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"IT SEEMS PROBABLE THAT THE ALICE
ARM MOLYBDENUM BELT WILL EVENTU-
ALLY BECOME ONE OF THE WORLD'S
LARGEST SOURCES OF MOLYBDENUM"

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THE PRODUCTION OF MOLYBDENUM IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

BY

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WHAT IS MOLYBDENUM?

And what constitutes British Columbia's possibilities of future production?

With the establishment of production by Endako . . . B.C. Molybdenum . . . and other immediate production sources . . . and with the prediction that ALICE ARM will ultimately become the WORLD'S CENTRAL PRODUCTION AREA OF THE METAL, the question of what actually constitutes the properties and marketability of the metal is naturally of paramount importance to the development of B.C.'s natural resources.

WHAT IS MOLYBDENUM?

What is characteristically known as the "Space Age" has brought into world prominence the metal known as MOLYBDENUM . . . It is a silver-grey metallic element . . . almost as heavy as lead . . . which has an extremely high melting point . . . designated at 4,700 degrees Fahrenheit. This is 2,000 degrees higher than that of Steel and 1,000 degrees higher than the temperature at which most of the earth's rocks would melt.

The metal, applied to the manufacture of steel, produces extremely tough armour plate. Demands of modern space craft and instruments that have to withstand terrific pressures, would be impossible to meet without the addition of this precious metal. Almost 90% of Molybdenum content goes into hardening and toughening both steel and cast iron and the market can absorb all the production of Molybdenum the world can produce.

It is also used as a paint pigment as well as a chemical additive to soils, increasing crop yields from 20 to as high as 300% . . . Finally, it is used as a catalyst in the petroleum industry as well as an essential element

in many more processes.

When it has been predicted by engineers and scientists that British Columbia will ultimately become the world's centre of production of Molybdenum, they do not rely solely on the known potential production of companies that have already established the existence of millions of tons of low-grade ore, **but also on the future potential production of other companies** now located within the area of known Molybdenum production. It will need many more successful developments to satisfy the world's growing demand for the metal.

OTHER PROMISING PRODUCTION AREAS

The B.C. Department of Mines & Petroleum resources instances other areas of future possible molybdenum production. In a recently published book entitled "Lode Metals in British Columbia in 1965", which is part of the Minister of Mines book of 1965, mention is made of several other current developments including Climax Molybdenum's development at Glacier Gulch; Lornex Mining Corporation's drilling operation near Ashcroft; and Brenda's primary milling work on its property north of Peachland near Osoyoos.

Many of the current development operations throughout the Province are concerned with the mining of mixed ore including copper-molybdenum combinations where future production of low-grade ore will necessitate extensive operations.

ACTUAL PRODUCTION FOR 1967

The development of British Columbia as a source of molybdenum is a comparatively recent one although limited production has been recorded for some time past. In 1964, some 28,000 pounds of molybdenum worth

approximately \$47,000 was produced by Bethlehem Copper as a by-product. Total production for the whole Province was about twice that amount.

In 1965, the Endako Mine and the Boss Mountain production by Noranda Mines, together produced 7,237,225 pounds of molybdenum and concentrates as molybdic trioxide worth \$12,332,844. Further gratifying results from exploration resulted in Kennecott Copper's \$20,000,000 development of B.C. Molybdenum's property at Alice Arm, due to start production this year. In other words; production of molybdenum in British Columbia has every chance of becoming one of the Province's most valuable assets.

NEW DEVELOPMENTS IMPORTANT

Hence, it is important that junior companies located adjacent to proven production, be allowed to carry on developments to a much greater extent and, in this respect, several current developments hold out the promise of being able to substantially contribute to the over-all production of Molybdenum in British Columbia.

ANY COMPANY that, on primary investigation of its development of its claims, can produce sufficient evidence of Molybdenum mineralization, has more than ordinary possibilities of future success.

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