

MERCURY AT PINCHI LAKE

000254 28-2-50
For J. J. Field
Gus...
Cof Day...

PINCHI LAKE, Omineca Mining Division.

- 1938 Prospecting stage, Oct. Nov. Dec. average of 12 men.
- 1940 First year of production, Average number employed 52; high-130, low-12. Rated capacity 50 tons.
- 1943 Peak year of production, " " " 446; high-490, low-380. Rated capacity 1,000 tons.
- 1944 Last year of production, " " " 136; high-393, low- 3. Rated capacity 1,000 tons.

(3) No. Extract from C.M. & S. Annual Report for 1944 -- "Because of the falling off in demand for mercury and the urgent need of labour at Kimberley, the Pinchi Lake mercury mine was shut down in July after about four years of successful operation".

Supplementary from Bralorne Mines, Ltd. Annual Report for 1944 -- "Shortage of manpower was even more serious at the Takla Mercury property of Bralorne Mines Limited than at Bralorne itself. Few men were willing to work at this remote camp when good jobs were available in more attractive localities. The limited term of the contract for sale of quicksilver to Metals Reserve Company made it necessary to carry on operations from only one level, and to start before the ore found by diamond drilling above or just below this level was ready for mining. Up to the end of June, available ore was comparatively low grade. From July 1st to September 9th, the effective date of cancellation of the contract, the grade of ore averaged about 17 pounds quicksilver per ton, and production was at the rate of more than 300 flasks of quicksilver per month. Total production in 1944 amounted to 1631 flasks. As operations under the rapidly declining open market price of the metal after the cancellation of the Metals Reserve contract would have resulted in a great loss, the Takla Mine was shut down on September 11th, 1944.

While little ore is actually developed at Takla, as is the case in nearly all quicksilver mines, drilling has indicated that additional ore can be found. Whether or not it will pay to re-open the mine at some future time will depend on the post-war relation between costs and price of quicksilver.

(4) In 1943 (peak production year) 1,682,108 lb. of mercury was produced, valued (Gross) at \$4,474,407

(5) Extract from "Miscellaneous Metals Industry in Canada 1948", page 14.

Mercury.

"There has been no production of mercury in Canada since September, 1944, and all shipments since then have been from producers' stocks. All of the Canadian production in the past came from the Pinchi mine of The Consolidated Mining and Smelting Company of Canada, Limited, and from the Takla mine of Bralorne Mines Limited, both mines being in the Omineca Mining Division, British Columbia. The mines have remained idle because world prices have been too low to permit profitable operation.

During 1948 the price of mercury fluctuated from \$74 to \$90 per 76 pound flask. The European sources of mercury spasmodically released excess quantities which depressed the market. Following this were uncertain periods of withholding which tended to make a rather unstable market".

(6) (a) No data in Bureau of Economics and Statistics.

(b) Data from "Miscellaneous Metals Industry 1948" page 14, and Import and Export records supplied to Bureau of Economics and Statistics by Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

Mercury
Imports and Exports through All Canadian Customs Ports for Years 1939 to 1949 inclusive.

Year	Imports		Exports	
	Quantity, lb.	Value \$	Quantity, lb.	Value \$
1939	109,232	165,489	Nil	Not given
1940	78,597	202,106	108,000	Not given
1941	8,599	24,241	360,164	Not given
1942	1,971	6,378	692,753	Not given
1943	2,047	6,981	1,304,692	Not given
1944	35,428	44,171	362,670	Not given
1945	27,101	32,924	261,720	Not given
1946	152,719	165,431	57,005	100,665
1947	412,649	400,156	17,084	22,205
1948	803,878	600,223	175	251
1949	249,039 (1)	237,217(1)	8	16

(1) First eleven months.