

# News of Western Mining Activities

## Urge Nations to Peg Price of Gold, Silver

WASHINGTON, May 27—The adoption of international bimetallism and the pegging of the price of both gold and silver, in the opinion of Francis Brownell, chairman of the board of the American Smelting & Refining Co., would go far toward monetary stabilization after the war and meet what he described as a universal demand for a return to hard money.

The United States, with Great Britain and Russia, he declared, could peg the price of both gold and silver, as England alone pegged the price of gold after the Napoleonic wars and led to world adoption of the single gold standard.

The United States and Great Britain jointly could accomplish the same thing. Then he added: "The United States today holds approximately two-thirds of the world's monetary gold and half the world's monetary silver. It is powerful enough financially itself to peg the price of both gold and silver."

**Monetary Stock Insufficient**  
Brownell was addressing the house committee on foreign affairs, supporting the Dewey bill which he endorsed in the main. He told the committee that the present world monetary stock of gold is insufficient to permit a lasting return to the single gold standard which broke down completely 10 years ago mainly because of the physical scarcity of gold. International bimetallism, he declared, is the cure for the physical scarcity of the yellow metal.

"Should the United States adopt bimetallism, pegging the price of both gold and silver, it would have the best currency in the world. Latin America and many other nations would tend to tie their currencies to the currency of the United States, stabilized as it then would be," he said.

"In self-defense England would almost be compelled to adopt the same standard. Should the monetary system of the United States be modified in accordance with the above plan it would be in the most favorable position after the war to assist foreign countries by supervised loans. Other nations would be practically compelled to follow its example in adopting their monetary systems just as they were compelled to follow the example of England in the adoption of the single gold standard."

**Nevada Materials Grow in Demand**  
LOS ANGELES, May 27—Demand for various types of Nevada's industrial minerals constantly is growing, and will be of vital importance to the silver state in the postwar era.

Larger quantities of Nevada's rich non-metallic resources will be utilized by southern California industrial plants in the immediate future.

E. D. Arthur, head of the Los Angeles county chamber of commerce mining division, today issued these two statements on return from a three-week trip through Nevada's mining districts.

"Termination of government contracts for purchase of mercury, elimination of the \$6.00 bonus on tungsten and the threat of growing stockpiles of certain strategic metals," he said, "have awakened Nevadans to the utilitarian value of non-metallics."

**Increasing Market**  
"Southern California has industrialized at such a rate that a constantly increasing market is seeking large quantities of non-metallic minerals for processing and chemical purposes, and refractory clay for furnace shapes, tile and bricks."

"The industries will continue operating in the postwar era, and will call for industrial metals as well as non-metallics. Already southern Nevada is furnishing silica sand for glass and foundry industries, and gypsum and lime for building purposes. Beatty and Fallon are shipping fluorspar for manufacture of steel, glass, ceramics, high octane gasoline and chemicals."

Arthur outlined a cooperative program to aid Nevada mine operators in finding markets for their products and in obtaining machinery to run their properties.

**Efficient Control Of Minerals Urged In Post-War Field**  
George B. Langford, professor of mining geology at the University of Toronto, in an article entitled, "Shall Our Mineral Controls Be Continued After the War?" appearing in the May issue of "Mining and Metallurgy," the monthly magazine of the American Institute of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers, gives an affirmative answer.

"On the question of postwar controls," says Professor Langford, who expresses a widely held Canadian viewpoint, "there are today three schools of thought: some advocate state control of everything—the socialists; second are those who advocate the removal of all governmental control over industry—the freedom of enterprise ideal; and third are those who advocate a middle course—sufficient control to stabilize economic and industrial life, and to prevent violence in the interim years. I advocate the third course. I firmly believe in free enterprise, but not in freedom of enterprise, and there is a great significant difference between those two."

"Professor Langford points out that if we are going to realize the changed new world we have all been so eagerly looking forward to, we cannot operate under the same rules that obtained before the present war started."

**Post-War Policy**  
"In developing a policy for postwar mineral control," says Professor Langford, "I relied to a large extent on three sources of information."

"The first was the commercial developments since the beginning of the century, which were studied to learn what steps industry had taken in 'normal' times to overcome depression."

"The second was the proposals that were made, and the solutions that were attempted, during the depression years, to help the mineral industry."

"The third source was the considered statements of leading men in various countries and in various walks of life."

**Authority Gives Important Facts On Value of Gold**  
By SIR GEORGE PAISH in Denver Mining Record

First of all, gold is the best "medium of exchange" that exists as everyone will freely accept it in payment for services, for goods and for interest and capital obligations.

Secondly, it is "a store of wealth" that never depreciates in value with keeping.

Third, it is a "standard of value" in which the prices of all other commodities can be expressed. Indeed, it is the yard measure by means of which the price and the value of everything else can be calculated.

Fourth, it is "the banking asset" which permits bankers to grant credit in a ratio many times greater than the amount of the gold they possess and to have deposit liabilities equal to nearly ten times the value of the gold they hold.

Consequently, the immense stock of gold which exists in the world today, coupled with the fact that the world's output of gold is on a far greater scale than ever before, means that, when confidence is fully restored there will be an almost unlimited supply of bank credit available for the finance of industry and of both national and international trade.

**Will Build Dream Homes of Gypsum**  
Women must come out of the clouds in planning their postwar homes, Janet P. Gilliland, home design advisor for the Gypsum association, has warned.

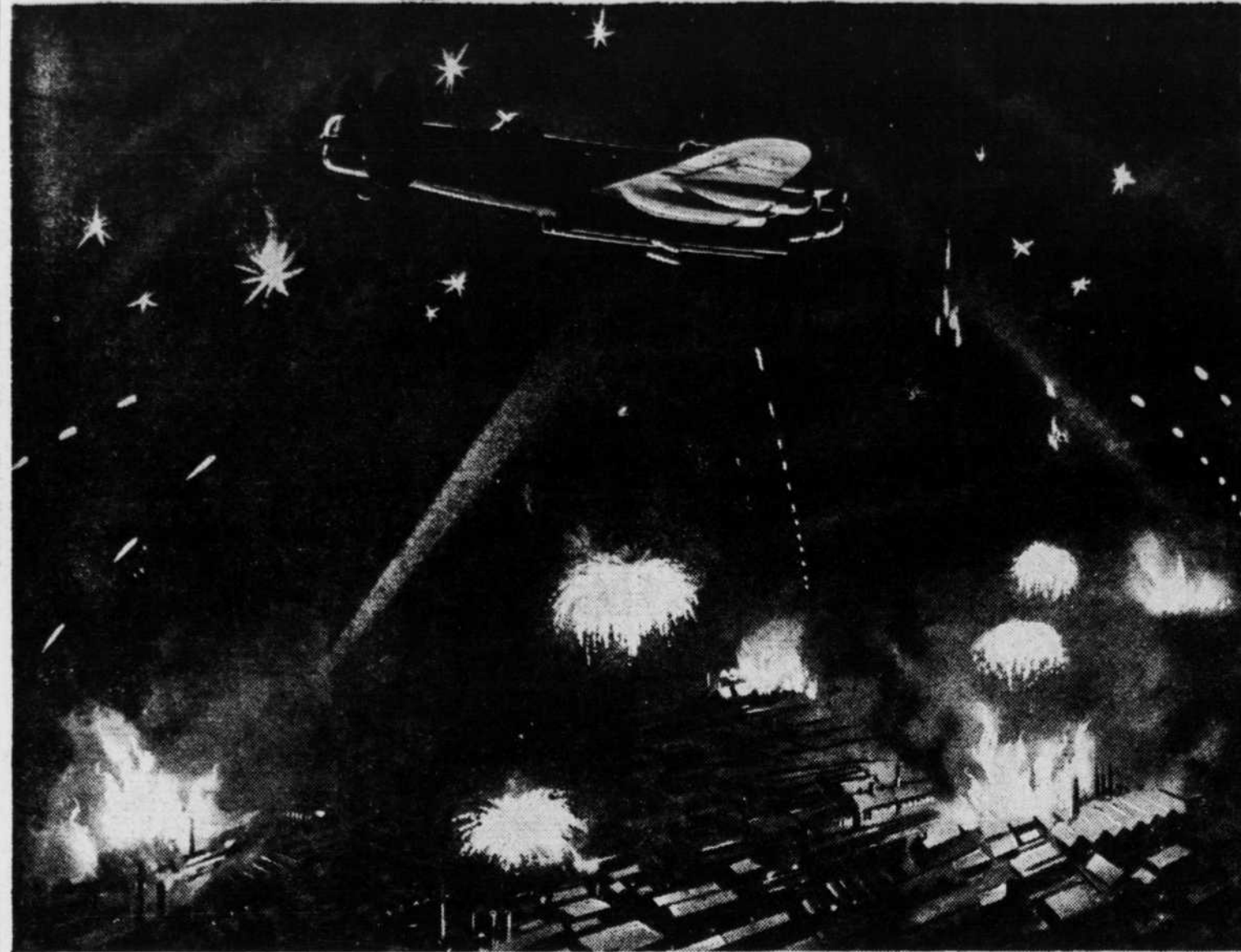
V-day now means to most American women who are living in cramped, or deteriorated housing, not only the day of home-coming for their men, but the day on which they will try to place orders for the fantastic type of housing now depicted in the press and motion pictures as imminently available.

"Women have golden dreams of solar houses that follow the sun like sunflowers, all-plastic kitchens, and living-dining rooms with disappearing walls," Miss Gilliland explained.

"This line of thinking will only lead to disillusionment," she emphasized, "since the day of dream houses is definitely a long way off. Millions of women who plan to build new homes when their husbands return from war, do not realize that for years after the peace, supplies of building materials will not be ready to provide unbreakable glass walls, plastic roofs, and other revolutionary items."

She cited the case of the house that Gypsum built, a type of dream home available in the immediate present. Its walls are of fireproof gypsum wallboard and siding, its roof sheathing is of gypsum, even its ceilings and walls are decorated with an attractive durable gypsum plaster, which is available today.

## AERIAL PATHFINDER AT WORK OVER GERMANY



In all heavy raids carried out at night by Allied air forces over Germany, special "pathfinder" planes are first over the target, to mark it out, so that the hundreds of bombers following will know exactly where to do their lethal work. Pathfinder crews are picked men, skilled

in the art of finding the right spots, and they carry heavy fire-bombs which, when dropped, cannot be extinguished, and parachute flares which descend slowly, illuminating a whole district, as in this drawing. [By Roland Davies, London Sphere; © King Features Syndicate.]

## Government Has Plan to File New Data for Future

WASHINGTON, May 27—A bill providing for the keeping of accurate records dealing with the economic and technological phases of the domestic mining industry has been introduced in the senate by Senators James E. Murray of Montana and Carl Hayden of Arizona.

"A tremendous amount of valuable data has been gathered by various government agencies and corporations dealing with the production and beneficiation of ores of the various metals and minerals, metallic and nonmetallic, during the course of the war program," says a joint statement by the senators.

"Nearly every foot of known mineral bearing ground has had scrutiny by some U. S. agency. Practically every abandoned shaft has been unwatered and sampled. Many of these were examined during the first world war and had adequate data been available at the beginning of this emergency substantial sums of money would have been saved and many marginal ore bodies could sooner have been brought into production. After the war many mines again will be abandoned and will become inaccessible."

"The U. S. bureau of mines seems to be the proper place for these records and this new bill, which is entitled 'A bill to insure the preservation of technical and economic records of domestic sources of ores and metals and minerals,' directs the concentration of the valuable portions of these records and files in the possession of the bureau of mines when the other agencies no longer have use for them."

"What happened to similar records accumulated during the last war no one seems to know. We think it is the duty of the congress to see to it that the millions of dollars' worth of mining data now in government hands be preserved from any possibility of ending up in an incinerator."

**Harold's Club Co. Shipping Scheelite**  
Between 200 and 300 tons of scheelite ore, mined by open-pit methods, are sent daily to the Metals Reserve stockpile in the county, by the Harold's Club Mining Co. Production is from the company's Valley View tungsten property near Red House and the ore is sent to the Getchell tungsten mill in the same area for treatment. Alex Ranson is mine superintendent at Red House for the Harold's Club company and Raymond I. Smith of Reno is general manager.

Reopening next summer of the B. and B. mercury mines near Dyer in Fish Lake Valley, Nevada, will depend entirely upon mercury prices and the labor situation at that time. The property was closed for the winter December 15, 1943, and some of the recently installed equipment was removed. The Chicago interests which held the ground under purchase-lease option abandoned the project because high labor costs do not permit the hand-sorting of ore, which is necessary.

## Copper World. Copper-Zinc Mine to Start Big Output

KINGMA ARIZ MAY—Mining. The Copper World, another Mohave county copper-zinc mine will soon be ready to go into production, it was learned this week. On April 22 the District Grazing Service started work on a government access road that will connect the workings of this property with the main road that leads into Yucca, Arizona, the shipping point.

Owned by the Phelps Dodge Corporation and operated on a lease by Dye and Bathrick of Kingman, the Copper World is precipitously located at an elevation of 4700 feet, on the west slope of the midsection of the Hualapai mountains in the Cedar Valley mining district. It is about 15 miles from Yucca and the new road will branch off the main dirt road at the Jim Herridge ranch which is about two miles from the Boriana tungsten mine.

Old records show that the Copper World was first located in the year 1886 by Gus W. Beecher, who at that time ran a mercantile store in Kingman. Later in 1889 the claims were patented by William E. Dodge and Willis James. Prior to 1910 reports show that high grade copper ore was shipped from the old workings. Because of its inaccessibility the ore was packed out on the backs of sure-footed burros and

**Story of Early-Day Duel in Famed Old Camp of Tombstone**  
The Epitaph yesterday contained a brief report of the recent killing of Burke by Con Ryan at Kingston, New Mexico. As both men are not only well known to many persons here, but to most mining camps in Nevada and California, the following additional particulars from the Silver City Enterprise may prove of interest: It says:

Judge John M. Wright, who returned Wednesday night from Kingston, gives the Enterprise the particulars of a duel to the death between Con Ryan and one Burke, who delighted in the sobriquet of "The Terror of the Black Range." They were both well-known mining men. They had been quarreling all night, and about 6 o'clock in the morning Burke said:

"Let us fight it out like men; get your gun."  
Ryan said he didn't have a gun. Burke produced two .45s and stepping up to a fence threw one of them down on the ground, remarking: "There's your gun!"

"That's no way to do," said Ryan. "You can shoot me while I am picking up the gun. Besides, I don't know if it's even loaded." Burke then threw his gun down on the ground, and the two men picked up the guns together. While Ryan was examining his gun to see if it was loaded, Burke fired at him twice without effect. Ryan then leveled his gun and quickly took deliberate aim and fired, when the Terror of the Black Range fell dead.

The bullet struck a little to the left of the bridge of the nose and passed out through the back of the head. It seems to be the general opinion at Kingston that Burke received his just deserts.—Tombstone, Arizona, Epitaph, May 1, 1887.

## Mark Twain Lived At Aurora During Big Gold Stampede

Members of a party of deer hunters in August, 1860, found outcrops of white quartz, showing free gold, at a point a few miles from the Nevada-California line in what is now southwestern Mineral county. They named the new district and town Esmeralda, but soon established a new townsite on flat ground to the north, naming it Aurora.

Thereupon followed the first and one of the most hysterical gold stampedes in the history of western mining, says the Nevada Mining Press. Camp-followers, adventurers and real miners flocked in from all parts of the nation and in 1864 the town had a population of over 10,000.

Although the enriched area proved to be of limited extent, one Aurora Consolidated mine alone was credited with gold-silver production of \$30,000,000 and tabulated estimates in the Directory of Nevada Mines place the district output at upward of \$35,000,000 to date.

**Mark Twain Was There**  
Production continued until around 1882, when all principal mines had closed down, but in 1912 the Aurora Consolidated Mines Co. was organized as a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Goldfield Consolidated Mines Co., the formerly-productive mines were acquired and a 40-stamp mill was built, to be closed down and dismantled six years later.

Some ore has been produced by leasess in recent years, chiefly from veins having a high silver content. The camp's fame has endured largely because Mark Twain was a resident in its early days and began his career there as a newspaper writer and humorist.

It was here that he arrived at the decision that a mine was a "hole in the ground with a damn liar at the top." He undertook to locate claims and to work as a miner, but was notoriously lazy and finally, broke and disheartened, he pulled up stakes and hitch-hiked to Virginia City.

The one-room cabin that was once Mark Twain's home in Aurora was moved several years ago to Reno and now stands in that town's scenic Idlewild park.

construction program includes the building of one additional cabin and installation of an 800-foot aerial tramway.

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## Deep Drilling Plan For Old Groom Mine

Operations at the old Groom lead mine in western Lincoln county are described in a report issued by the wealthy International Mining Corporation of New York, which took over the property from a subsidiary last year. The report says:

It is a joint venture of International corporation and Dan Sheahan, a mining engineer of Las Vegas, Nevada, our corporation having a two-thirds interest and Sheahan receiving a one-third interest after our investment has been repaid.

The mine is located 91 miles west of the town of Caliente on the Union Pacific railroad. It is a very old property, dating back to the 1860's, but has not been extensively worked due, no doubt, to its remote situation. The mine is opened by two tunnels and a shaft to a depth of approximately 2900 feet.

**Mill Is Installed**  
The ore is a clean galena occurring in replacement deposits in limestone. A 50-ton flotation mill was installed and production started in May, 1942. Operations were carried on under the handicap of an acute shortage of labor and were suspended in September, 1943, for lack of an operating crew.

High wages in the war industries of California drained the entire area of its normal labor supply and since both wages and employment were "frozen" by government regulation and replacements were impossible to obtain, sporadic and intermittent attempts to operate were made in 1943, but the results were so unsatisfactory and so costly that the mine was closed.

"Ore resources as of December 31, 1943, are estimated at 19,380 tons, of which 13,780 tons are mine ore and 5,600 tons are dump ore; 9,000 tons of mine ore have a grade of 12 per cent lead and 4,780 tons of eight per cent. The dump ores, respects from earlier hand sorting, are estimated to

contain from seven to 12 per cent lead.

**Large Ore Reserves**  
Preliminary studies of the structure and geology of the ore occurrences indicate very favorable possibilities for the development of additional large reserves as extensions of the present ore showings and for the discovery of important new ore-bodies at moderate depths below the present workings.

A program of short-hole diamond drilling to add to the ore reserves in the present mine working and of diamond drilling in depth to explore for new ore-bodies will be put into effect in the near future. Improvements and additions to mine and mill equipment are being made and as the labor situation appears to have eased considerably in recent weeks, it is hoped to have the property in production by the middle of this year.

"For the year 1943 the Groom mine showed a loss of \$4,753.25 after provision of \$2,547.47 for depreciation and depletion."

**Ickes Says Valid Claims Are Safe**  
DENVER, Colo., May 27—The west has been greatly agitated for fear the mining program of the Washington new dealers might end location and patenting of mining claims. Secretary Ickes of the department of interior denies these rumors. A L. Fisher of Dillon, Colorado, asked Senator Ed C. Johnson of Colorado for correct information in this matter and in reply to the senator's inquiry Secretary Ickes has given the following statement:

"Assuming that Fisher has in mind adverse proceedings initiated by the general land office against mining locations, it may be said that such proceedings are initiated in accordance with instructions approved in 1916 and without any additional or specific instructions from me. It is the duty and practice of that office of its own initiative to contest mining locations, which a field investigation discloses, are probably invalid, on lands that are withdrawn for a reclamation project, a national park, a training ground for the war or navy department, or for some other use authorized by law. Those mining locations which the investigation discloses are probably valid, are not contested. Proceedings against invalid mining locations are necessary because in many cases the holders of the invalid mining claims are using the surface, or allowing others to do so, for purposes that are inconsistent with the use of the lands for the purpose for which they were withdrawn."

**Government Cash For Alaska Wells**  
WASHINGTON, D. C. May 27 President Roosevelt has asked congress to provide \$1,217,000 for oil drilling work in Alaska and emphasized the increasing need for oil in the Pacific war.

His request followed statements by naval officials before the house naval affairs committee Tuesday that production at the Elk Hills, California, reserve should be quadrupled because of increased petroleum needs in the Pacific.

In a letter to Speaker Rayburn of Texas, Roosevelt said the work in Alaska would be undertaken jointly by the war and interior departments, with the former doing drilling in the vicinity of Wide Bay and latter undertaking surveys at other locations.

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