

## Rail Strike Cuts Bentonite Output

MARGARET SIMPSON  
GREYBULL — Production of Wyoming bentonite for use as a binder in taconite (low grade iron ore) pellets may come to a halt at Wyo-Ben, one of Greybull's bentonite plants.

Chris Paustian, manager, said two shipments from the plant — about 30,000 tons of bentonite — are being held up in Chicago for lake shipment to eastern Canadian iron ore plants by a strike against the Chicago Beltline Railroad.

Unless the strike is settled soon, production at the Greybull plant will be sharply curtailed, he said.

The production of bentonite for taconite mining in Labrador comprises 78 per cent of the business of Wyo-Ben. The firm also supplies bentonite to U. S. Steel's mill in the Atlantic City area near Lander, but this won't be affected by the railroad strike.

If the strike continues long enough, Canadian steel firms may be forced to purchase their taconite binder from Greece, leaving the U. S. product to be stockpiled until after the strike.

Congressman William Henry Harrison was contacted in an effort to speed mediations in the railroad strike to avoid shutdown of a Wyoming industry, but reported he has had no success to date.

Wyo-Ben is the only bentonite firm in the state serving the distant market. The bentonite is shipped 4,000 miles to the taconite ore mines, where it is mixed with the ore to provide a binder and is processed in the form of pellets which resemble steel ball bearings. These are then shipped to steel mills for refinement. Wyo-Ben usually ships 18 to 25 cars of the bentonite at a time for a total of more than 100,000 tons a year. Paustian said.

### Gage Grants Endorsement To Candidate

CHEYENNE, Wyo. (UPI)—Former Wyoming Gov. Jack Gage has endorsed the candidacy of David G. Laird for the Democratic nomination to the U. S. House of Representatives.

In a statement, Gage said, "David Laird offers youth, integrity, and a hope for Wyoming's future. The only way for Wyoming to gain meaningful seniority in Wyoming is to elect a man young enough to achieve it."

Laird, the son of a former University of Wyoming trustee, has stayed away from national issues and concentrated on state problems.

His main theme is "The time

## Taconite Industry Threatened Because Of Rail Strike

Clipped By:



seabix1

Tue, Apr 21, 2020