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PORTLAND, OREGON

August 22, 1941

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**STATE DEPT OF GEOLOGY
& MINERAL INDS.**

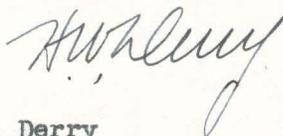
Mr. Earl K. Nixon, Director
State Department of Geology
and Mineral Industries
702 Woodlark Building
Portland, Oregon

Dear Mr. Nixon:

Please note the attached letter I have just received and give me your comments, by telephone or otherwise.

The samples are the ones I personally picked up during my visit with Mr. Libby.

Very truly yours,



H. W. Derry
Manager, New Industries Department

HWD:gd
Enc.



WM. HUNTLEY HAMPTON

Consulting Mining and Civil Engineer
Chemist and Metallurgist

2037 S. W. Park Ave.
Portland, Oregon
August 20, 1941

C
O
P
Y

Mr. H. W. Derry
Manager, New Industries Department
Pacific Power & Light Company
Portland, Oregon

Re: Tin Ore near Burns, Oregon

Dear Mr. Derry:

I have made a careful partial analysis of the tin ore and the slag derived from the ore of which you sent me samples as I requested. I have been quite a time in accomplishing this as I had to keep off my feet most of the time intervening since receiving the samples.

Here are the surprising results:

The Ore contains	1.24% of tin oxide equivalent to 0.976% tin. This is 19.52 pounds of tin per ton. 71.87% of Silica.
The Slag contains	0.80% of tin oxide equivalent to 0.63% of tin. This is 12.6 pounds of tin per ton. 74.51% Silica.

Assuming that the slag was derived from ore of which the samples received are a true representative, it shows a decided loss in the process of smelting and an increase in silica content corresponding.

It is evident that no fluxes were used in the smelting.

Material with such a high silica content is very difficult to fuse and requires a very high temperature. The slag was not fluid enough when melted to allow any metallic particles to settle and coalesce. Such tin as was reduced to the metallic state would be volatilized and pass off as fumes and condense as oxide of tin.

The sample of flue dust you gave me was subjected to a regulation tin assay by fusion with soda and sulphur with the following results: Tin oxide 0.44%, equivalent to 0.35% of tin, or 7 pounds per ton. The sample of metal obtained from the flue dust is pure tin.

To the best of my knowledge this is the first instance of tin occurring as a constituent of a rock mass in the form of silicate of tin. The ore is an

obsidian that has been crushed, apparently, and consolidated. I believe it is a very old type of obsidian as it has nothing in common with obsidians of recent origin.

Tin occurs in some rhyolites in New Mexico in very small and unprofitable quantity, but it is in the oxide form and associated with other minerals that complicate the recovery.

The only occurrence of tin silicate heretofore has been artificial when tin oxide has been used to manufacture certain types of glass. The only way to get reliable results as to the tin content of these ores is by chemical analysis methods and not by the customary assay methods.

It is very easy to appreciate how the controversy has arose, from this unusual occurrence of tin and the infrequency of requests for tin assays, which when made are not backed by any particular experience, if any.

The reason Cyanide of potassium, or sodium, is used for tin fire assays is because of its low melting point, nearly 200 degrees lower than the carbonates, and tin is reduced at a much lower temperature than many other metals from its oxide the mineral cassiterite. Very accurate assays can be made of tin by using the carbonates and a reducing agent, such as charcoal, argol or flour, but as at a higher temperature. This obsidian glass with its tin silicate content requires a very high heat to decompose it and free the tin under such conditions where it is likely the tin will volatilize.

This should conclusively settle the controversy.

This new ore offers quite a metallurgical problem that will require some study and experiment for a profitable recovery of the tin. I have in mind a method which might prove commercial if the experiments carried on by the present promoters are unsuccessful.

Yours very truly,

(Signed) Wm. Huntley Hampton

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WM. HUNTLEY HAMPTON
CONSULTING MINING AND CIVIL ENGINEER
CHEMIST AND METALLURGIST

LABORATORY AND ASSAY OFFICE, ESTABLISHED 1886

TELEPHONE BEACON 8266

~~475 WEST PARK STREET~~

PORTLAND, OREGON

2037 S.W. Park Ave.

September 1st, 1941

Mr. Earl K. Nixon,
State Dept. Geology and Mineral Industries,
702 Woodlark Bldg.,
Portland, Or.

Dear Mr. Nixon:-

I have your favor of August 25 in relation to the "tin ore problem" and note you have experts working on it for sometime now. They must be going after it the hardest way they can find. It should not take over 24 hours to make a definite determination of the tin content of most any combinations of tin with other elements. I had one case many years ago when I had a tin determination to make when it took three days and that was a case of tin poisoning for a murder trial at The Dalles, back about 1892.

However I will be pleased to meet Dr. Harrison when he comes to town.

Yours very truly,

Wm. H. Hampton

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SEP 2 1941

STATE DEPT OF GEOLOGY
& MINERAL INDS.

7

Oregonian - August 1941.

Burns Tin Ore

To the Editor: There has arisen during the past few months quite a controversy as to whether tin existed in certain deposits near Burns, Or.

Some months ago I was shown some samples of the peculiar obsidian glass which they claimed carried tin and was inclined to disbelieve their claims, because there are only two known ores of tin, the oxide and the sulphide. I was given a small sample of the metal which the promoters had produced and found it to be pure tin.

Recently I obtained a sample of the obsidian glass that

had been shown me and made a partial chemical analysis of it and was very much surprised to find it contained tin as claimed.

I obtained 1.24% of tin oxide, which is equivalent to 0.976% of tin, or 19.52 pounds per ton. The tin is in this natural glass as a silicate, a state of existence heretofore unknown, except in an artificial way as a constituent in some special types of glass.

I also tested the slag produced from it in efforts to smelt the material and found it also contained tin, but only two-thirds as much, showing that about one-third had been volatilized in the smelting operation and some of it recovered as flue dust, from which they obtained the metallic tin by appropriate treatment.

It is not at all surprising that the controversy arose, as the ordinary methods of fire assay would give widely varying results according to the experience of the assayer. A request for a tin assay is a very rare thing.

WM. HUNTLEY HAMPTON,
2037 S. W. Park Ave.

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

July 23, 1941

RECEIVED
JUL 28 1941

STATE DEPT OF GEOLOGY
& MINERAL INDS.

Honorable Earl Nixon,
State Dept. of Geology and Mineral Industries,
702 Woodlark Building,
Portland, Oregon.

My dear Mr. Nixon:

I am enclosing a copy of a letter received today
from the Director of the Geological Survey in order that
your files may be complete relative to the Burns tin mat-
ter.

Sincerely yours,



Robert B. Parkman
Secretary to Senator Holman

RBP:O
ENCL



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
WASHINGTON

July 21, 1941

Hon. Rufus C. Holman,
United States Senate.

My dear Senator Holman:

In reply to your letter of July 10 enclosing a clipping from the Oregon Journal of June 21 and raising certain questions concerning methods of analyzing tin ores:

The newspaper clipping is a good resume of the questions that had been raised and duly considered before the Geological Survey made its recent field investigation and its numerous tests of alleged tin ore from the area west of Burns.

In two of its assays the Survey used the cyanide method which gave negative results. C. H. White, in his book "Methods in metallurgical analysis," makes the following comment on the assay of tin ore by the cyanide method: "If the ore is impure, other metals may be reduced with the tin, and if silica is present, some of the tin will combine with it and to into the slag."

The Survey also used other methods that are believed to be far more reliable in detecting small percentages of tin than is the cyanide method. Moreover, the methods used were thoroughly tested with reference to finding even a small percentage of tin. It was conclusively established that a small percentage, say one pound per ton, could be identified, and further, that none of the sixteen samples tested showed as much as that. The Survey is satisfied that as to the samples it tested, if any tin at all is present, it is in such small quantities as to be insignificant.

However, in view of your particular interest in this case, we shall run some additional assays by the cyanide method just as a further check, although I know of no reason for expecting positive results in view of the more delicate methods that we have used. These additional tests will take a little time, owing to the pressure of work under way. When they are completed you will be informed of the results at once.

Cordially yours,

(Sgd) W. C. Mendenhall

Director

June 16, 1941

Honorable Rufus C. Holman
United States Senator
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator Holman:

Thanks kindly for your letter of June 12th with enclosures conveying the information the the Bureau of Mines and the Geological Survey both report negatively on the Burns tin "ore".

On seeing a press notice last week given out by Senator McNary and stating that Dr. Mendenhall had reported that the material "contains no significant amount of tin", I gave a release to the press. For your information, I am attaching a copy of that release hereto.

In essence our position is this: We believe the Geological Survey is premature in turning thumbs down on the Burns tin matter. We think it is too important a matter to dismiss after a brief series of routine tests which we gather both the Bureau and the Geological Survey have made. We are undertaking a serious research investigation of the matter under the impression that it is justified. Whether or not our results will bear out the Geological Survey's and the Bureau's results we, of course, do not know. We are, nevertheless, of the opinion that a basic problem in physical chemistry may be involved and we think that a dismissal of the representations of the property owners is ill-advised to say the least until an explanation of their results can be made.

Sincerely yours,

EKN:vm
encl.

Director

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

June 12, 1941.

EVERARD H. SMITH, CLERK
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STATE DEPT OF GEOLOGY
& MINERAL INDS.

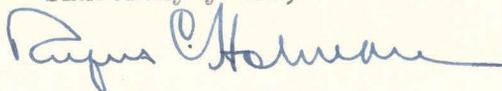
Honorable Earl Nixon,
State Department of Geology and
Mineral Industries,
702 Woodlark Building,
Portland, Oregon.

My dear Mr. Nixon:

With reference to your interest in the Burns tin matter, I enclose herewith reports I have received from the Director of the Geological Survey and the Commissioner of the General Land Office, which you will find self-explanatory. I shall advise you of any additional information I secure from the Government Departments here in Washington.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,



RCH.PF



COPY

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GENERAL LAND OFFICE

WASHINGTON

JUNE 6, 1941.

Hon. Rufus C. Holman,
United States Senate.

M

My dear Senator Holman:

I have received your letter of May 28, 1941, relative to a report of the Bureau of Mines and the Geological Survey covering their examination of the tin deposits near Burns, Oregon.

A report covering the field examination of the Juniper Ridge group of mining claims for tin deposits in the same area was received today from the Division of Investigations, this Department. The report appears to be adverse to the claimants. It is now under consideration.

A report or a result of the field examination by the Geological Survey has not as yet been received, but it is expected within a few days. You will be advised of any action taken in this matter. No field examination was made by the Bureau of Mines, but they agreed to cooperate as far as possible in testing samples.

A copy of this letter is enclosed.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) Fred W. Johnson

Commissioner

COPY

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

WASHINGTON June 6, 1941.

Hon. Rufus C. Holman,
United States Senate.

My dear Senator Holman:

At the Senate Committee hearing on May 15 you addressed to Mr. Hewett some questions about the occurrence of tin in Central Oregon. In this connection, you may wish to know that the Chemical Laboratory of the Geological Survey has just completed tests of a number of samples, alleged to be tin-bearing, collected by a Survey geologist from claims in the Squaw Butte area, 37 miles west of Burns, Ore. The tests show that the samples contain no significant amounts of tin. This supports the conclusion of the geologist who examined the claims in April and reported that they showed no evidence of being tin-bearing.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) W. C. Mendenhall

Director.

January 18, 1941

Honorable Rufus C. Holman
United States Senator
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator Holman:

Thanks kindly for your letter of January 13th, addressed to Hon. Earl Nixon, Secretary of State, Salem, Oregon, and enclosing a letter from Mr. Johnson, commissioner of the General Land Office, regarding the postponement of action on alleged tin-bearing lands near Burns.

This is the second letter that you have addressed to me as Secretary of the State of Oregon. It is more embarrassing to Earl Snell, who is the Secretary of State, than to myself. I think you have the Earls mixed up. The question is debatable as to whether, if I see you in Washington within the next few weeks as I say, I should buy you a drink, say, a Coca Cola, or you should buy me one.

I hope to be in Washington the third week in February on my yearly pilgrimage to attend the annual meeting of the Association of American State Geologists and to confer with the United States Bureau of Mines and the United States Geological Survey on cooperative work in Oregon, but I may miss the trip this year.

Attached hereto is copy of press release just issued. Oregon mining is going places.

Sincerely yours,

EKN:vm
encl.

Director

cc: Earl Snell

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

January 13, 1941.

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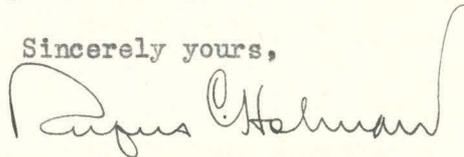
Hon. Earl Nixon,
Secretary of State,
Salem, Oregon

My dear Mr. Nixon:

The attached letter from the Commissioner of the General Land Office relative to the mineral deposit in the vicinity of Burns, Oregon, is self-explanatory. When I have word as to the further report in the matter, I shall let you know.

With all good wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,



RCH:J



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1809038
1791800UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GENERAL LAND OFFICE
WASHINGTON

Hon. Rufus C. Holman,

JAN 10 1941

United States Senate.

My dear Senator Holman:

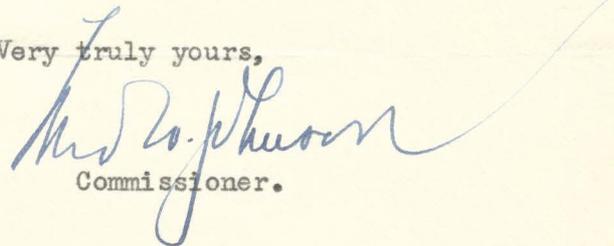
I have received your letter of December 27, 1940, quoting from a letter of Earl K. Nixon, relative to a mineral deposit in the vicinity of Burns, Oregon. It seems that he is convinced that the lands contain tin in commercial quantities, but that additional time beyond January 16, 1941, the date set for a hearing, should be granted to enable the parties in interest to obtain a more definite determination of the quantity and quality of ore.

Mr. J. H. Favorite, Special Agent in Charge, Division of Investigations, San Francisco, California, has immediate charge of the Government's interest in the matter. After informal conference with the Division of Investigations I can now advise you that favorable consideration is being given to the question of postponing the hearing for several months. Furthermore, in order to avoid any unnecessary expense to the mineral claimants additional investigation is being made as to the mineral character of the lands.

I can assure you that there is no intention to deny the claimants every reasonable opportunity to submit evidence tending to prove the mineral character of their claims.

A copy of this letter is enclosed.

Very truly yours,



Commissioner.

Enclosure.

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

January 16, 1941.

EVERARD H. SMITH, CLERK
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Mr. Earl K. Nixon, Director,
State Department of Geology and
Mineral Industries,
702 Woodlark Building,
Portland, Oregon.

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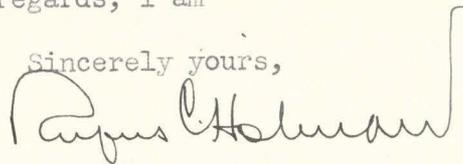
My dear Mr. Nixon:

Thank you very much for your letter of
January 11 with further reference to the Burns tin matter.

Mr. Goldman has not as yet called upon me
but I assume he will do so in the near future and I shall
keep in mind your suggestions with regard to participation
of the Bureau of Mines. I shall advise you of developments
after he calls.

With personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours,



RCH.PF



January 11, 1941

Honorable Rufus C. Holman
United States Senator
Washington, D. C.

AIR MAIL

Subject: Burns Tin Matter.

Dear Senator Holman:

Judge Duncan telephoned and informed me that he had written an air-mail letter to Mr. Goldman in St. Louis for transmission to you by Mr. Goldman while the latter is in Washington within the next few days. The essence of the letter, I gather, is a request on Judge Duncan's part that you try and get an investigation started by the United States Bureau of Mines into the tin situation near Burns. Judge Duncan's reason for desiring particularly to get the Bureau of Mines into the picture was his understanding that, should the tin development become a large enterprise, the proprietors would be obliged to sell securities through the Securities and Exchange Commission and that the Bureau of Mines' opinion would be necessary under those circumstances.

I advised Judge Duncan that such was not the case, that the Securities and Exchange Commission has its own mining investigators, and that this Department works in quite close cooperation with them. Actually we have been able to favor some properties in this State through the arrangement.

I advised Judge Duncan that I had told you personally, when we conferred before your leaving Portland, that I was prepared to retract my horns on the tin situation—that there seemed to be a possibility of tin being present, and that the assayers had some 'tall explaining to do to me. He was not aware that I had informed you fully of the situation.

I am uncertain as to whether it would be wise or expedient to chug down the throats of the Bureau of Mines the necessity of their doing a job of investigation on the tin. I give the following reasons for my position:

1. I think the Bureau is already "licked" on the possibility of there being any tin there, that they probably have some preconceptions, and that that state of mind would not help any at arriving at a satisfactory conclusion as to merits. I am just in receipt of a long letter from a prominent member of the United States Geological Survey in Washington on this tin business, and he is just as much "licked" before ever being on the ground as I believe the members of the Bureau of Mines to be.

January 11, 1941

2. The Bureau of Mines' facilities and personnel, I gather, are wholly occupied principally with the new manganese, magnesium, and chromite investigations, and there would be a long delay of months and months before any answer would be obtained from the Bureau of Mines. If Mr. Goldman is prepared to spend a little additional money to get the real answer on this tin situation, I would be pleased personally to recommend to him a plan, which I think would be much simpler and which should obtain definite results one way or the other at a very much earlier date than if the work were done by one of the Federal agencies.
3. The Bureau would not enjoy being pushed into this investigation against their will by congressmen whose suggestions have virtually the weight of orders. The psychology would be wrong. I am informed by engineers of standing who lived in Oregon at the time of the former tin scare around Grants Pass that the Department of the Interior was finally drawn into the matter and that they pretty much made a fool of themselves. This is hearsay, but I am inclined to believe it.

As I indicated to you, this tin business in which Judge Duncan is interested, if genuine, is so unorthodox in certain respects that I personally would be a little reluctant to turn it over to any technician not absolutely free of the traditions, ruts, channels, and orthodox techniques commonly followed by governmental agencies. I would employ a competent metallurgical chemist of research disposition, give him a few ideas to start with, then let him go. I believe there is some tin in some of this rock, but I am perfectly convinced that no one has half enough facts on which to base their conclusions. Everyone seems to be going off half-cocked. I am not disposed to do this personally nor to apologize to technical men for my position in the matter.

I think you should consider the above for what it is worth, if anything, before making demands of the Bureau of Mines. I am sending a copy of this to Judge Duncan with the idea that, if he does not agree, he can wire you as much. I would hate to have the Bureau of Mines or anyone else tie into this proposition feeling, on starting, that their task was impossible, carry it through to completion in a perfunctory way, and report "no go" where someone else working privately might, if given proper latitude, find quite different conditions and a different answer.

Cordially and sincerely yours,

EKN:vm

Earl K. Nixon, Director

cc: Judge Robert M. Duncan

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RECEIVED
JAN 14 1941

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

STATE DEPT OF GEOLOGY
& MINERAL INDS.

January 7, 1941.

Harwood

*Everard
Smith*

Honorable Earl Nixon,
Secretary of State,
Salem, Oregon.

My dear Mr. Nixon:

Referring further to the Burns tin matter I am writing to transmit a report I have received from Mr. J. H. Favorite of the Division of Investigation, Department of the Interior.

I have conferred with Mr. B. B. Smith, Director of Investigation for the Department, here in Washington and am advised that he has instructed Mr. Favorite to hold the hearing in abeyance for such time as in his opinion may be required to prepare adequately. Mr. Smith is also requesting the Director of the Bureau of Mines and the Director of the Geological Survey to make independent examinations with a view to submitting their recommendations as to the disposition which should be made of this matter. I believe that these developments will mean that an extension of at least the six months requested will result. I shall keep you advised of developments here and in the meantime I suggest that you inform me of all pertinent local developments.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

Rufus C. Holman

RCH.PF

W

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

DIVISION OF INVESTIGATIONS

401 Federal Office Building
San Francisco, California
January 2, 1941

OFFICE OF SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

AIR MAIL

The Honorable Rufus C. Holman
The United States Senate
Washington, D. C.

My dear Senator:

In response to your letter of December 27, concerning the mining claims in Oregon on which alleged deposits of tin have been found, I wish to advise you as follows:

I am in hearty accord with the statements made in the last paragraph of your letter along the line that it would be a very important development in the interest of national defense if a deposit of workable tin could be found in this country. For this reason, we have made every possible effort to test very carefully the materials taken from this land.

The recent developments in this case have been reported to Mr. B. B. Smith, Director of Investigations, Department of the Interior in Washington, and pending the receipt of further instructions the hearings have been postponed for a period of thirty days. I am sure that Mr. Smith will be glad to discuss the matter with you more fully in the event you wish to take the matter up with him.

Yours very truly,


J. H. Favorite
Special Agent in Charge

JHF:AD

December 16, 1940

Mr. Robert B. Parkman
Secretary to Senator Holman
Washington, D. C.

Subject: Burns Tin Matter.

Dear Mr. Parkman:

I am addressing this to you, as I understand Senator Holman may not arrive in Washington for some little time. He and I conferred on various matters last week before he left.

The point of this letter is to advise you that I spent Saturday and Sunday on the ground at the tin property, observing efforts of the proprietors to get a pilot plant into operation. The furnace was not working successfully when I left, but that would have little or no bearing on the merits of the entire enterprise.

I have seen enough assaying of the material by responsible analysts to convince me that it would be unwise for the Department of the Interior to vacate the mining claims on January 14th or some such time, as they have indicated, or until there is a more definite answer on whether the rock does or does not carry tin in commercial quantities. If it does carry, say, 1% tin or more, as some assays indicate, there would still remain the question of working out the metallurgy.

I feel that, if it was a question of lead, zinc, gold, silver, or any one of a dozen other minerals, the situation would be very different but, since tin is strictly a strategic mineral and since we produce none of it, it would be very stupid to make a mistake in this case. I have taken some samples for testing by analysts of our Department and am prepared to do some work on the analytical problem in cooperation with the Department of Chemistry at the College. It will take a little time, I am afraid, to get acceptable results whatever they may be. In any event, I believe you would be very well justified in using whatever influence you can with the proper authorities of the Department of the Interior to prevent their vacating the mining claims in question on January 14th. I feel certain that the matter cannot be decided definitely by that time and that there should be a postponement of action on the part of the Land Department authorities.

I made this suggestion to Senator Holman and assume that he conveyed it to you, but it seemed best to repeat it herewith.

Thanking you, I am

Very truly yours,

October 29, 1940

Senator Rufus C. Holman
394 S. W. Front Avenue
Portland, Oregon

Dear Senator Holman: Subject: Judge Duncan's Letter.

I shall be very happy to confer with you on this tin business. We have full information, and it seems quite plain that Judge Duncan has been involved because of ignorance and in part bull-headedness. I am somewhat reluctant to blast the situation in the newspapers as it should be on account of embarrassing Duncan, so I am withholding breaking a story until I can get on my feet and go over there again, although I have sufficient evidence now. It makes a good story, and if you care to, drop in at my room (#207) Good Samaritan Hospital on Wednesday or Thursday - I shall be very happy indeed to see you and tell you what the situation is.

I shall probably be going home Friday for a few days before returning to the office.

Respectfully yours,

Earl K. Nixon
Director

EKN:ac

September 26, 1941

Judge Robert M. Duncan
Burns, Oregon

Dear Judge:

I was terribly aggrieved to learn over the 'phone from Ivan the other day that you have had a reoccurrence of your illness. Trust that this time you will check it for good.

As to the tin, I have sent a copy of Ivan's formula received in the mail yesterday to Dr. Harrison asking him to give it a thorough tryout. I may as well confess now that I am afraid something is terribly wrong. I am thoroughly convinced, of course, that it is not you or Ivan; that you are 100% in good faith; but mysterious things can happen, and they may have happened in the present instance. I still take the position as ever that a dub (meaning Rhea) might stumble onto something that an expert might miss, and I am sure you will agree that I have been entirely fair in my attitude toward the tin from the beginning. We have, I believe, gone into the matter much more thoroughly than anyone else, including the U. S. G. S. or Bureau of Mines, and it appears, whatever any of us may think, that someone is pulling a fast one on someone. Dr. Harrison is absolutely clean, and would rather establish the presence of some new scientific formula than anything else he or I can think of, but it now appears to us that the tin is not present in paying quantities. I am basing this statement on samples we have taken ourselves on all different phases of the rock.

Both the Oregonian and the Journal are clamoring for stories on this, and I am holding them off.

I thought you should have an inkling of our general position before this matter was wound up.

Hoping that your illness will be short-lived, and that you will soon be back physically to your old self, and with kindest personal regards, I am,

Sincerely yours,

EKN:ac

Director

GRANT COUNTY
Third Monday May
Third Monday November

MALHEUR COUNTY
Second Monday January
Fourth Monday April
First Monday September

HARNEY COUNTY
Last Monday March
First Monday October

Circuit Court Ninth Judicial District

GRANT, HARNEY, MALHEUR COUNTIES

ROBERT M. DUNCAN, Circuit Judge

BURNS, OREGON

RECEIVED
SEP 26 1941

STATE DEPT OF GEOLOGY
& MINERAL INDS.

September 24, 1941.

Mr. Earl K. Nixon,
Director State Department
Geological and Mineral Industries,
702 Woodlark Building,
Portland, Oregon.

Dear Mr. Nixon,-

I am sorry indeed that I have not been able to be of more help to you this summer in running down the tin than I have. The fact of the matter is that I have been on the verge of a breakdown which finally caught up with me on the 20th of this month and I am now sentenced to serve a ninety day term in the hospital at Burns. My illness, together with Ivan's misfortune, kept us behind the eight ball.

I have seen very little of Mr. Hagey this summer. He has been active with the tin and a number of persons are working on it.

I have no hesitancy in telling you at the present time we have this ore in the hands of two men, whose names I have promised not to disclose for the time being, who believe that they have about worked out a solution. It will take a month yet to answer this problem. They are not letting the thing die and I am in hopes they will have some evidence for you before very long.

Sincerely yours,

Robert M. Duncan

B.

RMD:B

RECEIVED
SEP 25 1941

STATE DEPT OF GEOLOGY
& MINERAL IND.

Burns, Ore.
Sept. 24, 1941

Earl K. Nixon
Department of Geology and Mineral Industries
702 Woodlark Building
Portland, Oregon

Dear Mr. Nixon:

I am very sorry that we haven't answered any of your letters lately but Dad has been sick for the last two weeks and we have been rather disorganized around here.

I don't see how either Earl or I could possibly make a trip down to either Corvallis or Portland in the near future. Earl is very busy here right now and I wouldn't dare leave town as long as Dad is as sick as he is at present.

However, I will try to give you some data that should prove useful to you in your work on this tin ore. This particular method has proven very simple and quite reliable. It is dependant, as are all other methods, on finding the right heat in which to conduct the test. It won't work every time but, if the heat is adjusted right you should find that it will give uniformly successful results as it has proven so here.

This test is conducted in a reducing atmosphere which we have found necessary. Take a large crucible (the twenty or thirty gram size) and place a mixture in it consisting of the following proportions.

4 parts of ore (ore should be finely ground 40 to 60 mesh or finer)

2 parts charcoal, coke, or coal

2 parts sugar syrup (made by dissolving sugar in water almost to point of saturation)

These should be well mixed. Either put a regular crucible cover over the crucible or better yet, invert a smaller crucible over the larger one and force it down until it fits as tightly as possible so as to form an air tight cover.

The charcoal is to be preferred because when coal especially or coke is heated in an air tight container there is an oily residue left that is impossible to get rid of, and which seriously hampers the recovery of the tin. This oily residue acts as a flotation reagent and picks up the particles of tin and carries them off when the material is being panned to recover the tin.

This crucible with the charge in it may be then heated in almost any type of furnace or even by an open burner. It should be heated to above a red heat but not to a white heat for from ten to fifteen minutes. The time being dependant on your type of furnace and heat that is being

applied. This time applies to the length of time after the crucible has reached a red heat. Earl has worked this successfully here by heating the crucible in a blacksmiths forge.

After the crucible has been removed from the heat and allowed to cool the charge is reground in a mortar and panned to recover the tin. Use a mortar to regind the charge as a grinder will smear the tin particles on the plates and you would lose them. Also it flattens the small tin particles so that they will pan much easier. The tin will be in the form of very fine tin shot and as sponge tin. The sponge tin will float of iff you are not careful. If you find an oily coating coming to the surface of the pan you will have to skim this off and put it thru a fine mesh cloth and then reduce this to recover part of your tin. For reducing the tin pannings to a button some such agent as palm oil should prove satisfactory. It is used in a major share of the retinning plants to recover their scrap of tin.

By experimenting with this method you should be able to reassure yourselves on the prescense of tin in the ore.

I am not at liberty to divulge any of the present work but I can assure you that some very intensive research work is at present being carried out on our ore and that the results are very encouraging.

Sincerely Yours

Joan M. Duncan

C
O
P
Y

Burns, Oregon
Sept. 24, 1941

Earl K. Nixon
Department of Geology and Mineral Industries
702 Woodlark Building
Portland, Oregon

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(signed) Ivan M. Duncan

September 15, 1941

Honorable Robert M. Duncan
Burns, Oregon

Dear Judge Duncan:

I have assumed that your failure to answer my last letter, urging that you make some arrangement for a tin demonstration at Corvallis, has been caused by your duties at court or possibly because you may have been under the weather. We have been minus about half of our staff for the last two or three weeks because of flu that is going around.

Dr. Harrison has worked on the tin matter constantly for more than a month at the laboratories at Corvallis, making very detailed tests, checking various analytical methods, and analyzing various samples of the Squaw Butte rocks. I confess that the results have not been very encouraging. We have checked samples recently assayed by Mr. William Huntley Hampton who obtained about one percent tin and cannot verify his results. We had the Oregon Refiners group make a demonstration for us, and the demonstration was unsuccessful. We have done, I believe, a great deal more work of basic scientific nature than has the Geological Survey, the Bureau of Mines, or any private group on this matter and, unless something comes to light very promptly, we may have to conclude that the brief work done by the Geological Survey was correct in general.

As our spectrographic laboratory equipment is being rapidly assembled, it will be necessary to bring Dr. Harrison back to Portland quite soon. We had hoped to get you and Mr. Hagey and perhaps Mr. Eas to come to Corvallis and give a demonstration but I am sure your reasons for not coming have been perfectly legitimate and have been caused by your inability to do so. Nevertheless, we are now in the position of having to drop the matter of proof in your lap, and we should get the matter settled in the next week or ten days because of Dr. Harrison's other duties. I might say that Harrison has had rather complete spectrographic tests made in eastern laboratories of various samples we have taken from the Squaw Butte area, and the results have been negative.

It would not be fair to close up and report on the matter without your having a chance to get the parties in question to demonstrate their wares. Would you write me at your very earliest convenience and tell me if you can help in this situation?

With kindest personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

cc: Dr. H. C. Harrison
Senator W. H. Strayer
Mr. Albert Burch
Mr. E. B. MacNaughton

EKN:vm

Director

August 25, 1941

Judge Robert M. Duncan
Burns, Oregon

Dear Judge Duncan:

Evidently you were too tied up last week to make the trip to Corvallis with Earl Hagey on the tin matter.

I had to be away all last week in connection with the Strategic Minerals Hearing at Grants Pass and also on other Departmental matters. I will be here the next two weeks so far as I now know. Couldn't you and Hagey arrange to come over to Corvallis between now and September 10th?

Sincerely yours,

EKN:vm

Director

August 4, 1941

Judge Robert M. Duncan
Burns, Oregon

Dear Judge Duncan:

Thanks kindly for your letter of August 1st. I was much amazed indeed to learn of the difficulty Ivan has been having, but am glad to know that he came through in good shape. Have asked the girls to call the hospitals and locate him so I can drop around for a chat today or tomorrow.

As you will be coming over one of these days I gather we can go further into the question of you and Earl Hagey giving us a demonstration at Corvallis. I hope we can have Dr. Harrison up from Corvallis--in fact, I will make a point of it--to hear your story on the tin.

Harrison has been doing some preliminary work at the College already on samples gathered while Allen and Lancaster were at Burns, but I have heard no word from Harrison as I was out of the office all last week.

Sincerely yours,

Director

EKN:ac

Circuit Court Ninth Judicial District

GRANT, HARNEY, MALHEUR COUNTIES

ROBERT M. DUNCAN, Circuit Judge

BURNS, OREGON

August 1st, 1941.

Mr. Earl K. Nixon,
702 Woodlark Bldg,
Portland,
Oregon.

Dear Mr. Nixon:-

Please accept my apology for not having answered your favor of the 23rd. Here is my explanation.

My son, Ivan, was taken seriously ill July 7th. Failing to respond to local treatment we took him to Portland. After a week of Xray and examinations it was determined that the trouble was gastric ulcers and an operation was imperative. He was operated upon on the 23rd. I stayed at the hospital until the 30th from 9 AM until 9 PM, too uneasy to do any business and did not have my mail forwarded.

Am happy to report that the operation was entirely successful, and that he was considered entirely out of all danger by the 30th, and I came home the 31st to find your letter with my accumulated mail.

Havnt heard a word from Becker. Know that Goldman is not going to put up any more money and that Becker is not inclined to dig into his own jeans.

Will immediately conver with Hagey and advise you concerning a testing of the ore at Corvallis. Am sure he will be glad to do so. Sorry so much time has been wasted and that your plans have been so interferred with.

Will be down for Ivan soon and will then try and see you.

Sincerely,

Robert M. Duncan

5

July 23, 1941

Judge Robert M. Duncan
Burns, Oregon

Dear Judge Duncan:

I have heard nothing from Mr. Becker since the day he left Portland. I didn't speak to him then, as a matter of fact, although he talked to Mr. Libbey briefly by 'phone. Am curious to know whether or not he went east by way of Burns, and if he did what his feeling is about the possibility of obtaining money for research at Corvallis.

Dr. H. C. Harrison, spectroscopist, whom we have employed to set-up our spectrographic laboratory, arrived about two weeks ago, and he has taken up residence in Corvallis for the next several weeks. We have asked him to do some work on the solution of the tin matter, using the facilities at the College. He writes me stating that the facilities look quite adequate, at least for the time being.

Now, I want to make you this proposition. Before calling Wm. Rhea into the picture, we would like to get you and Mr. Hagey to put on a demonstration of producing tin from the Juniper Ridge material, using your closed tube method. You described this to me and to John Allen, and it sounds very interesting. Would it be possible to arrange for you and Mr. Hagey to bring your apparatus, or give us instructions so we can build up a tube, and demonstrate how you get the tin--making the demonstration at the Chemistry Building at Corvallis. This would be an imposition on you, yet Gleeson, Ware, Graf, Harrison, and others would have a chance to observe the technique, sample the various materials and fluxes, and observe closely the conditions under which the experiment is performed. The time could be made, of course, to suit your convenience.

I am most anxious to get Dr. Harrison started on this work, and I think that such a demonstration would be a good point at which to begin. Would you give me a note on your reaction to this suggestion. I am most anxious to have Dr. Harrison work on this problem now, because later, as soon as the spectrographic equipment starts arriving, he will be wholly occupied otherwise.

With kindest personal regards, I am,

Sincerely yours,

EKN:ac
cc Earl Hagey
cc Dr. Harrison

Director

February 4, 1941

Judge Robert M. Duncan
Burns
Oregon

Dear Judge:

John Kelly's syndicated newspaper column of February 3 carries a reference to an ultra confidential movement afoot to examine the tin situation. It appears that someone is coming out from Washington, etc. Presumably, this is an outgrowth of Mr. Goldman's trip to Washington, and I assume that the investigator referred to is one of the Bureau of Mines men.

In any event, I would like to offer the services of this Department if Mr. Goldman comes west, and if there is any way in which we can assist.

I had thought you and he would probably be in Portland yesterday or today but have had no word from you. If this newspaper report is erroneous, as it could easily be, I trust that I may have the privilege of conferring with you and Mr. Goldman and of outlining a course of action which will be of greatest advantage to all parties concerned.

With kindest personal regards,

Sincerely yours

Director

EKN:hk

Circuit Court Ninth Judicial District

GRANT, HARNEY, MALHEUR COUNTIES

ROBERT M. DUNCAN, Circuit Judge

BURNS, OREGON

RECEIVED
FEB 5 1941

STATE DEPT OF GEOLOGY
& MINERAL INDS.

February 3rd, 1941.

Mr. Earl K. Nixon, Director
State Department Geology and
Mineral Industries,
702 Woodlark Bldg.,
Portland,
Oregon.

Dear Mr. Nixon:-

Just today I received word from Mr. Goldman that he would be unable to come to Oregon before the first part of March. He has had a "break down" and the doctors have ordered him to take a complete rest from all business for at least four weeks.

By the same mail a letter from Congressman Pierce to Mr. Hagey advises that he has been in conference with the USGS and USBM concerning the Kinsley report and that they are sending their 'best men' to make a complete investigation. The letter did not state the date of such investigation but would infer from his statement that it would be done immediately. If I learn anything further of such investigation will promptly advise you.

In the meantime the laboratory work is going ahead, and feel sure that when Mr. Goldman does come arrangements will be made for a completion of this work at once. I do not feel that this delay is very material for there is over a foot of snow on the property at this time.

Trust that your appropriation for the spectograph is going ahead satisfactorily. Had a letter from Senator Strayer that sounded encouraging. It is almost impossible for me to come down on account of my new work.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

Robert M. Duncan

January 7, 1941

Judge Robert M. Duncan
Burns, Oregon

Dear Judge Duncan:

Just received a letter from Senator Holman in Washington this morning advising me that the hearing on the tin matter has been postponed and enclosing a copy of the letter from Dr. Sayers, director of the United States Bureau of Mines.

The point of this note is to advise you that I will be out of the office from about noon Thursday, January 23rd, for the remainder of that week. I am asked to appear as a speaker at the Northwest Mining Institute at the University of Washington at that time. It occurred to me that you and Mr. Goldman from St. Louis might arrive about then. Please let me know a couple of days in advance so I can be certain that we will connect.

Sincerely yours,

Director

EKN:vm

December 28, 1940

Judge Robert M. Duncan
Circuit Judge
Burns, Oregon

Dear Judge Duncan:

With further reference to your letter of December 21st which arrived while I was at home with the flu--Mr. Libbey answered this in part, but I wish to say that I am informed that the last substantial series of fusions run by Mr. Kinsley in Beede's laboratory the night before he left for San Francisco showed no metallic buttons. This does not necessarily mean anything.

I seem not to have sent you a copy of a letter which I wrote on December 16th to Robert E. Parkman, secretary to Senator Holman. The letter in substance amounted to the placing on record of a conference I had had with Holman just before he left for the East, and I wanted to get it to Parkman because Parkman is a very well-informed and astute individual, in addition to being secretary and leg-man for Holman in his Washington office. The letter is self-explanatory. This morning I have a reply from Parkman, and I think you will be interested in it. It reads as follows:

"This morning I received your letter concerning the tin deposit in western Oregon. Several days ago I conferred with officials in the Bureau of Mines and the General Land Office concerning this matter and I have also made a strong written representation in the Senator's name to the proper officials in the Department of the Interior along the lines you recommend. I shall keep you fully advised concerning this and other matters in which you are interested."

As to a date for a conference among Mr. Goldman, yourself, and me--May I suggest any time between January 15th and 19th? I shall be quite tied up between now and January 6th. You may say to Mr. Goldman that I shall indeed be happy to discuss the tin matter with him and, if he is amenable to the suggestion, I may offer a plan whereby the entire matter can be satisfactorily settled to his advantage and profit if the tin is present in commercial quantities and to his satisfaction, nevertheless, if such should happen not to be the case.

With kindest regards and best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

Director

EKN:vm
encl.

December 24, 1940

Judge Robert M. Duncan
Circuit Judge
Burns, Oregon

Dear Judge Duncan:

Mr. Nixon is absent from the office because of illness, and I think it advisable for me to acknowledge receipt of your letter to him dated December 21st. I think Mr. Nixon will return to the office the latter part of this week and will then write you of his preference for a date for the conference.

The test at Corvallis had to be called off because Professor Gleeson was unable to prepare the necessary equipment in time. Mr. Kinsley came to Portland on the 19th, and a test was run on that date in the Lamall Laboratory, but negative results were obtained. It was probably not a fair test because it was hurried too much. It is my understanding that Mr. Kinsley did further work in the Beede Laboratory that night and possibly the next day, but I have no definite information concerning this.

With kind regards and best greetings for the holidays,
I am,

Sincerely yours,

F. W. Libbey
Mining Engineer

FWL:ac

GRANT COUNTY
Third Monday May
Third Monday November

MALHEUR COUNTY
Second Monday January
Fourth Monday April
First Monday September

HARNEY COUNTY
Last Monday March
First Monday October

Circuit Court Ninth Judicial District

GRANT, HARNEY, MALHEUR COUNTIES

ROBERT M. DUNCAN, Circuit Judge

BURNS, OREGON

RECEIVED
DEC 24 1940

STATE DEPT OF GEOLOGY
& MINERAL INDS.

December 21st, 1940.

Hon. Earl K. Nixon,
Director State Department
Geology & Mineral Industries,
702 Woodlark Bldg, m
Portland,
Oregon.

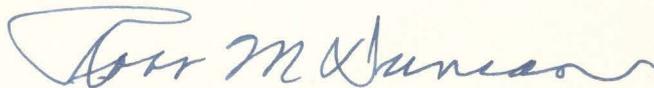
Dear Mr. Nixon:-

Have just had a letter from Mr. Goldman of St. Louis asking if we might arrange a conference with you sometime in January for the purpose of discussing the tin situation. Have written him that was certain that you would welcome such a conference. I can come down either immediately before January 6th or after about the 15th. Must hold a short term of court, at least two weeks, at Vale, beginning January 6th. My personal convenience would best be served by a date following the 15th. However before the 6th would also be possible. Will you kindly advise me if this will be satisfactory to you.

Am naturally very anxious to know the outcome of the tests run at Corvallis on the 19th and 20th, and whether Mr. Kinsley got there in time to be of assistance. Mr. Kinsley wired that he would leave here on the 18th but it was late before he got away. If you would drop me a line advising me of the results obtained I would greatly appreciate it.

With all best wishes for the Holidays and the New Year, I am,

Sincerely,



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\$ _____

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SERIAL	DEFERRED
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1206-B

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R. B. WHITE
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

Send the following message, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to

DECEMBER 17 1940

JUDGE ROBERT M. DUNCAN
BURNS, OREGON

HAVE MADE ARRANGEMENTS WITH PROFESSOR GLEESON CORVALLIS TEST KINSLEY AND
 MY TIN SAMPLES THIS THURSDAY OR FRIDAY USING SPECIAL FURNACE THEY ARE
 PREPARING ^{please} STOP SHOW KINSLEY THIS WIRE AND ASK HIM WIRE ME WHEN EXPECT HIM
 TO GO CORVALLIS WITH ME STOP HOPE YOU CAN COME TOO REGARDS

EARL K. NIXON

Charge State Dept. Geology & Mineral Industries
702 Woodlark Building Portland Oregon

December 11, 1940

Honorable Robert M. Duncan
Circuit Judge
Burns, Oregon

Dear Judge Duncan:

Thanks for your letter of December 8th.

Mr. Kinsley was in the office a few minutes ago and, I understood, is on his way to Burns where he will arrive late Thursday. Whether or not I shall be able to accept your invitation to be present at some time while the furnace is in operation I do not know yet. We are in the throes of getting out our Biennial Report so that it will be finished and ready before the Legislature convenes.

I thought you might be interested in knowing that I conferred with Senator Rufus Holman yesterday forenoon, and the tin matter came up. I suggested to Senator Holman that he use his influence to obtain a delay of several months beyond January 14th for the final hearing on this tin business. The basis of my suggestion was that I am now more convinced than ever that it would be unwise to be hasty in reaching the final decision. I am coming to believe that there really is something obscure about this rock that we have not thoroughly pegged yet.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

Director

EKN:vm

GRANT COUNTY
Third Monday May
Third Monday November

MALHEUR COUNTY
Second Monday January
Fourth Monday April
First Monday September

HARNEY COUNTY
Last Monday March
First Monday October

RECEIVED
DEC 11 1940

Circuit Court Ninth Judicial District

GRANT, HARNEY, MALHEUR COUNTIES
ROBERT M. DUNCAN, Circuit Judge

BURNS, OREGON

STATE DEPT OF GEOLOGY
& MINERAL INDS.

December 8th, 1940.

Mr. Earl K. Nixon, Director,
State Department of Geology and
Mineral Industries,
702 Woodlark Bldg.,
Portland, Oregon.

Dear Mr. Nixon:-

Thanks for your favor of the 25th ultimo and also
of copy letter to the local press.

While Mr. Kinsley was in Portland doing his laboratory
work on the tin ore I wrote to Mr. Favorite requesting that
a further continuance be granted on the contest hearing.
As a result Mr. Kinsley was called to San Francisco for
conference and have just been advised that the case was
continued until January 14th. This request was made to
allow the completion of laboratory work being undertaken
by these operators, and also to allow for the operation of
the pilot plant under the supervision of Mr. Kinsley.

I am authorized and requested to invite you to participate
in this test. The Compressor will be reconditioned by Tuesday,
the furnace will be heated, and the test will start on THURSDAY
December 12th. The plant will operate on a 24 hour basis,
handling about five tons in 24 hours. I do hope that if you
cannot be present in person that you will have one or more of
your staff here to check this thing through to the point where
some definite facts can be determined.

I do desire to talk this matter over with you but my
work is such that I do not see how I can get away for some
time to come.

Sincerely,

Robert M. Duncan

N

6409 Tin in Nevada
87155
Tyler

November 25, 1940

Honorable Robert M. Duncan
Circuit Judge
Burns, Oregon

Dear Judge Duncan:

Thanks kindly for your letter of November 20th.

I had written to Mr. J. H. Favorite of the Department of the Interior asking whether or not results of Mr. Kinsley's assays would be available to us, and Mr. Favorite has just replied. He states that, inasmuch as these results are to be introduced in evidence, it would be improper for him to give copies to anyone prior to the time they are offered in evidence. I believe that we can have no quarrel with the position that Favorite takes in the matter.

As the hearing is only a few days off anyway and as we are extremely busy with end-of-the-year work, including the outlining of data for our Biennial Report, I think it best to wait until after the hearing or until I hear further from you before making a trip to Burns. In any event, I hope to see you before Christmas-time and shall look forward to a full discussion of the entire matter.

With best wishes, I am

Cordially yours,

EKN:vm

Director

GRANT COUNTY
Third Monday May
Third Monday November

MALHEUR COUNTY
Second Monday January
Fourth Monday April
First Monday September

HARNEY COUNTY
Last Monday March
First Monday October

RECEIVED
NOV 22 1940

STATE DEPT OF GEOLOGY
& MINERAL INDS.

Circuit Court Ninth Judicial District

GRANT, HARNEY, MALHEUR COUNTIES
ROBERT M. DUNCAN, Circuit Judge

BURNS, OREGON

November 20th, 1940.

Mr. Earl K. Nixon,
Director State Department
of Geology & Mineral Industries,
702 Woodlark Bldg,
Portland,
Oregon.

Dear Mr. Nixon:-

Thanks for your letter of the 19th instant. Just ran in from Canyon City for Thanksgiving and this was a welcome letter in my accumulated mail.

I talked with Mr. Wm Rhea, who is with Mr. Kinsley in Portland, and he told me that the assay work was progressing satisfactorily and that good results were being obtained.

Am confident that the work being done by Mr. Kinsley will be quite conclusive, and believe that as a whole he will give a favorable report. However during the three weeks he was here he did not make any statement as to his conclusions, although we frequently discussed the methods to follow to make determinations. I was very favorably impressed with his ability and his entire fairness. These men are indeed fortunate that a man of his ability and temperament was sent in to do this work.

The compressor has not yet been repaired. It is old and parts are not available, they have to be manufactured on order at Chicago and the factory is swamped with war orders, hence they are not interested in piece work and we are having great difficulty in securing repairs.

Mr. Hayden just left for St. Louis where he is in conference with his clients. He will return about December 5th, and in time for the hearing now set for December 11th.

Believe that it would be best for you to await repairs on the compressor and have the furnace in operation before visiting the property, and will advise you well in advance of that date. Ofcourse we still desire your assistance, the only question being how this can be had at least expense and inconvenience to you.

GRANT COUNTY
Third Monday May
Third Monday November

MALHEUR COUNTY
Second Monday January
Fourth Monday April
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HARNEY COUNTY
Last Monday March
First Monday October

Circuit Court Ninth Judicial District

GRANT, HARNEY, MALHEUR COUNTIES

ROBERT M. DUNCAN, Circuit Judge

BURNS, OREGON

I do not know hoe we can secure a copy of the Kinsley report unless we apply to his chief at San Francisco for a copy and they are willing to publish it. In the meantime we hope to have a comparable report from private sources, although I cannot be sure that this will be available in time for the hearing.

Glad indeed to learn of your rapid recovery. However remember that you will have to be careful for some time and do not attempt to carry to heavy a load of any kind of work for some time to come.

Again thanking you, I am,

Very truly yours,



W. H. H.
GRANT COUNTY
Third Monday May
Third Monday November

MALHEUR COUNTY
Second Monday January
Fourth Monday April
First Monday September

HARNEY COUNTY
Last Monday March
First Monday October

Circuit Court Ninth Judicial District

GRANT, HARNEY, MALHEUR COUNTIES

ROBERT M. DUNCAN, Circuit Judge

BURNS, OREGON

RECEIVED
NOV 22 1940

STATE DEPT OF GEOLOGY
& MINERAL INDS.

November 20th, 1940.

Mr. F. W. Libby,
Mining Engineer,
702 Woodlark Bldg,
Portland,
Oregon.

Dear Mr. Libby:-

Mr. Hayden left for St. Louis last Saturday, expecting to be gone about two weeks, and upon his return I will convey your message to him without fail.

Am indeed sorry that there should be any misunderstanding about this statement. As I recall the incident as related to Mr. Hayden either the afternoon of your visit or the next morning, some of the men, and believe it was Mr. Hagey although I cannot now be certain, told him in my presence that you had examined some of the rock and had stated to them that you could see free gold in the rock. Consequently when Mr. Hayden told Mr. Lancaster of this statement he did so in good faith, although he was undoubtedly misinformed. I shall correct this to the best of my ability.

Hope that you were able to be present at the tests being conducted by Mr. Kinsley, and am anxious to learn of your reactions and observations.

With best wishes, I am,

Very truly yours,

Robert M. Duncan

November 19, 1940

Judge Robert M. Duncan
Burns, Oregon

Dear Judge Duncan:

In a letter to Mr. Nixon received today from our Mr. Hugh Lancaster, Mr. Lancaster mentions talking to Mr. Hayden about his project and quotes Mr. Hayden as saying, in commenting upon the occurrence of gold in the rock, that I was fortunate enough to find rock showing free gold during my visit.

In a conference with Mr. Hayden after our luncheon on the property, Mr. Hayden showed me a piece of wire gold which I understood him to tell me Mr. Rhea obtained from somewhere on the property. I did not find any gold, in fact I did not look for any, in any of the rock, and I would appreciate if if you would so inform Mr. Hayden, as he evidently is under a misapprehension as to my connection with the finding of free gold on the property.

You will understand that I am not questioning the reported source of the gold, but from Mr. Hayden's statement to Mr. Lancaster, it appears that he is mistaken, and I would not wish him to make the same statement to other people.

Thanking you, and with very kind personal regards, I am,

Yours very truly,

F. W. Libbey
Mining Engineer

FWL:ac

November 19, 1940

Judge Robert M. Duncan
Burns, Oregon

Dear Judge Duncan:

I have just been advised by Mr. Kingsley, engineer of the Division of Investigation, Department of the Interior, that he has carefully taken a number of channel samples of the tin rock and is having them assayed in Portland in advance of a hearing to be held December 11th. As I get it, if in the opinion of engineer Kingsley the samples do not suggest the possibility of a commercial tin operation or if the samples show no tin, the Department of the Interior is prepared to vacate the claims staked for mining purposes. I am not entirely clear on all this rigamarole--in fact, I did not know that the Department of the Interior had a special investigation department. However, Kingsley seems to be an engineer of considerable experience and seems determined to ascertain what the score is as regards the tin possibilities of the area.

I take exactly the same position, as you know. We certainly want the facts.

In the light of the information that Mr. Kingsley will obtain within the next few days, I am inclined to feel that I should not make a decision about spending the State's money in doing a substantial job of sampling and spending a considerable amount of money for assaying until we know the results of Kingsley's samples. It is possible, of course, that his samples will show no tin, in which case it would seem to be a duplication of effort for us to do his work over again.

I believe results of Kingsley's assays will be given to him late this week. Whether he will give me the result or not I do not know. If he should and especially if the result is favorable, I think you should be advised. If it is not favorable, I nevertheless want to come over and go over the whole situation with you, although we would probably not be justified in spending the money for sampling and assays that we otherwise would.

I wish you would be kind enough to comment on the position I have taken with regard to delaying our giving further attention to the tin matter.

I am back on the job from the hospital but I am not doing any fancy feats of lifting or gymnastics as yet; think I should be able to drive over to Burns within the next couple of weeks, however, if conditions demand.

With kindest personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

EKN:vm

Earl K. Nixon, Director

Circuit Court Ninth Judicial District

GRANT, HARNEY, MALHEUR COUNTIES

ROBERT M. DUNCAN, Circuit Judge

BURNS, OREGON

November 1st, 1940.

Mr. Earl K. Nixon, Director
State Dept Geology & Mineral
Recourses,
702 Woodlark Bldg,
Portland,
Oregon.

Dear Mr. Nixon:-

Thanks indeed for your very cordial letter of the 29th ultimo. It confirms my high opinion of your ability and entire fairness, and I am only too happy to keep you fully informed.

I shall take up with Mr. Kinsley your recommendation of the Charlton Laboratories. However since I wrote you he had a letter from his Chief, Mr. J. H. Favorite of San Francisco, stating that he should go to the state laboratory at Baker for his tests. It is possible that you have heard from Mr. Favorite and made such arrangements. Mr. Kinsley is an engineer and will desire to secure the services of a well equipped laboratory and competent chemists to do this work.

Your letter lays strong emphasis upon the spectroscopic analysis of this ore. I would like to explore this situation with you and invite your study on the subject.

First we or I am told that there is no metallic tin in the ore, with rare exceptions. Depth seems to produce a very small amount of metallic tin. That the values in the ore are in the oxide form.

Long before any of these parties came into the operation I had sent samples of the ore to the John Herman Laboratory, 771 San Julian St., Los Angeles California, for spectographic analysis or report. This was a complete blank. However on the back of their printed form appears the following statement:

"In the spectographic report on the reverse side the elements are shown and not their state of combination. By this means, is determined the presence or absence of all the metals and most of the non-metals when present in quantities as great as 0.01% to 0.001%. All metals which do not appear in the report are absent. CHLORINE, BROMIDE, IODINE, SULPHUR, SELENIUM, CARBON OR THE FIXED GASES ARE NOT DETERMINED."

Circuit Court Ninth Judicial District

GRANT, HARNEY, MALHEUR COUNTIES

ROBERT M. DUNCAN, Circuit Judge

BURNS, OREGON

The capitalization is mine. I understand that the oxide is a "fixed gas" referred to in this explanatory note.

Later I carried on some correspondence with the U. S. Bureau of Mines at Washington relative the work of the spectrophograph, particularly as to the reliability of such examination upon ore containing metals in the oxide form. I am sorry to report that this correspondence is either misplaced in my files or has been destroyed, I cannot find it this morning. However my recollection is that they confirmed the John Herman statement quoted with some reservations. From this source I gained the impression that the spectrographic report was not final on this subject.

I am calling your attention to this matter that you may give the subject further consideration.

The compressor has not yet been repaired. Parts have to come from the factory and it will be several days before the pilot plant is ready for operation. I will promptly advise you. well in advance of the date it can be expected to be in operation.

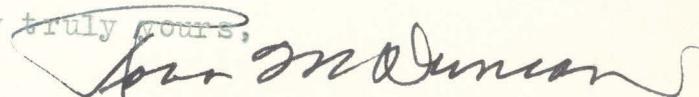
A California metallurgical firm is now conducting an extensive test upon the ore. This should be complete within ten days. This same firm has made favorable laboratory recoveries and are now running a large mill test of the ore. I will also be glad to give you the results of this test when available.

It is apparent that it will be some time before the U. S. Bureau of Mines can make an examination and we have given up this angle for the time being. However we will want their examination later, if the work of these people show a satisfactory result, and also, and in particular, if the report of the present engineer, Mr. Kinsley, warrants further investigation.

I am authorized to say that you are invited, and that the interested parties will be only too happy to have you examine the property again, sample the pre and test it. They will give you every bit of assistance they can. Within a few days I will be able to give you the exact process they are using with the results I have described. However they have asked me to withhold this for a few days.

Again thanking you for your interest, I am,

Very truly yours,



October 29, 1940

Judge Robert M. Duncan, Circuit Judge
Burns, Oregon

Dear Judge Duncan:

I want you to know that I really appreciate your full and kind letter of October 27th. I have read it carefully and with much pleasure.

Answering a question about a Portland Laboratory where Mr. Kinsley might have some work done, I suggest that he select the Charlton Laboratories, 2340 S. W. Jefferson, Portland, Oregon. I am very much interested to learn that Abbott Hanks got .72% tin in a sample of the rock sent from the property. It is possible that the occurrence of tin is spotty which might account for getting none in the samples which we took. However, Mr. Libbey told me he took samples from the excavation from which the ore being used in the furnace was taken, and he also took samples of the furnace feed.

There is a very, very simple way to determine whether tin is present or not in any material, and that is by the spectroscope. I am perfectly pleased to grant that under certain conditions, certain elements give greater difficulty in assaying, however, this does not apply in any sense of the word when it comes to the use of the spectroscope. If an element, such as tin, is present, even in an almost infinitesimal quantity, the spectrum resulting from vaporizing the ore in the electric arc of the spectroscope will show the characteristic tin line.

I would like personally to visit the property again and take a quite substantial number of samples from various parts of the property and have them tested by the U. S. Bureau of Mines with their very fine spectroscopic equipment. If some of these samples show tin, then I shall be very happy indeed, and it will then be a question of determining methods of economics and engineering.

May I suggest that I come over to Burns just as soon as I am able to travel, and we will go over this situation. I also have some background of this situation which you do not have, and which I prefer not to put into a letter.

I appreciate your sincerity, and I can assure you that my mind is absolutely open. I can readily see also how you can feel the way you do from your own visual observations.

Hoping to see you soon, I am,

Sincerely yours,

Earl K. Nixon
Director

GRANT COUNTY
Third Monday May
Third Monday November

MALHEUR COUNTY
Second Monday January
Fourth Monday April
First Monday September

HARNEY COUNTY
Last Monday March
First Monday October

Circuit Court Ninth Judicial District

GRANT, HARNEY, MALHEUR COUNTIES

ROBERT M. DUNCAN, Circuit Judge

BURNS, OREGON

RECEIVED
OCT 29 1940

STATE DEPT OF GEOLOGY
& MINERAL INDS.

October 27th, 1940.

Mr. Earl K. Nixon, Director
State Department of Geology and
Mineral Industries,
702 Woodlark Bldg,
Portland,
Oregon.

Dear Mr. Nixon:-

Have just received your letter of the 26th instant and have read and reread it carefully. I am sure that the time has come when we must write frankly and that you will not take offense at my comments.

All that I have asked is that you keep an open mind on this subject relating to the tin deposit. You told me last fall when you visited the property that you would "stand or fall" on the report by the Rare Metals Division of the U.S. Bureau of Mines on the sample of ore you took at that time. This report was entirely adverse to the property. Other assays and chemical analysis of the ore made through your office have obtained the same negative result. It is therefore perfectly natural that you should condemn the property and not spend the money of the state or the time of your staff and yourself further on prospect.

However as I told you at the time Mr. Selle, the discoverer, spent eight years working out the metallurgy of this ore, and that he had a process that produced a positive result and did recover metal. I have watched his work in the laboratory since you were here and time after time I have watched him produce metal from the ore. This metal when analyzed was pronounced to be tin. I have personally sent sample that I procured, away for assay and with one exception had a negative report. The one report that I obtained was from an entirely reliable source and led me to believe that there was a commercial possibility here. All this occurred before Mr. Hayden came into the picture.

During the past several months these people have secured the services of Mr. Wm Rhea, who was at one time with the U.S. Bureau of Mines and for five years worked under Colonel Hewitt on the Panama Canal and while there they did extensive work on the tin ore deposits of Bolivia and Columbia, so that Mr. Rhea was well qualified by experience and training to handle this work. For three months I have watched him in his laboratory recover tin from the ore as well as from the oxides produced by the Koebel furnace. Nor is that all; he has been making fair recoveries of gold from the same ore.

Circuit Court Ninth Judicial District

GRANT, HARNEY, MALHEUR COUNTIES

ROBERT M. DUNCAN, Circuit Judge

BURNS, OREGON

Since Mr. Rhea began this work I have watched him scores of times take both the ore and the oxide and recover metal from them. I have in my pocket some 12 buttons that I have with my own eyes seen him recover from this source unless he added this metal with his flux. This was not probable for in one instance I saw him break the seal of the original package of flux as it came through the drug store, use this flux and obtain the metal I now hold. Yes I have also seen Mr. Rhea get blanks but this was duetto getting his crucible too hot, which seems to be the critical element in assay of this ore.

Now may I ask, how can I dispute the evidence of my own eyes? Naturally the thought occurs to me that it may be claimed that the ore is being "salteè". If so back of this there would have to be a motive or purpose. I have never been asked to put one cent into this work, nor is there any promotion back of this project, and there is no stock for sale. Messrs Hoyt and Goldman are financing this work and they are convinced of the presence of tin, but have not been convinced of a commercial recovery and are continuing their investigations to determine this factor. I have not yet made the statement that the project is commercial although with the evidence at hand it seems entirely likely.

These gentlemen have been advised of the adverse reports obtained from assays you mention. Still they are willing to finance a complete investigation.

During the past week there has been a government engineer on the property who is making a very complete investigation, and he is being given every aid within our power to make his examination thorough and conclusive. Ofcourse he has expressed no opinion and will not until both his field work and laboratory work is complete.

I might add that during the past week the Abbot Hanks Laboratory of San Francisco has given the ore a favorable report, and recovered tin to the amount of .72 per cent, or 14.4 pounds per ton from the ore, not a concentrate or oxide. The ore was a composite sample from wide selections on the property. I have seen one other favorable report on the property within the week. An extensive sample is going out in the morning for a mill test.

Now in the face of these facts (for so I regard them) could I act differently or take any different position?

The government engineer now on the property, Mr. A. C. Kinsley, has asked me to write to you to recommend a chemist with an adequate laboratory in Portland, one entirely reliable, who would run this ore for him and under observation by Mr. Kinsley and Mr.

Circuit Court Ninth Judicial District

GRANT, HARNEY, MALHEUR COUNTIES

ROBERT M. DUNCAN, Circuit Judge

BURNS, OREGON

Rhea, beginning about the 4th of November. He will not complete his work here before the 2nd. I told him that I thought that he would have no trouble in finding such facilities in Portland that that you you would be glad to assist that far, and that in all probability you would like to have an observer at the same time follow the work. Would you care to do this for us.

Yes Mr. McLeod (I believe that is spelled correctly) of the Oregonian called me up concerning this matter and told me of the information he had received, and I told him some of the things I have here written and asked him to withhold judgment and he promised to do so.

In defense of Mr. Hayden may I say this. The possibilities of this property had been sold to Mr. Hoyt of St. Louis long before he knew Mr. Hayden. By that time Mr. Hoyt interested his friend Mr. Goldman. Mr. Goldman suggested that they get an independent engineer to check on Mr. Selle. This resulted in the employment of Mr. Hayden. When Mr. Hayden came to Burns he was almost as skeptical as you express yourself. Mr. Selle had to convince him of every step of his process. Not satisfied with this Mr. Hayden has made an extensive study of the property and has employed not one but scores of recognized laboratories to work on the ore. He has prepared this case with the same care that a good lawyer would prepare and brief an important case. He has not yet reported that the property is a commercial possibility, that is the matter he now has under study, and I can confidently say that he will not so report until the evidence is conclusive in favor of such a report.

Nor has Mr. Selle been trying to get cash out of the property. He has been trying to prove the property and is satisfied with a share of the "profits" if any after a commercial production is effected.

For the life of me I cannot see where any person connected with this project has sought to gain any unfair advantage of the property, profit from a wild cat exploitation or otherwise. On the contrary every man so far has been perfectly frank in the matter and have tried to prove their theories, logically and step by step. They have made no claim that they are not willing to endeavor to prove with competent evidence.

The reason for the pilot plant was fully explained to Mr. Libby. In the face of the government contests against the property it was apparent that they could not safely rely upon expert opinions for on the government side would be the testimony of the Bureau of

Circuit Court Ninth Judicial District

GRANT, HARNEY, MALHEUR COUNTIES

ROBERT M. DUNCAN, Circuit Judge

BURNS, OREGON

Mines, your Department, and several nationally known metallurgists. Against this would be the testimony of Mr. Selle, Rhea, several prominent metallurgists. The preponderance, right or wrong, would be with the government. The only way to overcome this was by a substantial recovery, hence the pilot plant.

Unfortunately this cost a large sum of money, and to save as much as possible they purchased a second hand air compressor which has given difficulty. This plant will not be in operation for a few days pending repairs to the compressor. When repaired it is the plan to run a true test for a few days and this will tell the entire story. Every factor will be carefully checked, from ore pit to final product. I can speak for these people and tell you that they would be only too happy to have yourself or one of your staff watch and check this process, without any obligation or commitment on your part. They will be given every facility for a complete check.

I would like very much indeed to come to Portland and talk this matter over with you and will try and arrange my court schedules so that I can do so. However I cannot now see how I can get away before the first week in December and that will be too late.

May I again request of you that you do not too hastily condemn this work, and that you keep an open mind on the subject. That you may be skeptical of the outcome is natural on the face of the evidence you have. However I have some evidence that I do not care to disclose at this time that I know if you had would give you ground to pause before passing final judgment.

Now this has run to considerable length. I am sorry. However in view of the importance of the subject know you will overlook both repetitions and length of this letter.

Was greatly distressed to learn of your illness and operation and have followed your recovery with concern. Am indeed happy to know that you will soon be in harness again and your recovery will be complete. With kindest regards and best wishes, I am,

Sincerely yours,



October 26, 1940

Honorable Robert M. Duncan
Circuit Judge
Burns, Oregon

Dear Judge Duncan:

I stated in a wire to you a week ago Friday that I hoped to visit your tin operation later this month. On returning from San Francisco, I went to the hospital from which I am dictating this letter. It will be several days before I am out and another ten days before I am able to do much traveling. Under the circumstances I am sure you will forgive my failing to make good on a promise to visit you.

After talking to you by telephone in reply to my letter of last Saturday morning, Mr. Libbey immediately got in communication with the Reno Branch of the United States Bureau of Mines and requested that they undertake an investigation of the tin operation near Burns. The head of the Reno Branch stated that the personnel of the Station is completely tied up on strategic minerals work and felt that it would be impossible to do the work we requested.

Doubtless we could go to the director of the U. S. Bureau of Mines, Washington, D. C., bring pressure to bear, and get this work done sooner or later, but I am wondering if it is necessary. We cannot much blame the Reno Station of the Bureau declining to do the work for they knew, after making tests themselves on samples collected by us, that there is no tin in the rock being fed to the furnace and consequently that their work would amount to a wild-goose chase. We feel the same way about it, but it is something which must be settled or exploded because the Governor and the Secretary of State are involved in it and because this Department has been asked to pass its opinion.

A representative of the editor of one of the leading newspapers in the State came to our office and indicated the desire of his paper to blast this tin business properly. We told him the facts in the case and asked him to kill the story for the time being on account of any embarrassment to you as well as the Governor and the Secretary of State. The newspaper man agreed to keep it quiet.

There is no doubt in my mind but that you were one hundred percent sincere in believing that this tin operation was on a feasible basis even in spite of my conveying to you last December the information that there is no tin

October 26, 1940

in the rock. No one doubts your sincerity. I am afraid that many feel that you have been misled. There is no suspicion of doubt in my mind, and it is the unqualified opinion of this Department that there isn't a Chinaman's chance of a commercial tin operation in the area in question.

It seems to me that we had better let the Bureau of Mines go in view of their attitude and carry out this job ourselves. If you are still convinced that the tin business is on the up and up and demand that the work be done by the Bureau of Mines, you have that right and we will do the best we can. Otherwise, please write us and we will carry on with available personnel. We will take some further samples of ore from a number of the pits, from the furnace feed, and from the furnace lining and have them tested with a spectroscope. If the spectroscope shows no tin--as it did last December--there just isn't any tin, and the answer is final.

I really do wish you could find occasion to come to Portland for a full discussion of this matter with me. I am in the hospital but so much recovered that my condition would not handicap our conversations.

With kindest personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

EKN:vm

Earl K. Nixon, Director

October 19, 1940

Hon. Robert M. Duncan, Circuit Judge
Burns, Oregon

Dear Judge Duncan:

Have just returned from a trip to San Francisco in connection with the steering of an electrolytic zinc plant to a Portland location and believe my trip has been successful.

Regarding the tin matter, I am very much confused for the following reasons --- You will remember that the first week of last December you and I and Mr. Hagey took samples of the ore at points where Mr. Hagey indicated tin assays had been obtained, and I sent the samples to the United States Bureau of Mines for both spectroscopic and chemical determinations - no tin was reported. We have sent samples gathered by Mr. Libbey of the ore itself and of the product being fed to the furnace to three recognized laboratories, including the United States Bureau of Mines, and they report "no tin indicated", although the metallic product of the furnace shows tin.

I am sure you can not blame me for being suspicious of any process which obtains tin from material which does not contain tin when tested according to orthodox methods.

No one realizes any better than I the good to the State and the country that would result from the establishment of a commercial tin operation. However, in the case of the operation between Burns and Band, I feel that we are all entitled to know the truth and the whole truth, and I am prepared, unless you have specific objections, to ask technicians of the United States Bureau of Mines to make a thorough investigation of all angles pertaining to the operation. We have lost our metallurgist who was called for army duty and are short handed. Furthermore, the laboratory facilities of the Bureau of Mines are very much superior to ours.

Would you be kind enough to write me promptly and say whether or not you would welcome a thorough investigation by a United States Bureau of Mines representative if I can arrange it.

Yours very truly,

Earl K. Nixon
Director

EKN:ac

Charge to the account of _____

£ _____

CLASS OF SERVICE DESIRED	
DOMESTIC	CABLE
TELEGRAM	ORDINARY
DAY LETTER	URGENT RATE
SERIAL	DEFERRED
NIGHT LETTER	NIGHT LETTER
SPECIAL SERVICE	SHIP RADIOGRAM

Patrons should check class of service desired, otherwise the message will be transmitted as a telegram or ordinary cablegram.

WESTERN UNION

1206-B

CHECK
ACCOUNTING INFORMATION
TIME FILED

R. B. WHITE
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

Send the following message, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to

October 21, 1940

JUDGE ROBERT M. DUNCAN
BURNS, OREGON

TREMENDOUSLY INTERESTED IN TEXT OF YOUR LETTER 18TH INSTANT AND DESIRE TO BE MOST COOPERATIVELY HELPFUL. TIN IS ESSENTIAL MATERIAL FOR NATIONAL DEFENSE. TIME IS NOW AN ELEMENT IN PROCURING IT. HAVE I YOUR AUTHORITY TO USE YOUR LETTER BEFORE FEDERAL DEPARTMENTS OR WHEREVER IT MAY BE MOST HELPFUL TO DO SO? AS MEMBER OF SENATE COMMITTEES ON MILITARY AFFAIRS, PUBLIC LANDS AND SUBCOMMITTEE FOR INTERIOR AFFAIRS OF APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE I WOULD LIKE TO KNOW JUST WHAT YOU WOULD HAVE ME DO NOW. I MAY RECOMMEND THAT SUBCOMMITTEE OF WHICH I AM MEMBER OF SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS CONDUCT HEARING ON THIS SUBJECT IN BURNS NEXT MONTH. KINDLY CONSULT EDWARD N. BROWN, HARNEY COUNTY NATIONAL BANK, AND LET ME HAVE YOUR RECOMMENDATIONS PROMPTLY.

RUFUS C. HOLMAN
U.S.S. - OREGON

OFFICIAL
DAY-LETTER

Charge to the account of _____

£ _____

CLASS OF SERVICE DESIRED	
DOMESTIC	CABLE
TELEGRAM	ORDINARY
DAY LETTER	URGENT RATE
SERIAL	DEFERRED
NIGHT LETTER	NIGHT LETTER
SPECIAL SERVICE	SHIP RADIOGRAM

Patrons should check class of service desired, otherwise the message will be transmitted as a telegram or ordinary cablegram.

WESTERN UNION

1206-B

CHECK

ACCOUNTING INFORMATION

TIME FILED

R. B. WHITE
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

Send the following message, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to

October 23, 1940

HON RUFUS C HOLMAN
US SENATOR WILLARD HOTEL OR CARE TURNER YOUNG
HEATING CO FONE 6415

INDEED YOU ARE AUTHORIZED TO USE MY LETTER OF EIGHTEENTH IN ANY MANNER YOU WISH. AT PRESENT GREATEST POSSIBLE HELP WOULD BE FOR YOU TO CONFER WITH MR LIBBY OF STATE DEPARTMENT GEOLOGY AND MINERAL RECOURSES AND ASSIST HIM IN SECURING AN IMMEDIATE INVESTIGATION BY FEDERAL BUREAU OF MINES. THAT TIN IS PRESENT IN SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNTS IS PROVEN WE NEED AID IN COMMERCIAL REDUCTION AND PRESENT REPORTS AND ATTITUDE OF THIS BUREAU MAKES THINGS DIFFICULT IF THEY WILL COME HERE WE CAN GIVE THEM ABSOLUTE PROOF OF PRESENCE OF TIN AND THEY CAN HELP IN COMMERCIAL RECOVERY. FEDERAL PROCUREMENT DEPARTMENT SHOULD BE ADVISED AND THEY SHOULD INVESTIGATE.

ROBERT M. DUNCAN

CIRCUIT COURT NINTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Grant, Harney, Malheur Counties

Robert M. Duncan, Circuit Judge

Burns, Oregon

October 18, 1940

Honorable Rufus Holman
United States Senator
Portland, Oregon

Dear Senator:

Re: Tin Ore Deposit - Oregon.

You have undoubtedly read of the tin ore deposit now being developed in Harney County and wonder why more direct information has not been available. I am requested by the interested parties to write you, giving you this information and an explanation for this secrecy.

The deposit is situated 37 miles west of Burns and just one mile south of the paved Bend-Burns Highway. It consists of 107 claims, covering 2140 acres. The ore is described as a micaceous, volcanic type, from which no values have heretofore been recovered. It therefore is a new type of ore to metallurgists.

This deposit was discovered eleven years ago by O. F. Selle, a mining engineer of Baker, Oregon, who was convinced that the ore contained tin in commercial quantities. He found that an ordinary tin assay would seldom disclose tin in the ore. For eight years he worked on the metallurgy of the ore before he found a process that would uniformly produce tin.

Three years ago he sought capital to develop the property, and after some time interested Messrs. Charles F. Hoyt and D. B. Goldman of St. Louis, Missouri, to finance development. They in turn employed Mr. Wm. F. Hayden, Mining Engineer, then of St. Louis, formerly of Oregon and Utah, as consulting engineer.

This ore has been submitted to numerous assaying firms and chemists for analysis, who without the use of the Selle process, gave a negative report on the ore. This cast a doubt upon the Selle process. Hence Mr. Hayden began a very systematic and careful check and investigation of the Selle process. For fear that this process might not prove successful or that the ore might not be all that was claimed for it, they have conducted their work in secret. I was consulted on legal problems and gained the confidence of these men, and have been privileged to watch every step of their work, and have been fully advised at all times.

After months of laboratory work conducted by Mr. Hayden and under his direction, and also through the work of competent metallurgical firms and scientists employed for the purpose, the work of Mr. Selle was fully confirmed, and the principals felt entirely justified in constructing a plant for the commercial production of tin on the property.

About one-half of this deposit lies within the limits of Squaw Butte Range Experiment Station conducted by Taylor Grazing Service, and naturally they were somewhat concerned about the possibility of an interruption of their program due to mining activities within the Station. Fortunately one-half of this property or more lies just outside of their fence on its northern boundary on Government land, so that their operations to date have not been at all interfered with, nor

is it reasonable to suppose that mining activities would encroach upon its reserve for many years to come.

The special agents of the General Land Office, acting, I believe, at the instance of the Taylor Grazing Service, began an investigation of this enterprise, and they in turn submitted samples of the ore to competent assayers and obtained a negative report, including a negative report from the Rare Metals Division of the United States Bureau of Mines. Based upon these reports, the United States initiated a contest against these mining claims, and this contest now stands and is set for hearing on November 12th at Burns. Please understand that the writer is not criticizing the Department for this action, for I feel that they acted in good faith, and were entirely justified upon the basis of information which they obtained, and this information was of such nature that they had a right to rely upon it. That this information is not correct is not due to bad faith, but is in error, as I will later point out.

When I came into contact with this operation some three years ago, I was also skeptical. Not wishing to become involved in anything that might smack of promotion, I began on my personal account to check the work of Mr. Selle, and I did the same thing that others have done, sent ore samples to competent assayers, and with one exception obtained negative reports. I then took the matter up with Mr. Selle prior to the employment of Mr. Hayden, and went through his laboratory processes and saw him time after time obtain metal from the ore that had all the appearances of tin. I then sent this metal for analysis, and it was declared to be tin. When Mr. Hayden came into the field, I had the privilege of watching the laboratory work, and times without number I saw them produce tin in their laboratory work. They were able to explain to me why the assayers were giving a negative report on the ore, namely, that tin is in the ore in an oxide form, which is highly volatile, and to recover the values the metallic gas must be recovered, oxides produced, and tin recovered, or a special fluxing process must be used which Mr. Selle had developed. As I stated, I have seen assays run from start to finish and checked weights, and these show a two percent tin content in the ore, and in addition to the tin gold is being recovered on an average value in excess of ten dollars per ton.

With the Government contest against the property, I was compelled to advise these parties that they would not be safe to start construction of a commercial plant at an expense of some two hundred thousand dollars, for the reason that it could not be completed and put in operation prior to the hearing on the contest. I was also compelled to advise these parties that in the event of a hearing on the contest they would be confronted with the testimony of representatives from the United States Bureau of Mines, the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Resources, and several nationally known metallurgical firms, testifying that they had carefully assayed and analyzed the ore by standard and accepted methods, and that they could find no values in the ore. These parties would have been compelled to rely upon the testimony of Mr. Selle, Mr. Hayden, Mr. Rhea, their chief chemist, together with the testimony of several nationally known metallurgists, that by using the Selle process they were recovering tin from the ore in commercial amounts. This left the case, then, in the position where it had to be decided upon the testimony of experts, and the Government would have a preponderance in weight of such testimony, and that the only safe thing for them to do would be to build a small pilot plant on the property and recover tin and gold in commercial quantities, and be able to demonstrate this process to government representatives and for the benefit of the Court, all such operation to be under actual field conditions and on a scale that would not admit of any possibility of argument.

Accordingly some six weeks ago these people began construction of a five-ton pilot plant on the property. The process involves a smelting of the complete ore in a blast furnace. The type of furnace best designed for this work was found to be one patented by Albert J. Koebel of Sand Point, Idaho. Mr. Koebel was employed to construct his new type blast furnace on the property. With this process the ore is first ground to a twenty-mesh, from which it goes to the blast furnace, which is held at a 3000-degree temperature, and the entire ore is blasted into the furnace with compressed air. The furnace instantly melts the fine particles, causing the silica and mica to melt and fall like rain, while the metals, both tin and gold, are instantly changed to a gas. These gases are drawn through a cooling tunnel and a long system of cooling pipes by a powerful fan, where the metallic gas picks up oxygen, forming a metallic oxide. These fumes are gradually cooled, where they are forced into what is called a "bag house" where the gases are filtered and tin oxides are recovered. The oxides are then reduced to metallic tin by orthodox commercial processes.

This five-ton pilot plant was about completed before the public became aware that this work was going on, but with workmen employed and other evidence of activity, it became apparent that these parties could no longer keep their work secret. So on the 11th of this month state officials, including our Governor and Secretary of State, the State Mining Department chemists, geologists, and the press, were invited to inspect this plant in operation. The operation was entirely successful as a test. The oxides were recovered in substantial amount and the chemists reduced the oxides to metallic tin in the presence of these guests. The metallic tin was taken by the State Department, and by them analyzed and pronounced to be tin. We have also numerous other analyses of the metal that pronounce it tin beyond any question. In fact it is 99.3 pure tin, and the remaining impurities can be cheaply and readily removed. The gold is recovered in the same process, but we have placed little emphasis upon gold recovery, but I can say I believe with full assurance that the gold content will be not less than ten dollars per ton average, and will pay for the commercial reduction of the ore when in production, producing tin at a very slight if any cost.

The ore body lies on the surface and goes to great depth. Our geologists tell me that it is in effect a huge crater of a one-time liquid mass that was boiled as a pot of mush might be by the fumes that brought into the body the metals there found, and this body gradually cooled and now constitutes the ridge which is known as Juniper Ridge, and the ore body is not covered with an over-burden in excess of a few inches. Consequently they confidently state that the ore extends to great depth, but if we give this ore body an area of one thousand acres, and a depth of three hundred feet, you can readily estimate that there are hundreds of millions of tons of ore in sight and available by open-cut work.

Messrs. Hoyt and Goldman are business men of St. Louis and while they have considerable capital, I believe that they are not able to develop this property to a point that I believe is justified under present conditions. I do not know what their plans may be. They are not asking me to arrange for capital, nor is this letter designed for any purpose other than to give you the information herein contained.

Permit me to state my personal conclusions. I have watched this development with a great deal of care and concern. I am not financially interested in it

in any respect, and due to my present position I am not representing these people as attorney. I have been interested as a citizen recognizing the value of this property to the state and to the nation if the claims of these parties could be substantiated. I am now thoroughly satisfied that the claims they have made have been substantiated; that the ore does contain not less than two percent tin, with a recoverable gold value in a substantial amount; that there is sufficient ore in sight to supply the United States, in fact the world, with all the tin that it can use for scores of years to come; and that the cost of tin can be substantially reduced to the consumer; that this property now merits a careful investigation and consideration of all government and private agencies; and that I am able to promise the cooperation of the present interested parties in furnishing proof of these facts to you or to any government agency. I personally believe that the Government should take this up to the extent of giving these men every aid and encouragement in securing an early development of the property.

Very truly yours,

(Sgd.) Robert M. Duncan

COPY

December 19, 1939

Senator Robert M. Duncan

Burns, Oregon

Dear Senator Duncan;

Attached is a letter which is self explanatory. It gives the result of both chemical and spectroscopic tests on the two samples of material taken on the alleged tin deposit when you and Mr. Hagey visited the property with us not long ago.

As a result of the report by the Bureau of Mines that there is no tin present in the samples submitted I am inclined to doubt if there is any tin present in the district because the samples were taken at a spot where I understood Mr. Hagey to say that assays had shown several pounds of tin to the ton.

May I suggest that you give this information to Mr. Hagey and that he transmit the information to his people in Los Angeles. Whether or not this is a stock promotion I do not know. In any event, the evidence contained in the letter attached is sufficiently important that I am convinced that the people who are spending the money should make very certain indeed that spectroscopic tests on all parts of the deposit are made before they spend any money on metallurgy to determine whether or not they haven't been fooling themselves. If tin were present in the minutest quantity in the material sent to the Bureau laboratory it would have shown up in the spectroscopic tests.

Cordially yours,

Director

EKN:DJ

RECEIVED
JUN 23 1941

STATE DEPT OF GEOLOGY
& MINERAL INDS.

(COPY)

Law Offices
WM. J. BECKER
First National Bank Building
Clayton, Missouri

June 14, 1941

Senator Rufus Holman and
Senator Charles H. McNary,
Senate Office Building,
Washington, D. C.

Re: Burns, Oregon Tin Deposits.

My dear Senator:

I represent the men who have financed the prospecting, assaying, location work, experimentation, and proof of claims on the Burns, Oregon Tin Deposits during the past two years. No stock has been offered by, to or through them or anyone else. No company has been formed or is contemplated. They are St. Louis business men who were willing to go to the property and believe what they saw.

On June 9th, the Oregon Journal, under a Washington date line of June 3th, published the following:

"No significant amount of tin is discoverable in ore sample from Squaw Butte near Burns, Oregon, according to Director W.C. Mendenhall of the Geological Survey. He writes Senator McNary that Laboratory tests confirm previous finding made in samplings from the same vicinity in former years."

This is all of the article that has been reported to me. There may or may not be more. I need no more to prompt this letter. Here are the facts.

This is the first admission from any of the Government agencies that the Burns ore contains any tin at all. Neither Mr. Mendenhall or anyone under his direction has made any investigation or determination of the metal content of the ore by field examination or laboratory research that we have been able to learn about. I wish that they would do this. We have solicited their aid without success. They tell me that they have spent millions examining other properties for tin.

On January 22, accompanied by one of my clients, I visited Mr. Donnell F. Hewett, Geologist in Charge of the Section of Metalliferous Deposits, of the Geological Survey in Washington, D.C. We urgently requested that he send some of his men to

examine the property and make a geological determination according to Government standards. I repeated this invitation in my letter of January 28th in which I stated, "I thank you for your courteous visit and earnestly solicit the cooperation of your department in investigating the metal bearing content of our ore". His reply contained the following statement, "There is a possibility that a geologist may be assigned to make an examination of the Squaw-Butte area this summer, but the decision cannot be made at present."

On January 27th, Congressman Pierce wrote to one of my clients as follows: "They are sending their very best men from the Geological Survey and the Bureau of Mines to make a complete investigation. Nothing could be better."

On February 8th, the Chief of the Minerals Division of the General Land Office wrote me as follows: "The Division of Investigations, the Bureau of Mines and the Geological Survey have informally advised me that the investigation to the mineral character of the land is being expedited as rapidly as circumstances will permit in order that a report covering the properties may be submitted at the earliest possible date. I feel assured that not only will these agencies cooperate with the claimants and their representatives in making the investigation but they will give careful consideration to any information relating thereto submitted by the parties in interest. I presume that if either of the agencies desire any information which the claimants may have, or their assistance, they will be afforded an opportunity to furnish the same."

On March 8th, the same representative of the General Land Office wrote: "I have not been advised that any representative of the Government is now engaged in investigating the mining claims near Burns, but am glad to inform you that the Geological Survey has agreed to make an investigation as to the tin value of the property beginning the latter part of this month, that being the earliest date on which they will have anyone available who is qualified to do that type of work. I also understand that the Geological Survey will be assisted in its examination by some of the best qualified men in the Division of Investigation, the purpose being to make a complete and thorough examination as rapidly as is possible."

On April 4th, the Commissioner of the General Land Office, Mr. Fred W. Johnson wrote to Senator Holman as follows: "In view of the unusual developments revealed by a report of a possibility of developing a potential tin supply in that area, this office is anxious to do all it can to aid and expedite the

matter. Upon request the Bureau of Mines and Geological Survey are making an independent study and examination of the area to determine, at the earliest practicable date, the mineral character of the land involved. You will be advised of any new developments in the premises."

Ever since last October, Mr. A. C. Kinsley, Special Agent of the Division of Investigation has been making a study of this property. He made a preliminary report in the latter part of December and a comprehensive final report in the latter part of March. In April Messrs. Lausson (of Albuquerque) and Paul Cutter (of Reno) joined him to check his findings. So far as I can learn, their report has not been submitted up to this writing. Neither my clients nor myself have been permitted to see the Kinsley reports. However, all of these reports have been submitted to the United States Geological Survey.

We furnished Mr. Kinsley with the services of Mr. William Rhea of Hines, Oregon, (our assayer) from October through April. We stood the expense of months of laboratory experiment in the laboratory of John F. Beede, of Portland, Oregon. He selected this laboratory. We were charged with the expense of it. So that while we have not seen his reports, we know what he found. He recovered hundreds of tin "buttons" from the laboratory crucibles in these tests. He selected his own samples, from his own "diggings" from a property of over 2,000 acres. He obtained tin from the ore from all over the place.

The division of Investigation is exactly what it's name implies. It's function in the Department of Interior is exactly analogous to the F. B. I. in the Department of Justice. The facilities for a proper determination of the metal content of our ore are in the Geological Survey, if anywhere. Not with the Division of Investigation.

The Geological Survey has promised, assured and procrastinated but never investigated. They dumped this vital matter of national defense in the lap of the Division of Investigation and left it there. They claim to have sent one of their men to the property to obtain samples. We have had a watchman on the property continuously until June 8th. Two of our associates live in Burns. So far as I can learn, no one from the United States Geological Survey has ever been there. If they sent anyone out there he must have come and gone like the proverbial Arab in the night. He must have performed the miracle of passing on the geology of the property while passing through. There are 2,000 acres in the tract.

It took Special Agent Kinsley seven months to do the job and make a report. His reports--whatever they may contain--are quietly overlooked and laid aside, while some "miracle worker" testifies before the public contrary to the findings of their own investigator without any reasonable basis. Kinsley has been examining mining properties for the Government for twenty five years. Ask them to show you his reports. Then watch the distinguished Director of the United States Geology Survey begin to "explain".

Now with carefully guarded words they make a statement to you over the signature of their Director which means exactly nothing according to their own rules and standards, but would lead you or any casual reader to believe that there is no tin in Oregon. I cannot help but feel bitterly disappointed and justly outraged at this untimely and unwise statement.

This incident might be made to serve some useful purpose since it has found its way to public attention. The needs of the Nation's defense is involved. The mining industry of Oregon might be bettered. The development of the natural resources of your State can be assisted.

Therefore, I respectfully suggest to you and Senator Holman, as well as to all of the Congressmen of Oregon that an investigation be instituted to learn the following:

1. How much money has been spent in Oregon by the United States Geological Survey in recent years in comparison to other States?

2. Prospectors say that there is more mineral wealth in your State than in any of your neighboring States. Still Oregon produces \$7,000,000 of metal per year as against California's \$200,000,000. Does the policy of the United States Geological Survey have anything to do with this?

3. What was the true and actual cause of doing away with the United States Geological Survey office in Oregon ten or twelve years ago?

4. How much real cooperation does your State Department of Geology get from United States Geological Survey?

5. Is there a single man in the United States Geological Survey competent from an experience standpoint, to examine and make a report of the geology of a tin deposit? If so, why has he been kept away from a deposit of 2,000 acres that we have spent our money on in the belief that it contains tin?

6. Who in America makes the real profit out of importing our tin supply? That is, who are the real competitors of a potential tin industry in Oregon?

7. How much money has the Geological Survey spent looking for tin deposits since January 1940, and, of this money, how much of it has been spent in Oregon?

I sincerely hope that the Geological Survey can be induced to accept our invitation and send a competent crew of geologists to the Squaw Butte property, as they have done in other States, so that they may cooperate in the examination about to be made by the State Department of Geology under Mr. Ralph Nixon and Professor Gleeson of the State College.

In any event I want to assure you that we expect to be producing tin on the Squaw Butte property in commercial quantities within the next six months, whether we receive the much needed assistance of the Geological Survey or not. When we do, the State of Oregon, as well as my clients, will be greatly indebted to its State officials for the fine assistance they are giving us in this endeavor.

Thanking you for the kind cooperation and help we have had in this matter in the past, and trusting that you will understand our position in the matter, I remain,

Respectfully yours,

Wm. J. Becker
Wm. J. Becker.

WJB:r

June 11, 1941

Air Mail

Mr. Wm. J. Becker
First National Bank Building
50 South Central Avenue
Clayton, Missouri

Dear Mr. Becker:

This will acknowledge with thanks your letter of June 9 and enclosed check in the amount of \$100.00, same to be placed to the credit of our Department for field investigation of the tin situation near Burns.

Your letter must have crossed one of ours in the mail as we sent you copies of contracts from Oregon State College a day or two ago.

I am pleased to know that the contest has been continued at least for a time. Personally I feel that the work we shall undertake before September 15, whether it is completed or not, will be sufficient to place us in a position to help you with the further deferment if it is necessary. Confidentially I have been considerably put out the last year or two with the apparent disposition of the United States Geological Survey and the Bureau of Mines to play up to the galleries to today to some of the large corporations in regard to metallurgical work and to pass Oregon by, presumably as a result of political pressure. It is true that we are getting some geological work in this State but Oregon is contributing toward it, matching funds in fact, but I am not at all satisfied nor are our Congressmen on the service we get from the United States Geological Survey and United States Bureau of Mines.

I told Senator Duncan and presumably he conveyed the information to you that I doubted very much if the Bureau of Mines or U. S. Geological Survey would get the scientific answer in regard to this tin. My reasons are adequate I think.

This Department has employed as Chief Chemist and operator of the spectrograph laboratory which we are installing later this summer, as soon as the principal instrument can be delivered to us, a man who rates very high indeed in research circles in the East. I refer to Dr. H. C. Harrison, Spectroscopist of New York State College of Ceramics. He will report for duty here according to present plan on August 1, and it has been virtually decided between Professor Gleeson at the College and myself that we shall put Harrison on this tin research immediately, using the facilities at the College. Have already taken the matter up with Harrison and, in fact, have sent him some of the samples. He is intrigued with the idea that it is a puzzling research problem. He has a research type of

mind, I gather, and, unless I am badly mistaken, is exactly the kind of man we would like to put on such a problem as this.

From your letter it appears that you are somewhat disconsolate over the entire tin matter, and there are some developments which are not pleasing to you. May say that I have heard of no developments nor angles which are new nor have we had any recent inquiries on the subject. I have had no reason whatever for changing my original opinion as stated to you that my mind is perfectly open until assay shows conclusion that tin is present in some form not previously recognized and that there is some fundamental angle which has not been discovered. In any event there is enough smoke to justify, in my opinion, a clean cut solution of the situation in the manner which is most apt to bring results. That is the way in which we are prepared to go about it with your kindly financial assistance.

I had planned to leave on June 18 for California to be gone two or three weeks on business of the Department. If you should plan to be in Portland this next week, I will defer my leaving until Saturday noon, June 21, provided you will wire me and state your plans in more detail. If you cannot get away that soon I should be back immediately after July 4 and would be happy to meet you at that time.

Thanking you, I am

Sincerely yours,

Director

EKN:hk

LAW OFFICES
W. M. J. BECKER
FIRST NATIONAL BANK BLDG. - PHONE PARKVIEW 7100
50 SOUTH CENTRAL AVENUE
CLAYTON, MISSOURI.

June 9, 1941

Mr. Earl K. Nixon
Department of Geology
702 Woodlark Building
Portland, Oregon

Dear Mr. Nixon:

In accordance with your suggestion of May 26, I am enclosing herewith my personal check in the sum of One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) for the credit of the State Department of Geology and Mineral Industry for further investigation of the Burns tin metallurgy.

I expect to come to Oregon and be in Burns and Portland alone sometime between now and July 1st. I am very anxious to have a talk with you about this whole situation. I am sure that we could benefit our respective clients greatly by frank exchange of opinions.

Things happen so rapidly and in such an unexpected manner, that the whole situation has a aura of mystery about it for me. It seems that we are all in a fog of uncertainty and indecision. The contest has been continued until September 15th and I have made up my mind to get the whole thing with all of its mysterious angles out in the open daylight between now and then at any cost.

I am convinced that your attitude from the very beginning and at this time, is one of sincere devotion to your duty, and that any misunderstandings were the result of propaganda. This propaganda seems to be turned on heavier at this moment than at any other time in the past. Where it comes from I don't know, but will try to find out.

I know that you and the present Oregon administration fully realize the importance of this development to your State. I am confident that you want to cooperate with us, and that you know as well as we do that no one can be defrauded in any way or suffer any loss in any way other than my clients. We are not trying to sell the property or the metal, we are spending our own money and if anybody stands to lose we are the victims.

LAW OFFICES

W M. J. BECKER

FIRST NATIONAL BANK BLDG. - PHONE PARKVIEW 7100
50 SOUTH CENTRAL AVENUE

CLAYTON, MISSOURI

If you intend to leave the State of Oregon at any time during the later part of June or early July, please let me know what time would be most convenient for me to visit with you.

Thanking you again for your patience and courtesy of the past, I remain,

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Wm. J. Becker". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Wm. J. Becker

WJB:r

June 9, 1941

Mr. Wm. J. Becker
First National Bank Building
50 South Central Avenue
Clayton, Missouri

Dear Mr. Becker:

I am just in receipt of contracts from the Administrative Office of Oregon State College covering the proposed tin research to be carried out cooperatively among yourself, Oregon State College, and this Department.

There was a delay in getting the matter attended to at the College for no other reason than the multiplicity of duties devolving upon the Administrative Office during the Commencement period which is now over.

I am enclosing herewith four copies of the contracts mentioned above with the suggestion that you execute three and return them to me. Although there is no letter of transmittal with the contracts from Professor Gleeson, it is my understanding that you may make your check in the amount of \$1,450 in the name of "Administrative Agent, Oregon State College" and mark the check or outline in your letter of transmittal that the check is for "tin research fund".

At the same time we would like to have a letter of approval from you carrying your agreement of readiness to contribute not to exceed \$300 for the field work of this Department to cover sampling, geologic mapping, and incidental expenses that will be incurred by our field geologists. Inasmuch as our part of the work, or some of it, will have to be done in the field before the laboratory research begins, and since I am anxious to get the tin job finished or as far under way as possible before our geological survey begins July 10 or 12, may I suggest that you remit the amount of \$100 to cover field work that we will start later this month. Our biennium ends this June 30, and we do not have extra funds to carry out this work without your help.

This Department has employed a research expert as its spectroscopist and chief chemist to come West about August 1. It is not unlikely that much of the laboratory phase of the tin research will be delegated to him by Professor Gleeson to expedite the work since a student research fellow would probably not be available until September or October.

All of us interested parties or agencies in Oregon, including the Governor, the College and University, this Department, and many individuals, are tremendously interested in the outcome of this tin investigation. For that reason we feel most kindly toward yourself and your clients for making possible the type of research study which it is our sincere belief the problem deserves. As stated to you when you and Mr. Hoyt were here, we feel unreservedly that the expenditure of funds you contemplate is justified, and you may feel secure in the thought that the study will be made in an earnest, scientific and impersonal way.

With best wishes,

Cordially yours

Director

EKN:hk
Encl.

cc Governor Sprague
Professor Gleeson

LAW OFFICES
W. M. J. BECKER
FIRST NATIONAL BANK BLDG. - PHONE PARKVIEW 7100
50 SOUTH CENTRAL AVENUE
CLAYTON, MISSOURI

May 23, 1941

Mr. Earl K. Nixon
702 Woodlark Building
Portland, Oregon

Dear Mr. Nixon:

Thank you for your letter of May 14, and copy of letter of April 28.

I was probably mistaken in my belief that the University would furnish a scholarship, which the Chancellor is now asking us to furnish at a cost of \$750.00 and certainly I never had any idea that they would ask us to build a closed system furnace and furnish the equipment to go with it. However, under the circumstances I do not believe that we can complain and feel certain that my clients will be glad to cooperate to this extent.

I note that you state "for our part, I would ask that you establish a fund or \$100.00 to begin with so that we could draw from it". I am wondering where we would send the \$750.00 for fellowship and to whom we would send \$425.00 for furnace and equipment, or how the larger fund would be handled.

As soon as you advise me in this regard I will obtain the money from my clients and forward it to you. In the meantime if you want the \$100.00 for your department, immediately write or wire and you will have it by return mail or wire as directed.

Thanking you again for your many favors of the past, I remain,

Very truly yours,

Wm. J. Becker
Wm. J. Becker

WJB:r

STATE DEPT. OF GEOLOGY
& MINERAL INDUSTRY
MAY 23 1941
26
FILED
17

May 26, 1941

Mr. Wm. J. Becker
First National Bank Bldg.
50 South Central Avenue
Clayton, Missouri

Dear Mr. Becker:

Thank you for your letter of May 23rd. I am going to Corvallis tomorrow for a conference on geological survey matters and will confer with Professor Gleeson and probably also with the President of the College for the purpose of ascertaining the mechanics of your supplying a contribution to them. Following that, I shall advise you directly or you will hear from the proper official at the College.

For the participation of this Department, I suggest that some time within the next two weeks you forward a check made out in favor of the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries attaching with it a letter of transmittal stating that it is for the "credit of the State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries for further investigation of the Burns tin metallurgy" and that it is in the form of a gift to be used for the carrying out by us of the work in question. Any residue will be returned to you as we will make separate accounting against the fund for expenses charged against the job in question.

Thanking you and with best wishes, I am,

Very truly yours,

Director

EKN:ac

May 14, 1941

Mr. Wm. J. Becker,
First National Bank Bldg.,
50 South Central Avenue,
Clayton, Missouri.

Dear Mr. Becker:

Enclosed are copies of letters from Governor Sprague and Chancellor Hunter and a copy of estimate submitted by Professor Gleeson on the budgeted cost of a tin investigation to be carried out at the College.

To the \$1450 estimated by Professor Gleeson I would add \$300.00 to cover actual out-of-pocket cost to the Department of geologic mapping, drafting, sampling ~~and~~ cover the Department's contribution toward the project. This would make a total of \$1750.00 which we estimate that the entire investigation would cost.

I do not know what the mechanics of the situation are so far as the College is concerned, that is whether they would want the entire amount at one time or not. That would be a question of your negotiation with the Chancellor. For our part, I would ask that you establish a fund of \$100.00 to begin with so that we could draw from it. If there is any residue when the job is finished, it would be returned to you. Presumably the same would apply to the budgeted amount for the College.

We have carried out such arrangements before in which groups have contributed as a "gift or bequest"—to agree with our law—a sum of money for specific work with the understanding that any residue be returned.

If the expenditure of money by you, estimated herein, meets with your approval will you be kind enough to notify me so I can fit the work requirements into our program of field work and so I can notify the Governor and Chancellor unless you prefer to do that directly.

Yours very truly,

Director

EKN:ac
Encl.

December 30, 1941

Mr. A. L. Quiberg
Smithflat
California

Dear Mr. Quiberg:

Receipt is acknowledged of your letter dated
December 29 concerned with the reported
occurrence of tin west of Burns.

Herewith I am sending you a release issued by
this Department a short while ago. The informa-
tion contained in the release is self-explanatory.

Very truly yours,

F. W. Libbey
Mining Engineer

FWL:jr
Encl.

Smithflat Calif
Dec 29 1941

Mr Earl K Nixon

Dear Sir

Would appreciate very much the latest information on testing of tin deposit 35 miles west of Burns Oregon.

Can you verify rumor of D. J. Hancock acquiring property?

yours truly

P. L. Quiberg

RECEIVED
DEC 30 1941
STATE DEPT OF GEOLOGY
& MINERAL INDS.

STATE OF OREGON
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
SALEM

RECEIVED
MAY 14 1941

STATE DEPT OF GEOLOGY
& MINERAL INDS.

CHARLES A. SPRAGUE
GOVERNOR

May 13, 1941

Mr. Earl K. Nixon, Director
Geology & Mineral Industries
702 Woodlark Building
Portland, Oregon

Dear Mr. Nixon:

I am referring herewith the communication received from Chancellor Hunter on the subject of the extraction of tin from eastern Oregon ores. You will note that Chancellor Hunter encloses a tentative budget prepared by Professor Gleeson, which indicates that a total of \$1450.00 would be necessary as financial support from the interested groups.

If this support is forthcoming, I suggest that you proceed to get in touch with Dr. Gleeson; also notify me that I may clear the matter with Dr. Hunter.

Sincerely yours,

Charles A. Sprague

CAS:BF
Encs.

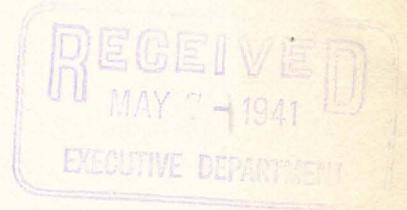
Governor

OREGON STATE SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION
OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR
EUGENE, OREGON

OREGON STATE COLLEGE, CORVALLIS
OREGON COLLEGE OF EDUCATION, MONMOUTH
EASTERN OREGON COLLEGE OF EDUCATION, LA GRANDE

May 6, 1941

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON, EUGENE
UNIVERSITY OF OREGON MEDICAL SCHOOL, PORTLAND
SOUTHERN OREGON COLLEGE OF EDUCATION, ASHLAND



Governor Charles A. Sprague
State House
Salem, Oregon

Dear Governor Sprague:

Pursuant to your letter and our recent conversation on the subject of the extraction of tin from eastern Oregon ores, I have conferred with Professor Gleeson of Oregon State College at some length. His department, with the support of the College and the executive office of the State Board, stands ready to undertake such research projects as seem necessary and wise in this field, should the financial support be forthcoming from the interested groups.

Professor Gleeson has prepared a tentative budget, a copy of which is enclosed, which indicates a total of \$1,450 necessary for this research under the conditions he sets forth. I trust this will be helpful in determining whether or not the work is to be undertaken.

Cordially yours,

Frederick M. Hunter
Chancellor

FMH CB
Enc.

TENTATIVE BUDGET

Research on Tin - Burns Area

The following facts appertain to the proposal of a research directed toward verification of tin deposits in the region of Burns, Oregon.

1. The research would be in cooperation with the State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries.
2. The project should initially prove the existence of the metal and the mode of occurrence.
3. Different and more satisfactory methods of quantitative detection must be developed.
4. Reasons for present difficulties must be established.
5. The State Department would do the field work and the college the analytical research.
6. A budget for the work is required to cover out-of-pocket expense to the State Department, the same to be determined by them and an additional amount for the college as follows:

Assume 9 month operation on fellowship basis-

Fellowship	\$750.00
Sample containers, freight and express	25.00
Closed system furnace and equipment	425.00
* Spectrographic analyses	100.00
Supplies, misc.	<u>150.00</u>
Total	\$1450.00

* Assumes that State Department spectrographic equipment will not be available in time and analyses will be conducted by others.

The procedures to be adopted include several possibilities, namely,

1. Preliminary cyanide fusions under controlled temperatures.
2. Cyanide or other fusions in a closed system with subsequent analyses of all component parts.
3. Complete material balances on both positive and negative radicals of the ore.

4. Spectrographic analyses on selected samples for verification both positive and negative.

5. Magnetic separation, microscopic analysis, volatilization characteristics, etc.

Under present circumstances, it appears to be difficult to obtain properly trained men. It may well be that such individuals cannot be obtained for this type of work.

GEORGE W. GLEESON

TENTATIVE BUDGET

Research on Tin - Burns Area

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3. Complete material balances on both positive and negative radicals of the ore.
4. Spectrographic analyses on selected samples for verification both positive and negative.
5. Magnetic separation, microscopic analysis, volatilization characteristics, etc.

GEORGE W. GLEESON

February 6, 1941

Honorable Charles A. Sprague
Governor of Oregon
Salem, Oregon

Subject: Tin Matter.

Dear Governor Sprague:

Thank you for your note of February 5th. I shall be only too happy to keep you advised about any matters that occur which seem to rate a few minutes of your time. If I seem to be remiss or if you think I could enlighten you on any matter at any time, please let me know.

I am just advised by Judge Robert Duncan of Burns that Mr. Goldman of St. Louis, who was due here early this week to confer with us on steps for a solution of the tin ore problem, has suffered a nervous breakdown and his doctors have ordered him to stay in bed for a month,--that Goldman hopes to come west about March first.

The letter further indicates that someone has 'put the bee' on Representative Pierce in Washington about having an expert from the United States Geological Survey or the United States Bureau of Mines come out and make an investigation. The letter implies that Pierce was successful. If anything develops, I shall advise you.

Sincerely yours,

EKN:vm

Director

STATE OF OREGON
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
SALEM

RECEIVED
FEB 6 1941

STATE DEPT OF GEOLOGY
& MINERAL INDS.

CHARLES A. SPRAGUE
GOVERNOR

February 5, 1941.

Mr. Earl K. Nixon, Director
State Department of Geology
and Mineral Industries
702 Woodlark Building
Portland, Oregon

Dear Mr. Nixon:

Thanks for your letters reporting on
the status of the Burns tin matter and the Northwest
Research Laboratory.

I had a letter from George Barton of
Eugene urging the establishment of a spectograph
laboratory here. Is that what is contemplated in the
Northwest Research Laboratory?

I do not expect you to spend much time
writing letters to me but when there is anything of
importance please keep me posted by letter or by
occasional oral report.

With best wishes, I am

Yours sincerely,

Charles A. Sprague

CAS:B

Governor.



January 3, 1941

Dr. D. F. Hewett, Geologist in Charge
Section of Metalliferous Deposits
United States Geological Survey
Washington, D. C.

Dear Doctor Hewett:

Thanks for your letter of December 16 pertaining to the tin situation in central Oregon.

I refuse to go off the deep end on this tin situation and am by no means convinced in either direction--that the tin is or is not present in commercial quantities. I am even worse than the farmer who, after seeing the giraffe, remarked, "I still don't believe it".

However, I have seen some rather amazing variations in assay results as a result of varying the technique, and my present position is that the assayers have some real explaining to do to me. Might say that the mining engineer (and assayer) of the Division of Investigation, Department of the Interior who spent four weeks on the property, told me before leaving Portland the other day that he is convinced of the presence of tin in commercial quantities in some of the samples taken by himself.

That does not necessarily prove anything, but helps one to waver in his previous position that no tin is present. As a matter of fact, the spectro-scope is now getting tin lines in some of the material, I understand from reliable sources.

I do not believe that this tin matter is anything that the United States Geological Survey might need to concern themselves with. It might be that the Bureau of Mines might be called upon to do some metallurgical work. I was not present in the late twenties during the "tin scare" in southwest Oregon, but I understand that the Bureau of Mines made a fool of itself in the show they put on around Grants Pass.

Recently a highly-qualified custom analyst, working on samples supplied by Department of Interior engineers, obtained no tin with sodium peroxide fusion and titration--an orthodox wet method, I understand--then took his own reject

January 3, 1941

which was locked in a safe meantime, ran it in another much older but, nevertheless, orthodox manner, and obtained metallic buttons. These buttons were assayed in the orthodox manner, ran 94 to 98% tin, and calculated from 1½% to 5% metallic tin per ton in the original rock from which the sample was taken. From the above I conclude that something is extremely haywire, either it's assay method or a new tin mineral with a much lower fusion point than tin oxide or what have you. Anyway I am going to stick with facts and keep a perfectly open mind and advise the owner of the property on a course of investigation which I hope will determine whether or not there is any tin worth mentioning present.

If anything develops, I shall advise you.

Sincerely yours,

Director

EKN: jr

RECEIVED
DEC 23 1940

STATE DEPT OF GEOLOGY
& MINERAL INDS.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
WASHINGTON

December 16, 1940.

Mr. Earl K. Nixon, Director,
State Department of Geology and
Mineral Industries,
702 Woodlark Building,
Portland, Oregon.

Dear Nixon:

In reply to your letter of December 9 with reference to tin in central Oregon:

Several of us have observed notices in the press concerning the tin discovery in central Oregon, and recently a request was made that we send a geologist to make a preliminary examination. It was not possible to do this, but we requested that samples be sent, and subsequently we examined about five samples rather closely. As I recall the results, no tin was found to be present in any of the samples. All of them were fresh obsidian.

Since September 1, 1939, we have maintained a party at work on the tin deposits of central New Mexico, and in August, 1940, this party devoted two weeks to examining the known deposits of Lander County, Nevada. For the first five months, the party in New Mexico was closely following the exploratory work of the Bureau of Mines and mapping the geology. Since the spring of 1940, the party has been making a detailed map of the entire region in which deposits have thus far been recorded in the hope, if possible, of finding areas more hopeful than those explored by the Bureau of Mines. We hope soon to issue a report on the work in New Mexico, but for the present I can state that cassiterite, with several characteristic minerals, is wholly found in poorly-defined veins in large masses of rock that are intensely altered. This conclusion stands out clearly in all of the work that we have done in both New Mexico and Nevada. I would say, therefore, that the chance of finding more than minute traces of tin, such as could only be recognized by a spectroscope in any variety of igneous works, there is no tin in the fresh obsidian of central Oregon. Unless you can present much more tangible information that proves the presence of tin in central Oregon, we would not consider field work there.

I have forgotten whether your acquaintance with Oregon goes back to the discovery of "tin" in southwestern Oregon in the late 20's. After much

Mr. Nixon
12/16/40

- 2 -

excitement, the local owners were able to persuade a mineral inspector of the Land Office to witness some laboratory tests where tin was recovered. Later, the whole scheme was exposed as a fraud. Obviously, I am skeptical when I hear of tin in the lava country of central Oregon.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,



Geologist in Charge
Section of Metalliferous Deposits.



December 9, 1940

Dr. D. F. Hewett
United States Geological Survey
Washington, D. C.

Dear Doctor Hewett:

You may or may not have heard about our tin scare in central Oregon. I had not given it much serious consideration until the last few days. It seems that there probably is much more to it than appears on the surface.

The principal point of this letter is to inquire about the work of the Survey in Nevada or Utah on rhyolitic flows that have been found to carry tin. We hear a rumor that you have been doing some work along this line and that you have discovered tin in some unexpected places. I might say that the alleged tin discovery in central Oregon is in a granular obsidian--a blanket covering considerable of the country over there. It now begins to look as if we may have to get in and really get out feet wet on this tin proposition. What have you to offer?

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

Director

EKN:vm

Charge to the account of

STATE DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY & MINERAL INDUSTRIES

\$

CLASS OF SERVICE DESIRED	
DOMESTIC	CABLE
TELEGRAM	ORDINARY
DAY LETTER	URGENT RATE
SERIAL	DEFERRED
NIGHT LETTER	NIGHT LETTER
SPECIAL SERVICE	SHIP RADIOGRAM

Patrons should check class of service desired; otherwise the message will be transmitted as a telegram or ordinary cablegram.

WESTERN UNION

1206-B

CHECK

ACCOUNTING INFORMATION

TIME FILED

R. B. WHITE
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

Send the following message, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to

DECEMBER 19, 1940

GEORGE W. GLEESON
DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICAL ENGINEERING
OREGON STATE COLLEGE
CORVALLIS, OREGON

KINSLEY, DEAN DRUCKER FROM PULLMAN, AND VARIOUS OTHERS FROM HERE WILL ARRIVE CORVALLIS SHORTLY AFTER NOON TOMORROW FOR TIN ASSAYING DEMONSTRATION STOP TRUST YOU WILL HAVE EVERYTHING READY STOP IF NECESSARY, CALL ME BEFORE TEN TOMORROW ABOUT ANY DETAILS.
BEST WISHES.

EARL K. NIXON

EKN:vm
3:55 P.M.

December 11, 1940

Senator W. H. Strayer
Baker, Oregon

Subject: Burns Tin Matter.

Dear Senator:

The matter of considerable possible importance has occurred in regard to the tin matter at Burns. It is this: by using a special fire assay method --a well-known but seldom used old method rather than the more up-to-date so-called wet method--Dr. Bushnell of the Charlton Laboratories here in Portland has been getting honest-to-goodness tin assays on samples, taken and guarded from salting by Engineer Kinsley of the Department of the Interior.

In other words, I am convinced that there is something about the material in question which we don't understand. It may be a tin find after all. We will not know for a considerable time. Meantime, the Department of the Interior--getting metallic tin buttons from some of the samples--has deferred its hearing until January 14, 1941. I agree thoroughly with this because we must have the facts in the case.

Judge Duncan called me from Vale, Oregon, a few minutes ago and asked me to be present this Friday or Saturday as a spectator on the occasion of their operating their furnace again. Engineer Kinsley of the Department of the Interior from San Francisco was in my office this morning and is going over to Burns to observe the operation for a week.

I feel that I should go--as a spectator, as you suggest in your letter of December 8th, but also with the idea of taking a sample or two in my own way and for our own testing. Naturally I shall not commit myself or the Department. I wanted to write you this letter telling you of my plan so that, if you thought that it is entirely contrary to the policy of the Board, you could wire me. I have just talked to Mr. MacNaughton over the telephone, and he said he thought I should go. In fact, he had asked some time back to go along if I went over. He is obliged to be away this Friday and Saturday and stated that he would have been pleased to go with me otherwise.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

EKN:vm

Director

December 9, 1940

Dr. R. R. Sayers, Director
United States Bureau of Mines
Washington, D. C.

Dear Doctor Sayers:

Thank you kindly for your letter of December 3rd to which you attach copies of your Form 284 covering metallurgical work.

I doubt if the mere assaying and the testing with the spectrograph by the Bureau of our tin samples would logically come in the program you mention. In the first place, it would probably be several months before we did get the results of the tin assays and the result of any subsequent metallurgical work that might be indicated.

Our Department, as well as the U. S. Bureau of Mines and the U. S. Geological Survey, has been criticized for not making a thorough investigation of this tin matter. The "find" has been so widely publicized that it will have to be settled sooner or later. United States Senator Holman has asked me for the low-down and I can't tell him with definiteness. The Bureau of Mines may be asked by some of the Congressional crowd to make a thorough investigation unless we can gather enough data to forestall it. The most recent work that has been done on carefully taken samples indicates that the rock really does contain tin in commercial quantities when tested by fire assay methods under very careful control but that the same samples do not show tin under wet assay methods.

Suppose we let the matter rest until we can personally take further samples. Then, I would like to have your specific approval covering spectroscopic examination by the Bureau of a small number of samples.

Thanking you, I am

Very truly yours,

EKN:vm

Director

RECEIVED
DEC 7 1940

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR STATE DEPT OF GEOLOGY
& MINERAL INDS.
BUREAU OF MINES
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

December 3, 1940.

Mr. Earl K. Nixon, Director,
State Department of Geology and
Mineral Industries,
702 Woodlark Building,
Portland, Oregon.

Dear Mr. Nixon:

With reference to your letter of November 13 to E. S. Leaver, regarding testing of samples of tin ore which will be taken by you personally:

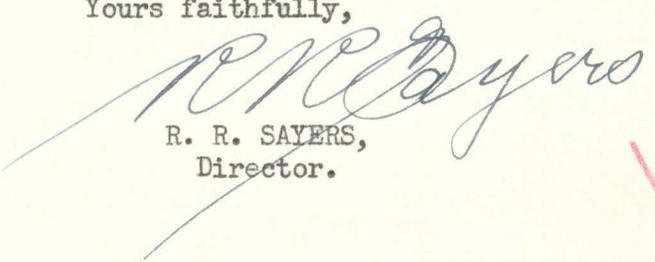
The Bureau of Mines does not make tests or analyses of materials other than those intended for use by another government agency, or those that are being used in the course of some technologic investigation under way in the Bureau. A study of the amenability of typical ores to concentration is being made and it is possible that the tin samples could be used in this program.

The policy of the Bureau of Mines has been that reports on this work, if accepted, will first appear in Bureau publications, after which they may appear in other publications with suitable credit to the Bureau.

In all these investigations the material is analyzed before concentration tests are made. It may be possible that the analysis of the ore would be sufficient and further tests would not be necessary.

If you wish the tin samples to be included in this program, please fill in the enclosed copies of Form 284. This Form in triplicate will be sufficient to cover all the samples.

Yours faithfully,


R. R. SAYERS,
Director.

Enclosure 1359111.

Director, Bureau of Mines
 United States Department of the Interior
 Washington, D. C.

DATE _____

Dear Sir:

In connection with the project of the Bureau of Mines to study the composition, physical characteristics, and milling qualities of ores from various mining districts, I offer to supply the Bureau with a representative sample of adequate size of ore of the following description:

Nature of ore:
 Type of deposit:

Occurrence

Mining district:
 Location (with respect to nearest town, highway and railroad):

Estimated reserves of ore of this class:
 Extent of development:

Proposed method of sampling:
 Size of sample available:
 Brief statement of results of tests or analyses previously made on this ore:
 (If more space is needed use another sheet of paper.)

Nature of problem: (State problem and include all information regarding minimum acceptable grade of concentrate, maximum permissible impurities and other specifications that would affect the marketing of finished products. If more space is needed use another sheet of paper.)

It is understood that if this ore is found suitable for the Bureau of Mines project I will be supplied with a copy of reports of work done when tests have been completed.

I agree that results of tests may be published by the Bureau but that reports furnished me will be held strictly confidential until released for publication by the Director of the Bureau.

 (Signature)

 (Street and number)

 (City and State)

C
O
P
Y

Fin

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE
INTERIOR--BUREAU OF MINES
WASHINGTON

November 2, 1940

Hon. Rufus C. Holman,
United States Senate.

My dear Senator Holman:

In reply to your letter of October 28th, with which you sent a box of specimens from your office in Oregon:

The Bureau has carefully examined the specimens you sent and must agree with the report of Mr. F. W. Libbey that the material is pearlite, an obsidian or volcanic glass, breaking in small roundish particles, and contains no tin.

Such material has never been known to contain tin in merchantable quantities.

I regret that I cannot give you a more encouraging report.

Yours faithfully,

R. R. SAYERS
Director

September 23, 1941

Mr. W. D. B. Dodson
333 Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Dodson:

This office has been virtually up-side-down for the last month because of illness and absence of up to half of our staff, and I am afraid I have failed to attend to certain matters of correspondence because of the necessity of hitting just the highest spots. Your letter of September 6 asking about the tin situation appears not to have been answered.

We have had our spectroscopist and crack chemist, Dr. Harrison, working on this for a month and a half at Corvallis, and I have now written the tin people, that is, Judge Duncan, telling them that it is up to them to demonstrate the presence of tin or we are prepared promptly to announce our findings which are not satisfactory. Find that Judge Duncan is very ill but that his friends hope to demonstrate their wares within the next few days.

In any event we are winding up the tin matter so far as we are concerned within the next couple of weeks, as now planned, and will issue a press release and a detailed statement covering the whole matter. For your information, I do not believe that there is a commercial deposit of tin present in the Burns area.

Sincerely yours

Director

EKN:hj

PORTLAND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

PORTLAND, OREGON,

824 S. W. FIFTH AVENUE

CABLE ADDRESS: PORTOREGON
ATWATER 9411

MEMBER
OF
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

RECEIVED
SEP 10 1941

STATE DEPT OF GEOLOGY
& MINERAL INDS.

September 6, 1941

Mr. Earl K. Nixon
Director, State Department of
Geology and Mineral Industries
Woodlark Building
Portland, Oregon

Dear Earl,

In talking with Senator McNary the other evening, he seemed still much distressed about the tin prospects which have been given so much consideration. He knows that Bob Duncan is an honorable man but recognizes that he has no knowledge of mining or minerals. Bob is still persuaded that the tin prospect has not yet been given full study.

The Bureau of Mines here state that they have given careful examination to every sample sent them, and that in none of them have they discovered even a trace of tin. They say their methods have been every type known including the spectrographic test.

I am writing merely to learn if you can tell us anything which will ease the Senator's mind. He does not wish to press for an impossible or improper procedure. On the other hand he does not want to feel that he has given up before adequate checking has been accomplished.

Sincerely yours,



W. D. B. Dodson

WDBD:gm

