

2-9-56

Baker Democrat Herald
Feb 9, 1956

Capacity To Double

Lime Plant To Supply Cement For Snake Dams

Expenditure of \$3,114,572 to double the capacity of the cement plant at Lime, in Baker county, has been approved by the board of directors of the Oregon Portland Cement Company. F. E. McCaslin, the company's president, announced in Portland Wednesday. Construction work this year will increase the capacity of the plant to 1,000,000 barrels of finished cement annually.

The expansion was made necessary, McCaslin said, to provide cement for the Snake river dams to be constructed by Morrison-Knudsen company of Boise for the Idaho Power Company.

Work has been started on the Brownlee dam, and Oxbow and Hells Canyon dams are to follow. The Oregon Portland Cement company will supply all of the cement for these three huge projects which will require several years in construction. The cement will be shipped by rail over the branch line from Huntington.

Equipment To Arrive Soon

It is expected that the principal machinery, including a 350-foot rotary kiln, heavy rock grinding and finished cement grinding machinery and electrical equipment, will begin arriving about the middle of this year. Completion date for the entire expansion is scheduled for December 15. This will fit in with the heavy pouring schedule on the Brownlee project.

The expansion will add substantially to the 1956 payroll of Baker county, since much of the expenditures will be for labor, McCaslin said. The increased capacity then will require a higher payroll, and will add to the prosperity of Baker county.

Demand Increases

Oregon Portland Cement company's plant at Lime, one of the oldest industries in Baker county, has been hard pressed to keep up with the demand for its products.

The 1956 expansion will be the fourth major construction project since the close of World War II for this company. At its Oswego plant it installed one new kiln. The Lime quarry was expanded. Another new kiln is under construction at Oswego and is scheduled for completion in April.

OREGONIAN Sept. 3, 1959

Cement Firm Buys Deposit

The Oregon Portland Cement Co., 111 SE Madison St., has purchased the interest of the National Industrial Products Corp. in the large deposit of chemical limerock at Durkee, Ore., 20 miles from Baker, F. E. McCaslin, president of the cement firm, announced Wednesday. Physical transfer of ownership occurred Tuesday.

The National Industrial Products Corp. was a subsidiary of the Morrison-Knudsen Co. of Boise, Idaho.

"This is the largest known existing deposit of the highest grade chemical limerock in the Pacific Northwest," said McCaslin. "It contains 20 million tons of proven rock of this type. The deposit is located on the main line rail transportation and on Highway 30.

"Users of this type of chemical limerock include sugar refineries, paper mills, steel mills and numerous industries of similar type. Oregon Portland Cement will serve the entire Pacific Northwest with this material."

Complete Line Readied

McCaslin said his firm will prepare to supply the market with a complete line of chemical limerock products and sizes.

The deposit and quarry are located within less than one mile of the Union Pacific Railway and the arterial highway and at a low altitude where moderate winter weather conditions prevail.

"This makes possible year around production and shipments," said McCaslin, "and our policy will be to furnish any size of limestone, in any amount and any time. These deposits are separate and in addition to the inexhaustible supply of limerock used for cement manufacture owned by the company and adjacent to its plant at Lime, Ore."

The sum involved in the sale was not disclosed.

Oregon Portland Files Lime Ground

Oregon Portland Cement Co. Tuesday filed the location of ten placer claims containing limerock and clay and located in the Conner Creek area.

The claims are north of Fox creek where previous lime locations were made and southeast of Sugarloaf mountain.

The company the past month also recorded acquisition by deed of 780 acres of mining land in the Nelson siding area from National Industrial Products Co., of which H. W. Morrison of Boise is president. It also acquired an interest in mining claims in the same area from NIPCO.

New Owners Add Lime Production

Oregon-Portland To Operate at Nelson

No change in the 35-man force at the National Industry Products Co. lime rock quarry operation at Nelson siding east of Durkee is contemplated, it was reported last week following acquisition last month of the operation by Oregon-Portland Cement Co.

The acquisition, however, will permit Oregon-Portland to supply a complete line of chemical lime products in addition to its cement production at Lime in Baker county and Oswego on Clackamas county, the latter largely supplied by rock from this area.

The chemical grades of lime go into processes at sugar mills, paper plants, steel mills and other industries in the Northwest. Ted Lewandoski is project manager for the Oregon-Portland Company which has headquarters in Portland.

According to the report in the state development department's publication last week, the lime operation is favorably situated about a mile from the main line Union Pacific and being at low elevation is a year-around operating site.

"The deposit is described as the largest known deposit of the highest grade chemical lime rock in the Northwest," the publication said.

The NIPCO firm is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Morrison-Knudsen contracting company which built the Durkee operation following earlier location and discovery by local prospectors. It is said to be a 20 million-ton reserve.

10-15-59

January 20, 1957

Expansion Job Ended

Oregon-Portland Cement Reports

A more-than-\$6,000,000 expansion and modernization has been completed by Oregon Portland Cement Co., making the firm the largest cement manufacturer in the Pacific Northwest. Plants at Oswego and Lime now have an annual capacity in excess of 3,000,000 barrels.

Headquartered in Portland, Oregon's oldest cement manufacturer has been enlarging facilities more than a year.

AT OSWEGO, production has been increased 60 per cent, including a new kiln, grinding equipment, cement coolers, stack and extensive dust collecting system and a modern packing and loading department. Total expenditure at the Oswego unit was \$3,100,000.

At Lime, Or., production has been more than doubled and the entire plant enlarged and modernized at cost of over \$3,000,000.

Frank E. McCaslin, president, said the expansion was necessitated to keep pace with the continuing high level of construction in the Northwest.

Oregon Portland now has 375 employees, an annual payroll of \$1,650,000, and extensive lime deposits in both eastern and western sections of the state.

375 $\sqrt{1,650,000}$
1500 |
1500

384 $\sqrt{3,000,000}$
384

12
24
9
2000 $\sqrt{1,152,000,000}$
57,600 TONS
OSWEGO
LIME

PAID

Cement Firm Buys Dolomite

By KEN BRADLEY
Journal Business Editor

When you look at the Portland skyline, you are looking at Oregon Portland Cement Co. It has to be the best calling card a business could boast.

However, upon meeting quiet and unassuming Frank E. McCaslin, you hesitate to use the word boast.

McCASLIN has headed the company for 30 years and piloted it from a capacity of 1 million barrels of cement a year to the present 5.2 million barrels, as well as diversifying the product line. It is a notable accomplishment for a man who began as bookkeeper in 1923 and rose to president and general manager in 1941.

Latest coup for the firm is the purchase of an enormous mountain of dolomite lime in Northeast Washington. The pile is approximately 1,000 feet long and 120 feet high with an estimated weight of 20,000 tons. Additional dolomite reserves for future marketing amount to more than 3 million tons.

Kenneth T. Shipley, vice president in charge of sales, said anticipated 1971 sales for dolomite total 5,000 tons. It is marketed for use in agriculture and is a scarce commodity.

THOSE WATCHING the stock market may remember when cement was the glamor industry. This resulted in overproduction and a subsequent price squeeze. As the bloom left the rose, companies hesitated to spend the millions needed to upgrade plants. Three Northwest plants closed in 1970.

Oregon Portland Cement (OPC) saw the trend and since 1947-48 has sent \$22 million in upgrading and increasing capacity. In 1967, \$6½ million was spent at Lake Oswego. About \$1 million went into environmental control — and remember this was before the public was conscious of the word ecology.

OPC, selling between \$14½ and \$15½, stands to benefit from this timely upgrading of facilities.

A STOCKHOLDER, buying 100 shares of OPC common stock in 1954 at \$21 per share and retaining the stock issued in stock splits and dividends together, would have increased his holding to 527 shares. With cash dividends and a present price of \$15.5, it would give him \$8,168.50 for his stock and dividends of \$5,104 — totaling \$13,272.50 — a return of \$884 per year or 42 per cent per year on the investment.

McCaslin sees an impending cost hike throughout the industry as demand exceeds supply. He pins his forecast to estimated 1971 housing starts of 2 million units and a further 2½ million in 1972. Housing uses 25 per cent of the total cement production.

SHIPLEY SAND cement is in a unique position. "It's either oversupply or under-supply. The only economical way to expand is in large units.

McCaslin sees an edge for his company because competitors will have to spend money on upgrading to cope with volume and thus profitability will be hurt. Moderni-



SHIPLEY (left), McCASLIN

zation takes three to four years.

Erik Voldbaek, vice president-operations, said the company's Lime Lite — an off-white which is mined at Lime — is finding an excellent reception. Production is 1.2 million barrels per year.

Others products are pozzolan, ground limestone, dolomite lime, limestone flour, Cottrell flour, sugar rock, foundry limestone and glass rock.

LIMESTONE comes in 11,000-ton barges from Texada Island, 100 miles north of Vancouver, B.C. At one time there was a deposit of limestone at Roseburg. It long since has been worked out. Voldbaek said there are no high-grade limestone deposits west of the Cascades.

OPC, with three plants, has a young, aggressive management team and is the only firm with cement manufacturing facilities in the Northwest. With shipping costs a major factor in marketing, this could be a distinct advantage. At present 72 per cent of sales are to ready-mix operators. OPC supplies more than half the cement sold in Oregon and more than 70 per cent in Idaho. Excluding freight, cement is one of the cheapest manufactured products. Costs run to 1½ cents a pound.

However, it is a precise manufacturing process, McCaslin said. "Raw material, as found in natural deposits, varies greatly. But the end product has to be within narrow limits regulated by the U.S. Bureau of Standards."

Limestone must be burned in a kiln at 2,800 degrees. It comes out in klinkers the size of marbles that must be crushed. The big kiln at Lake Oswego uses enough fuel per day to heat 90 houses for one year.