

OXIDATION NEEDED IN WYOMING'S BENTONITE

WASHINGTON, Aug. 31 — (AP) — Large quantities of western bentonite now rejected for mining purposes may become valuable if permitted to oxidize, the geological survey said yesterday.

Bentonite is used in oil well drilling to prevent the drilling muds from settling and solidifying. It is also used as a foundry sand filler, for pharmaceutical purposes and in the manufacture of detergents.

Studies of Wyoming-type bentonite have revealed that the blue-gray subsurface material, now rejected in mining because of a deficiency in the necessary colloidal properties, becomes similar to high grade material in important respects if permitted to oxidize.

The agency said that the iron in the blue-gray material in some ex-

periments, had reached the same degree of oxidation as in green bentonite after 10 months exposure.

Of national production totaling almost \$5,000,000 a year, about two thirds of the bentonite comes from Wyoming and South Dakota.

Krug to Make Tour of West

WASHINGTON, Aug. 31.—(AP)— Secretary of Interior Krug is going to make a western tour in September and October but an aide said today it will be non-political "the same as in 1946."

Oxidation May Increase Value of Bentonite

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