

QUARTERLY REVIEW

Vol. 1, No. 2

GEOLOGIC INVESTIGATION IN THE STATE OF UTAH

November, 1964

UTAH STATE UNIVERSITY'S WATER RESEARCH LABORATORY

Volume 1, Number 1, of the Quarterly Review failed to mention the efforts of Utah State University's program in the field of water research. At the present time Utah State's Water Research Laboratory is being constructed on the south bank of the Logan River adjacent to Utah State University. The facility, of excellent design, will provide approximately 79,334 square feet of space for concerted researches in water for many years.

Projects in water research are already underway, even though the laboratory is incomplete. Dr. Vaughn E. Hansen, assisted by Dr. J. M. Bagley, directs the researches which involve watershed simulation and evaluation, irrigation and drainage structures, water supply and utilization planning, geohydraulics of mountain streams, flow of water in steep rough channels, evaporation reduction studies, and evaporation and climatic studies.

QUARTERLY REVIEW

State of Utah.....*George Dewey Clyde*
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College of Mines & Mineral
Industries.....*Armand J. Eardley*
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ENCOURAGE EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES The Example of Texas Gulf Sulphur Co.



The Cane Creek potash lands have been acquired by Utah as lieu lands in exchange for State school sections which occurred within boundaries of other Federal reservations. Due to the efforts of many, particularly Utah's Congressional delegation, the State Land Board's timely selection of Cane Creek potash lands has resulted in the clear listing of 10,014.01 acres. These potash lands, all of which are under lease to the Texas Gulf Sulphur Company, lie near Cane Creek along the Colorado River some seven miles westernly from Moab, Utah.

Mr. Frank Tippie, General Manager of the Potash Division for Texas Gulf Sulphur, reports that the first production of potash will be in December 1964. He estimates that by April 1965, capacity production of 4,000 tons per day, distributed over a 350-day work-year, will yield 1,400,000 tons per year; this tonnage will be benefited to yield 1,570 tons per day of saleable product, or 550,000 tons per year of plus 60% K_2O .

Further expansion of plant capacity will depend on market conditions.

Texas-Gulf Sulphur will market

four products, each in excess of 60% K_2O . Based on size, these are: (1) Granular, 8 to 14 mesh, (2) Coarse, 14 to 30 mesh, (3) Standard, 30 to 48 mesh, and (4) Special Standard, 48 to 100 mesh. The average price for these products is now \$24.50 per ton.

Texas-Gulf Sulphur holds 20-year leases on the Cane Creek acreage, with escalated royalties from 3% on gross value up to 1974, to royalties of 4% to 5% for the remaining years of the lease. At the end of 20 years the lease is renewable and subject to negotiation.

Not considering the potential expansion the State may project the following royalty income based on a price of \$24.50 per ton for plus 60% K_2O . By 1984, barring production stoppages, and assuming that the lease agreements commenced in 1964, this property could produce 28,000,000 tons of ore which would produce 11,000,000 tons of marketable product yielding \$10,106,250 in royalties. By 1984 the investment on the royalties at 3% return would be yielding approximately \$303,188 per year, and the earned interest, used for support of schools, as the end of 1984 could be as much as \$2,830,000.

INCOME FROM STATE LANDS

Income from State lands is principally from mineral royalties, mineral lease rental and grazing lease rental. In fiscal 1964 it was as follows:

Mineral lease rental	\$1,799,979
Royalty	505,458
Grazing lease rental	128,971
Total	\$2,434,398

The grazing lease rental is 5.3 per cent of the total income, whereas minerals yield approximately 94.7 per cent. Grazing lease rental, though increasing slightly (Figure I), averages \$114,926 annually for the 1952 through 1964 period. From 1952 to 1964 the annual grazing rental increased from \$105,964 to \$128,971 or \$23,007, which is a 21.7 per cent increase. In comparison with the mineral income change of 367 per cent for State lands during the same period, (Figure II), it is apparent that, in direct revenue gleaned from State lands, the mineral industry is by far more important than grazing.

The State Land Board administers State land, and also is responsible for investing funds received from royalties, land sales, etc. The principal and interest from invested money, together with mineral and grazing lease rentals and royalty, amounted to \$4,456,926 for fiscal 1964. Comparing the receipts of \$1,799,969 from mineral lease rental and \$505,458 from royalty, or \$2,305,427, with the \$4,456,926 total receipts, the result is that direct receipts from minerals amounts to 51.7 per cent of the total money collected.

In 1963 nineteen Utah mines produced 546,789 tons of lead-zinc ore. Lead production was 45,028 tons and was valued at \$9,726,048; zinc amounted to 36,179 tons for a value of \$8,321,170.

Utah ranked third in domestic lead-zinc production, Idaho ranked first with \$31 million in lead-zinc values, and Tennessee second with \$22 million in zinc values.

MAGNESIUM SITUATION

Magnesium, though attractive for its light weight, corrodes easily, requires great expenditures of energy to set it free, and present uses have been mainly in the refractive industries where magnesium oxide is widely applied. The space industry, encouraged by recent developments in alloying of magnesium, has researched the application of these alloys, which have wide application where light weight is a premium. Among such developments is Dow's alloy, LA141X, of lithium and magnesium, which at 2 pounds can be substituted for 3.75 pounds of aluminum. Consequently, farsighted companies are moving toward acquisition of basic raw materials.

There are various sources for magnesium;

brucite, $[Mg(OH)_2 - 41.6\% Mg]$;
magnesite, $[MgCO_3 - 28.7\% Mg]$
dolomite,

$[CaCO_3MgCO_3 - 13\% Mg]$;
serpentine,

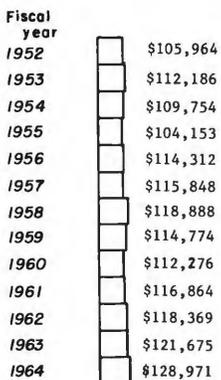
$[H_4Mg_3Si_2O_8 - 25.8\% Mg]$;
sea water, $[0.13\% Mg]$; and
deep well and shallow brines,
[up to 10% Mg].

A readily available source for magnesium is sea water, which is reacted with calcined dolomite to

(continued on page 7, column 1)

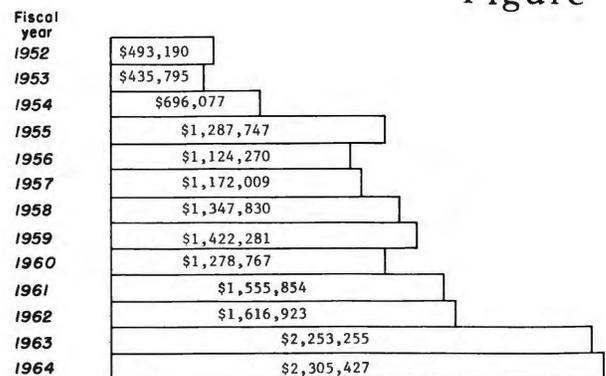
Figure I

UTAH'S INCOME FROM GRAZING LEASES ON STATE LANDS



Total Income 1952-1964 = \$1,494,034
Average = \$114,926

UTAH'S MINERAL INCOME FROM MINERAL LEASES ON STATE LANDS - INCLUDES RENTAL AND ROYALTY

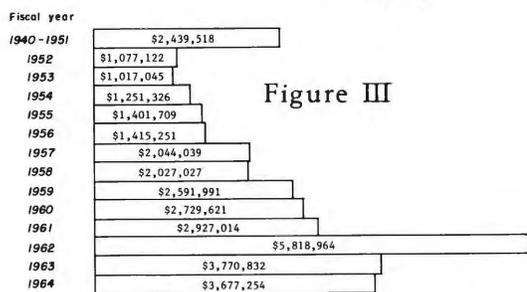


Total Income 1952-1964 = \$16,989,425
Average = \$1,306,879

Figure II

INCOME FROM UTAH'S MINERAL INDUSTRIES

UTAH'S MINERAL INCOME FROM FEDERAL LANDS IN UTAH



Total Income 1952 - 1964 = \$31,749,195
Average = \$2,442,246

Utah's mineral industries are major contributors to the State's coffers. They owe their existence to the natural occurrence of vast quantities of minerals and equally important to the economic climate created by the inhabitants of the State. One of the duties of the Utah Geological Survey is to collect and catalogue these resources and to present broad interpretations for the development of the State's mineral potential.

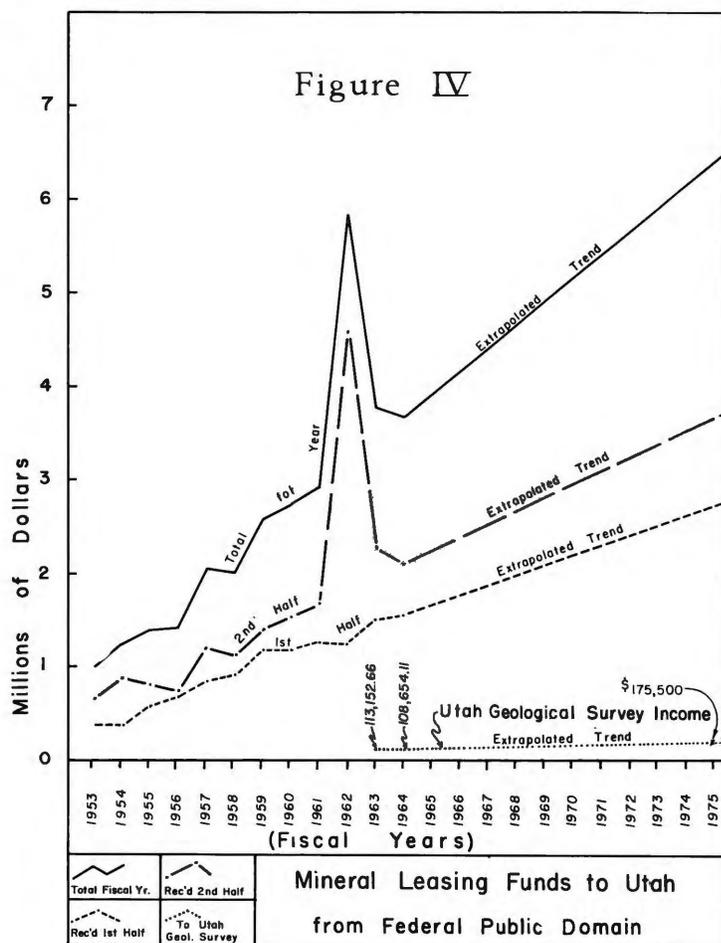
We do not know the absolute dollar value, which is directly and indirectly obtained from the mineral industries of Utah, but it is considerable. The copper industry of Utah, pretty much a singular enterprise, is so vast that curtailment of production and payroll for even a short period of several weeks can seriously hamper State operations.

An examination of the income which the State receives from mineral leases, rentals and royalties on Utah's Federal domain reveals that from an initial receipt of \$300 in 1921, Utah received \$3,677,254 in

1964. The payments, received twice a year, were changed in 1952 from a calendar to a fiscal year basis, and payments since then (Figures III and IV) have totalled \$31,749,195, or an annual average of \$2,442,246. It is noteworthy that income from Federal lands has risen from \$1,077,122 in 1952, to \$3,677,254 in 1964, an increase of \$2,600,132 or 241 per cent. These funds represent 37½ per cent of the total money collected by the Federal Government, the remainder being used for Federal reclamation and other purposes.

Currently, the Utah school system receives 81% and the Utah Geological survey 3% of the mineral lease and royalty money returned to the State from the Federal domain. Figure IV shows that in 1963, the first year such funds were available to the Survey, these Survey operating funds amounted to \$113,153 whereas in fiscal 1964 they were \$108,654. At the extrapolated value of income, in fiscal

Figure IV



File No. 214A

1975 the Survey's operating share will be approximately \$175,000.

If a favorable climate can be maintained for continued mineral development of the Federal domain the position of the extractive industries will improve and the momentum of the mineral industries' development will greatly aid in supporting expanded school programs.

The Utah Geological Survey aids the mineral industry whether the latter be involved with Federal or State lands. It does not, however, receive operating funds from those mineral moneys that are derived from State lands. From this latter source Utah has received \$16,989,425 from mineral rentals and royalties during the thirteen year period from fiscal year 1952 through 1964 inclusive (see Figure II), the average annual income being \$1,306,879. It is significant that the mineral dollars from State lands amounted to \$493,190 in 1952 and \$2,305,427 in 1964, an increase of \$1,812,237 or 367 per cent.

PUBLIC LAND POLICIES

Since 68.4% of Utah's lands are public domain, it becomes increasingly important that Utah residents be aware of the policies and decisions which are applied to the administration of these lands.

Regardless of the intent of Congress, some leeway is always provided within which administrators restrict, constrict, and generally discourage minerals prospecting and exploitation. This attitude, however motivated, is surely and effectively withdrawing more and more public domain. Therefore, western mining men have set up organizations to lobby and combat such decisions. Eastern conservation interests should realize that the shrinkage of public domain curtails minerals exploitation upon which western states depend; and western conservationists must consider that the health, wealth, and wisdom of the Rocky Mountain West will become more and more dependent on the extractive minerals industry, since the grazing and agricultural potentials are being rapidly depleted. Although the Rocky Mountain States welcome the temporary relief afforded by defense industries, a responsible tax base closely attached to the availability of the public domain will lessen the possibility of their becoming wards of the National Government. As a consequence of this western feeling, the American Mining Congress in September 1964 adopted the following policy in regard to public lands:

"PUBLIC LANDS

An active, healthy, domestic mining industry requires that private enterprise have free access to, and full utilization of, our public domain for the purpose of prospecting for and mining natural resources. We oppose any law, regulation, decision or order prohibiting or limiting this access to, and utilization of,

our public domain unless it is clearly established by examination and appraisal that such prohibition or limitation affecting our public domain will far better serve the national welfare.

Withdrawals of areas of the public domain from mineral entry should be kept to a minimum. Applications resulting in temporary withdrawals should be acted upon promptly. All such withdrawals should be reviewed periodically with the purpose of eliminating areas found to be in excess of need and of reopening them to mineral entry.

A national policy with respect to the public domain which does not contain in it the foregoing principles is contrary to the objective we support, that the public domain should be put to as many compatible uses as its resources permit.

The recent definitions of "discovery," as stated by the Office of the Solicitor of the Department of the Interior, have made the title of unpatented mining claims uncertain, illusory and vaporous, and far more speculative than the existence or nonexistence of an ore body. The definition of "discovery," as originally conceived by the authors of our mining law, and as interpreted by the decisions of the courts contemporaneous therewith, has been so far distorted that it can no longer be doubted that the objective of the Office of the Solicitor of the Department of the Interior is to discourage the location and ownership of land for mining purposes. The mining industry has tried to cooperate with the Department of the Interior and its Bureau of Land Management in solving problems in which the mining industry is involved. This policy of cooperation has been met with a recent forthright declaration that

the mining laws will be construed strictly in accordance with the concepts of the Department of the Interior and against the mining industry.

While we should not discontinue our policy of cooperating with government authority, we should resist in every way possible the indefensible attitude of the Office of the Solicitor of the Department of the Interior.

We urge the Department of Agriculture and its Forest Service and the Department of the Interior and its Bureau of Land Management, and all other government agencies dealing with public lands, to administer their regulations fairly and uniformly and to formulate and carry out their regulations in a manner which will encourage, and not discourage, the development of our mineral resources.

Future exploration must, for the most part, be directed to the discovery of nonoutcropping and often deeply buried mineral deposits. Hence, appropriate supplementary legislation, in keeping with the basic concepts and intent of our present mining laws, is required to afford reasonable pre-discovery protection to one who is in good faith engaged in seeking a discovery of mineral. Such protection is needed to encourage the expenditures of vast sums necessary to carry forward mineral exploration.

We endorse the establishment of a Public Land Law Review Commission to study existing laws and procedures relating to the administration and disposal of public lands of the United States. We urge that this commission recognize as a national policy that the public domain should be put to as many compatible uses as its resources permit."

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The Utah Geological Survey, prior to the 1963 session of the Legislature, received its funds from a special line-item appropriation in the University of Utah budget. In 1961 this amounted to \$25,000 a year. In addition all proceeds from the sale of maps and Survey liter-

ature were available for the publication of additional "maps, bulletins" (Utah Code 53-36-2-7). Then, in 1963 the legislature made available to the Survey a percentage of the Uniform School Fund moneys that are derived from mineral leases, rental and royalties in

the Federal domain. The following, a consolidated statement of all three funds, shows income and expenditures for the fiscal year that commenced July 1, 1963, and ended June 30, 1964.

INCOME

<i>Balance Carried Forward:</i>	1963-64	Total
Survey Fund (Utah Code 53-36-2-7) (123-401010).....	\$ 5,769.72	
University of Utah Research Funds Grant for Oil Well Sample Library.....	\$ 127.00	
Accounts Collectible (Unpaid Invoices).....	\$ 1,211.44	\$ 7,108.16
<i>Appropriations:</i>		
Mineral Leasing Fund (122-401011) Alotted.....	\$ 89,756.00	
Fiscal Year Appropriation (121-401012).....	\$ 27,000.00	
Mineral Leasing Fund, Unallotted.....	\$ 23,396.66	\$140,152.66
<i>Receipts:</i>		
Gross Receipts (Sale of Maps, Bulletins, etc.)..... (Utah Code 53-36-2-7) (123-401010).....	\$ 16,948.68	
College of Mines & Mineral Industries (Earth Science Project Fund for Publication of SS No. 9).....	\$ 307.00	\$ 17,255.64
TOTAL INCOME	\$164,516.46	\$164,516.46

EXPENSES

<i>Operations:</i>		
Salaries		
Administrative	\$ 6,750.00	
Research	\$ 17,575.80	
Office	\$ 8,324.09	
Part Time — field parties		
Asphalt Ridge (Uintah County).....	\$ 950.00	
Deep Creek (Tooele County).....	\$ 450.00	
Salt Flats (Tooele and Box Elder Counties).....	\$ 950.00	
Garfield County	\$ 3,242.25	
Wayne County	\$ 950.00	
Piute County	\$ 800.00	
Sevier County	\$ 48.75	
Sanpete County	\$ 1,469.00	
Research	\$ 2,750.00	
Time Cards		
Sample Library & Engineering Office.....	\$ 6,074.10	
Manuscript	\$ 3,873.35	
Analyst	\$ 252.00	
Research	\$ 3,239.95	
Office	\$ 1,169.80	
Social Security	\$ 1,685.12	
State Retirement	\$ 346.53	
T. I. A. A.	\$ 1,214.45	
Blue Cross — Blue Shield	\$ 204.97	
Workmen's Compensation	\$ 24.41	
Group Life Insurance	\$ 44.25	\$ 62,388.82

	1963-64	Total
<i>Supplies:</i>		
Office Supplies	\$ 4,610.29	
Sample Library-Drafting Office, Laboratory	\$ 2,363.03	\$ 6,973.32
<i>Publication Expenses:</i>		
Water Resources No. 2	\$ 526.96	
Water Resources No. 3, Part I	\$ 476.00	
Special Studies No. 6	\$ 464.00	
Water Resources No. 4	\$ 306.00	
Special Studies No. 7	\$ 307.00	
Bulletin 72	\$ 876.00	
Special Studies No. 8	\$ 371.84	
Circular 44	\$ 207.01	
Water Resources No. 5	\$ 681.00	
Bulletin 73	\$ 584.00	
Misc. (Vouchers & over-paid orders).....	\$ 9,292.39	
Loan Publication 69 (Univ. of Utah Research Fund).....	\$ 1,338.85	
Publication announcements	\$ 175.00	\$ 15,606.05
<i>U.S.G.S. Cooperative Projects:</i>		
Water Resources Division:		
Salt Input — Great Salt Lake		
Trace Element Prospecting — Basin & Range	\$ 8,625.00	
Geologic Division:		
Senate Committee Report (Mineral & Water		
Resources — Bulletin 73)	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 10,125.00
<i>Procurement of deep samples from Great Salt Lake Desert:</i>	\$ 3,138.96	\$ 3,138.96
<i>Travel Expenses:</i>		
Utah Geological Survey Staff	\$ 813.54	
Field Parties	\$ 2,021.26	
Rental of Truck	\$ 148.48	
Rental of Scout	\$ 100.00	\$ 3,083.28
<i>Sales Tax:</i>	\$ 83.23	\$ 83.23
<i>Postage & Mailing:</i>	\$ 975.86	\$ 975.86
<i>Freight & Express:</i>	\$ 18.68	\$ 18.68
<i>Telephone & Telegraph:</i>	\$ 78.00	\$ 78.00
<i>Miscellaneous Disbursements:</i>	\$ 142.36	\$ 142.36
<i>Maintenance:</i>		
Parts and Repairs	\$ 88.34	\$ 88.34
<i>Equipment:</i>		
Monroe Adding Machine	\$ 191.25	
Map Wings	\$ 105.49	
Blazers (Tote Gotes)	\$ 921.00	
Rollatape	\$ 62.55	
I.B.M. Typewriter	\$ 525.40	
Marchant Calculator	\$ 695.00	
Drafting Table	\$ 153.22	\$ 2,653.91
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$105,355.81	\$105,355.81
CARRIED FORWARD TO 1964-65		
Appropriated Account (121-401012)	\$ 179.74	
Mineral Leasing Fund (122-401011)	\$ 49,216.19*	
Survey Fund (123-401010)	\$ 9,702.72	
Research Grant for Oil-Well-Sample Library	\$ 62.00	\$ 59,160.65
GRAND TOTAL	\$164,516.46	\$164,516.46
*Mineral Leasing Fund (Unexpended)	\$25,819.53	
Mineral Leasing Fund (Unallotted from 1963-64)	\$23,396.66	
	\$49,216.19	

MAGNESIUM (continued)

form magnesium hydroxide. About half of the magnesium is furnished by the sea water and the remainder from the calcined rock. Likewise, the "ready" reserve and vast potential of Great Salt Lake and its desert are particularly inviting. The carnallite of the Paradox Basin salt section and accompanying deep well brines are also of interest.

Great Salt Lake contains 4,198 million tons of dissolved solids, of which 211 million tons are magnesium chloride and 168 million tons are magnesium sulfate, or 40.8 tons of magnesium salts per acre foot of water. Other elements of interest in the lake brine are potassium chloride, with an inventory of 168,000,000 tons, lithium, and boron.

At least 13 major companies have interests in, or are investigating, the Great Salt Lake and adjacent areas.

The output of primary magnesium in the United States has been rising steadily and rapidly in recent years, from 40,000 tons in 1960 to a projected 80,000 tons in 1964. This growth rate indicates a market for nearly 100,000 tons in 1966, although industry estimates that the 100,00 ton market will not be attained until 1968 or 1969.

TAX BURDEN

What is it? Can it be Reduced?

A tax burden is an estimate of "hidden" and direct taxes paid in support of federal, state, and local government. The Utah Foundation, a private, non-profit organization established to study local and state government in Utah, publishes periodic reports of their findings. Their recent report (No. 220, October 1964) points out that Utah's tax burden estimate now stands at 33.3 per cent of the State's total personal income — the highest in history! Chart 1 of their report (see below) shows the gradual upward trend of the tax burden since 1930.

Historically, a 33.3 per cent tax burden is near the breaking point, which, as evidenced by ancient and modern history, leads to national collapse. The tax burden can be reduced by curtailment of services, by increasing the tax base, or by a combination of the two.

As for curtailment of service, there appears to be little chance that this may be accomplished at present, since this is a time of greater school and social needs. Therefore, in essence, the public needs what they presently have, and they cannot, or will not, settle for less.

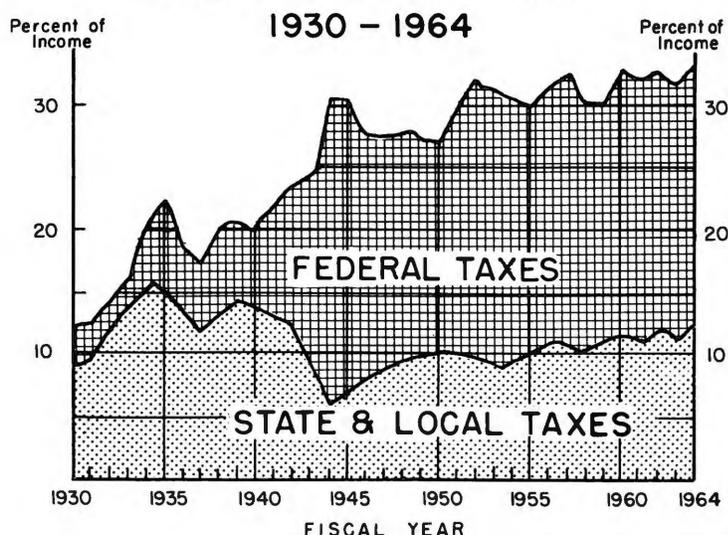
This situation continues in a never-ending cycle — to acquire needed services the government must raise taxes or go into debt: to raise the taxes further increases the burden, and hastens the collapse of the system; but to go into debt, although temporarily agreeable, in the long run is no panacea, since the demands for *more* social services will erase any revenues from additional growth which were "earmarked" to retire the debt. This brings us back to the tax base.

Presently Utah's tax base is inadequate. It must be emphasized that taxable objects, such as factories, industrial plants, and ore piles, are the best insurance for a reduction of the tax burden. Some say that industry and mining activity only bring more people into the area, for whom must be provided the necessary social services — thus increasing the load upon the State government. However, while this may be true, it must also be realized that we are now living in an era of automation; and an automated factory or mining operation, operated by skeleton crews, certainly offers more tax base with a minimum social demand. Automation is costly; and as a result, tax returns on the physical facilities are greater.

The point which all of this leads to is: Utah must promote her industrial and productive potential as well as her recreational and tourist potential. The Utah Geological and Mineralogical Survey, along with other State agencies, is directly concerned with the mineral industry and has initiated programs for its development. Studies and investigations of Utah's mineral resources and potentials have been initiated by the Utah Survey.

The timely expansion of the Utah Geological Survey will certainly be felt as the economy grows and prospers, and it is certain that the Survey, if continued and nurtured, will contribute to a reduction of Utah's tax burden.

THE TAX BURDEN AS A PERCENTAGE OF PERSONAL INCOME IN UTAH



Prepared by UTAH FOUNDATION

PROGRESS ON ASPHALT RIDGE

Bob Kayser reports that sampling of the tar sands of Asphalt Ridge requires an 85-pound jackhammer instead of the eyeball-jarring 60-pounder. The U.S. Bureau of Mines in Laramie is to run standard crude petroleum analysis on the samples. Other analytical work on the samples will be run by the Department of Fuels Engineering of the University of Utah. Emission spectrographic analyses of the ash content will be run by Mr. Kayser.

RELEASE DATE

Southeast quadrant of colored geologic map of Utah (1:250,000) is now expected in the first quarter of 1965. Price will be \$3.50 over-the-counter and \$4.00 postpaid.

SAMPLE LIBRARY

The burgeoning oil well samples of the Utah Geological Survey's Library of Samples for Geologic Research have taken most of the available storage facilities; but industry may be assured that this service will not be curtailed, nor will procurement of new samples be deferred or restricted.

The Sample Library presently houses samples from approximately 1,400 Utah wells, over 9,000 feet of drilling. Samples from 550 wells in neighboring states are also available. For a Catalog of Available Samples, contact Utah Geological Survey, attention of Wm. D. Byrd, Curator, Sample Library, 103 Civil Engineering Bldg., University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah 84112.

The percentage of Utah employment (1963) engaged in processing, refining, and fabricating raw minerals and oil, excluding government ordinance and contract work and missiles industry is estimated at 55 per cent.

The total value production (1963) of Utah's minerals, coal, and oil is \$402,281,000 (16th in Nation).

UTAH LANDS

Max C. Gardner, Director of the Utah State Land Board, reports the following information of interest for the Mineral Industry in Utah.

Great Salt Lake

Interest in possible recovery of minerals from the brines of the Great Salt Lake is running very high. Lithium Corporation of America has requested the Utah State Land Board to render a decision concerning whether magnesium chloride in the lake brines would be made available to other interested parties after March 7, 1969. The Land Board entered into a lease and option agreement with the H-K Group in 1961 under which the H-K Group was given an exclusive right to produce magnesium chloride and its derivatives from the lake brines. Under the terms of the lease and option agreement, this exclusive could be continued for as long as March 7, 1969. The question which Lithium Corporation of America has raised is whether the Land Board would, in any event, extend the exclusive feature in the contract beyond March 7, 1969.

Other companies and people expressing interest in minerals from brines of the Great Salt Lake and minerals in the sediment of the lake bed are Kaiser Aluminum & Chemical Corporation, Stauffer Chemical Company, Frank Gibbons, Dix R. Turnbow, Virgil Peterson & N. G. Morgan, Jr.

The Land Board set a public hearing to consider these matters on December 1, 1964 at 10:00 a.m. in the Governor's Board Room.

Great Salt Lake Title Legislation

The Department of the Interior recently issued an amended report on title legislation pending in the U.S. Congress which would extinguish the claim of the Government to title to a substantial portion of the bed of the Great Salt Lake. The report urged that Congress enact legislation which would fix a

permanent boundary between State and Federal lands. The report came too late in the 88th Congress to permit hearings on the pending legislation; however, the Utah State Land Board has said that it will ask the Congressional Delegation of Utah to introduce title curative legislation in the 89th Congress.

Mineral Leasing Act Revenues

The Western States Land Commissioners Association has gone on record as favoring Federal legislation increasing the states' share of Mineral Leasing Act revenue. Under current law the states in which Federal lands are located receive 37½ per cent of all revenue from public domain derived from leasing activities under the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920. The Association of States will seek legislation increasing the states' share from 37½ to 50 per cent.

State Indemnity Selection of Mineral Rich Lands to be Reviewed by Congress

Congressman Aspinall has requested the Secretary of the Interior to defer action on State of Utah Indemnity Selections involving so-called mineral rich Federal lands. This action was taken to maintain the "status quo" until Congress had an opportunity to consider Interior Department legislation which would make substantial amendments to the Indemnity Selection laws. The Interior Department did recommend legislation in the 88th Congress, H. R. 10699, which would put indemnity selections of states on a comparative value basis rather than the present acre for acre indemnity selection entitlement. The Interior bill died with the termination of the 88th Congress. If the Department of Interior sponsors similar legislation in the 89th Congress, it is expected that the Western States would strongly oppose such legislation.