

## Crook County Rapid Progress

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**D**EVELOPMENTS in Crook county during the year 1948 moved on in steady progress.

Though no "shooting stars" have been observed in industry in this scenic county which is blocked off in an approximate 50-mile square located in the northeast corner of the state, industrial progress was only a natural outcome of the many resources of the area.

In expanding the refining processes of bentonite—one of the valuable mineral products of the area—a new bentonite plant was built at Colony, near the corner point of the state, by the National Lead Co. To facilitate transportation of the refined products of this "clay" a spur line of the North Western railway was built from Belle Fourche, S. D., to the plant. This plant, located in the rich bentonite fields in the northeastern corner of the county, furthers the development of the industry there as does the well-known Black Hills Bentonite, Inc., and the Eastern Wyoming bentonite plants located at Moorcroft where the rich bentonite deposits of the county join those of Weston county.

Oil well bentonite from the Black Hills Bentonite, Inc., of Moorcroft, which started rolling in 1947, is now shipped to the far corners of the world. The Eastern Wyoming Bentonite plant added more machinery and equipment this year to expand production. Crook county, Wyoming, during 1948, like in past years, produced more "high-swelling" bentonite than any other county in the United States—and possibly in the world.

## Crook County Shows Bentonite Refining Growth

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