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## Moly mining boom

The zooming price and growing shortage of molybdenum are the main reasons why Climax Molybdenum Corp. of B.C. is planning to spend \$135 million to reopen its old molybdenum mine near Alice Arm.

The mine, 45 miles northeast of Stewart, was closed and mothballed in 1972 because it was not making a profit.

"Moly is now bringing U.S. \$4.85 a pound, compared with about U.S. \$4.00 a year ago," said C. Allen Born, who was recently appointed president and chief executive officer of Climax, which is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Amax Inc., of Greenwich, Conn. Born is also president of Canada Tungsten Mining Corp., which is a 65 per cent owned subsidiary of Amax.

Molybdenum is an alloying metal used in steelmaking; it improves steel's strength and durability and makes it easier to machine and weld.

"There's a five to seven per cent growth rate in demand for moly, and now there's a shortage due to the cutback in production of copper concentrates, as producers have reacted to the world-wide slump in copper prices," said Born. (Molybdenum is a by-product of copper concentrate production.)

About 500 new construction jobs will be created over a 30-month period when the work on reopening the mine gets under way next spring, said Born.

"When the mine is in operation — in mid-1982 if all goes according to schedule — there will be about 450 new permanent jobs created," Born said.

"We'll be building a campsite to house approximately 1,200 people. We want to encourage married couples to move in, and have to make sure there is enough accommodation for growing families.

The reopening of the mine is in reality a major reconstruction project, including the enlargement of the existing campsite, a 22-mile road to connect to the Terrace-Stewart highway, and refurbishing of the mine and mill.

"We'll be increasing the mill capacity from its current 6,000 tons a day capacity to 12,000 tons a day," said Born.

Tenders have already been called for heavy mining equipment, including three 10-yard shovels, 12 trucks each with a capacity of 85 tons, drills, loaders, and a mobile crane.

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