

GAZETTE'S FORUM

Editor Gazette:

The writer noticed in The Billings Gazette of Tuesday a news item referring to Bentonite (Denver mud) near Broadus, Mont. It may be of interest to readers of this paper to know there are immense and valuable deposits of Bentonite within easy reach of Billings, locations being southwest, south and southeast, and it is reasonable to predict that the production of Bentonite will be an added industry to this vicinity and a source of considerable wealth. Bentonite swells immensely upon wetting and is therefore valuable as an absorbent and is used as an absorbent in the manufacture of dynamite, as a sizing in the production of paper, a retarder for hard gypsum plaster, for adulterating candy and drugs, and when medicated with glycerine becomes the well known medicant antiphlogistine.

As there is an unlimited demand for paper, the reader will easily recognize the most extensive use for Bentonite will be for filling and sizing paper and paper goods.

In my geological examinations of the territory southwest, south and southeast of Billings, the deposits of this mineral are not only apparently very abundant but of excellent commercial quality. Bentonite is found only in seven states of the union.

Yours truly,
ALBERT T. E. SMITH.

Bentonite Spotlighted in Letter to Editor

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