

HUGE BENTONITE DEPOSIT HYSHAM

QUEER MINERAL SUBSTANCE IS
FOUND IN MANY PLACES IN
MONTANA AND WYOMING.

Has Many Important Industrial Uses,
Including the Manufacture of Soap,
Paper, Ink, and Medical Dressing;
Ridge is Mile Wide and Five Miles
Long.

A ridge of bentonite, a mineral substance of which little is as yet known, five miles long and nearly a mile wide in places is located six miles northwest of Hysham. The stick mass is from 10 to 30 feet high and of a cream or yellow color.

Numerous important industrial uses, among which are medical dressing, manufacture of soap, paper, ink, etc., are suggested by the United States bureau of mines in view of the unusual physical and chemical properties possessed by this material.

Montana and Wyoming oil well drillers have often battled for weeks and months with bentonite in an effort to make a hole.

The name bentonite has been applied to a group of clay-like materials characterized by an alkaline oxide and alkaline earth content of 5 to 10 per cent, fine grain size, high absorptive powers, and usually very strong colloidal properties. Bentonite probably represents no mineral of fixed composition, and its physical properties vary considerably. The type material from Wyoming is light yellow or greenish yellow in color, but from other localities it may be cream colored, white, gray, pink, dark brown or even black. The appearance may be dull or powdery, but a freshly cut surface usually has a waxy luster. Bentonite when wet will absorb more than three times its weight or seven times its volume of water. The wetter material is exceedingly smooth and soft and feels like soft soap. Some varieties, when mixed with water, expand to six or eight times their original volume. Unlike most clays, bentonite is easily fusible at a comparatively low temperature.

Hysham Bentonite Deposit Makes Stir

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