be designed for local milling.

The treatment and economic recovery of manganese, which has been an obstacle to concentrating processes, has been given much study and experimentation at the U. S. Bureau of Mines station at the University of Nevada in Reno and further tests were said to be in progress at the bureau's newly completed experimental plant at Boulder City.

Pioche is to be the scene of a big celebration on September 25, marking the completion of the Boulder-Pioche power line and signalizing the opening of a new industrial era for that region. The celebration was set originally for Labor Day, but mine operators and local business men generally withdrew from participation at that time because of alleged interference by CIO organizers.

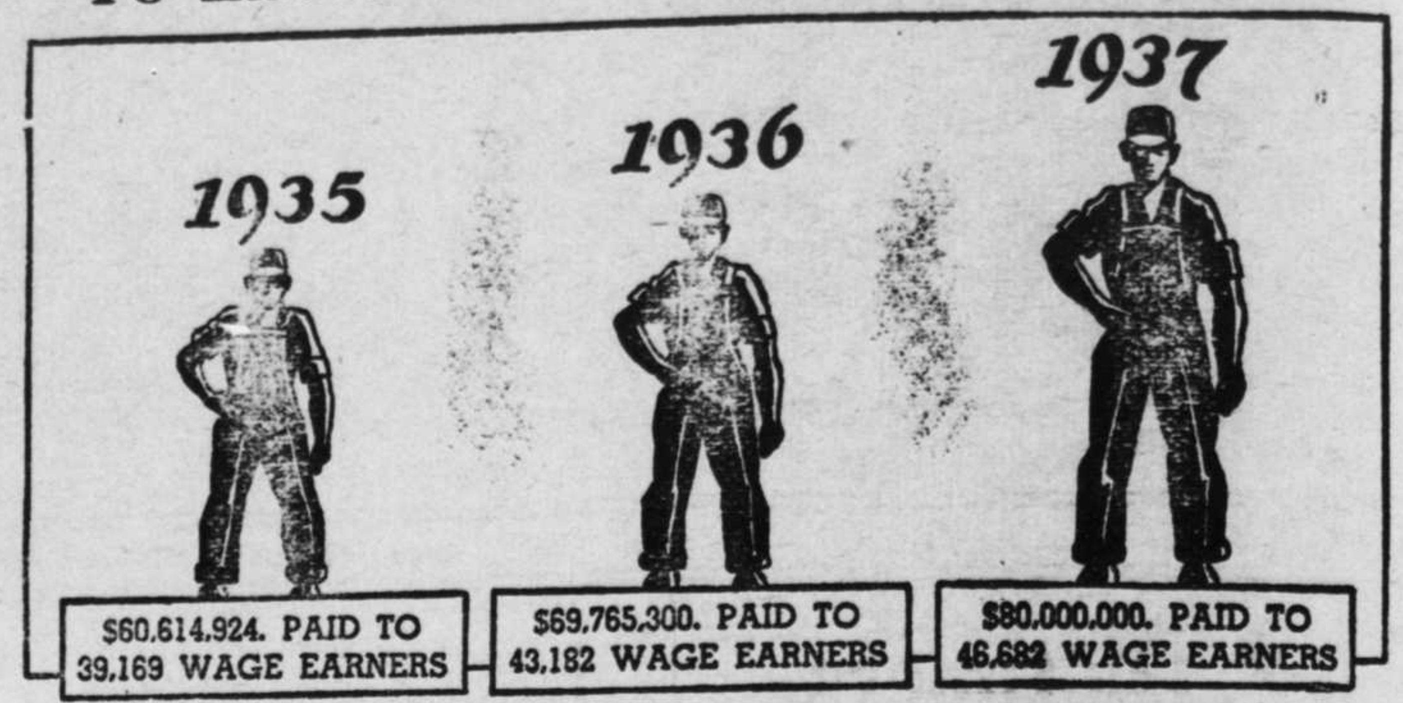
Guests of Pioche on this occasion are expected to include Nevada's representatives in congress, Governor Kirman and numbers of state officials, and other men of prominence in Nevada and neighboring states.

Pioche's history has been marked by a succession of ups and downs since its discovery in 1863 when Piute Indians guided William Hamblin, a Mormon missionary ,to a point on the slope of Mt. Ely and showed him outcrops of lead-zinc ore.

The Meadow Valley district was organized in the following year, but little activity resulted until, in 1868, F. L. A. Pioche sent a man to the district to purchase the original locations and soon afterward Raymond and Ely, who consequently became noted operators, brought a five-stamp mill to the camp from Pahranagat, 60 miles to the west.

Later came a stampede to Pioche, which was made the county seat, with a population of 6,000. Production of low-grade complex ore from several of the mines in later years was stimulated by the heavy content of iron and manganese in the ore, making it a desirable flux for the smelters in the Salt Lake valley.—Nevada State Journal.

Brewing Industry's Payroll for Labor To Exceed 80 Million Dollars in 1937



HOW BREWING LABOR PAYROLL HAS GROWN

SOURCE: 1935 figures compiled by Bureau of Census; 1936 figures and 1937 estimate on basis of U. S. Dept. of Labor monthly reports.

THE brewing industry's 1937 payroll for labor will exceed $80,000,000 as a result of more employment and increases granted to union workers in new contracts negotiated with labor leaders. This is exclusive of the estimated $25,000,000 which will be paid to salaried employees and officers, bringing the aggregate yearly payroll past the $100,000,000 mark.

More than 23,000 union brewery workers, in 71 cities, will add an average of $166.40 to their individual pay envelopes this year as a result of new contracts, it has been calculated by labor officials. This increase, averaging $3.20 per man weekly, will aggregate $3,627,624 for the year for the men already affected by new contracts. The total increase for all brewery workers will be greater, however, as negotiations are pending in 105 other cities, according to labor leaders.

The new increase raises the weekly paycheck of the average brewery worker to over $35. The current high mark is more than double the wage paid in 1914, when consumption of beer hit its peak. The industry's payroll then included 62,070 wage earners, receiving an aggregate of $53,243,743 for the year, an average of $16.52 per week.

The estimates of current labor employment and wages have been compiled from figures supplied monthly by the U. S. Department of Labor, supplemented by actual and anticipated increases. The figures cover only the brewing industry proper and do not take in employment by distributors, retailers or others affected by revival of the brewing industry. Were a chart drawn showing labor's direct and indirect benefits from beer since it was relegalized April 7, 1933, the figures would run into hundreds of millions of dollars, it is asserted by statisticians who have made a study of the effects of relegalization. It would include increased payrolls from reopening of malt mills and cooperage plants; more men engaged by steel mills to meet demand created by plant construction, rehabilitation and material for steel barrels, steel hoops, machinery, etc.; more men added by farmers for harvest of hops and barley; men hired by glass and can manufacturers to turn out bottles and cans; more men hired by automotive industries for the trucks needed by the 700 breweries; also men hired by distributors and restaurant operators whose food sales mounted as beer consumption stimulated appetite.

In 1935 the brewing industry directly employed 39,169 wage earners, paying out $60,614,924 at a weekly average wage of $29.76, according to the biennial census of manufacturers.

By using the Department of Labor's figures on employment and wages paid by a representative number of brewers who have been reporting monthly, the United States Brewers' Association has compiled the unofficial figures of $69,765,300 as the labor payroll for 43,182 men during 1936 and estimated $78,306,090 for 46,682 men for 1937, new wage increases not included.

OLD NAMES LIVE

Tides of party popularity rise and ebb, but there is much to be said in favor of the contention that for a good while to come the old names of Democrat and Republican will continue to figure large in American political annals. — Providence Journal.