

# KAOLIN MINE IS LOCATED NEAR HAYESVILLE, N. C.

## Northern Capital Is Being Used In Large Development

More than Forty Men Employed—3 Shifts To Be Put On Soon, It is Hoped

E. E. FISHER HEADS CONCERN

Titanic Ore Co. Incorporates Under Name of N. C. Clay Co. with \$250,000 Capital

The North Carolina Clay Company, Inc. is the new name perhaps of the largest clay mining company in North Carolina, which has recently changed its name from the Titanic Ore Company and increased its capitalization to a quarter of a million dollars. This Clay County concern is large in capitalization, large in its property holdings and the size of its clay deposits and in the period and extent of its mechanical equipment to mine the clay found in its properties.

By the kaolin being mined by this company shows up to be among

the best ever found in this country. Of unusual whiteness, high in plasticity, low in shrinkage and capable of standing a high degree of heat, the demand for kaolin from this deposit has increased to such an extent that the company has found it necessary to greatly enlarge its facilities and working force in order to begin to supply the demand. This explains the reason for advancing the capitalization from \$75,000 to \$250,000.00. The operation now covers approximately four acres and the commissary and townments which have been erected for the workers, cover another three acres.

Has Own Method

The North Carolina Clay Company's method of operation differs from most other Clay mines in this state in that machinery is used throughout the process and just as little man power is utilized as possible. The clay is taken from the mine, held and carried by conveyor through the washers, two sets of bins through the compressors, placed in the dryers by hand and then loaded on the cars for shipment. The process is practically all done by a hydraulic and conveyor belt system. The process is completely integrated and arranged in proper sequence.

Sequence of Operations

The kaolin is carried from the mine hole into a sluicing box by conveyor belt, then is pumped into large bins where, by special process closely guarded by the company, the coarser particles of sand, mica, and other foreign substances are removed. Then the clay goes into a second set of bins where the finer particles of any foreign substances are removed. From the second set of bins and carried into the filter presses where it is subjected to a pressure of more than 150 pounds, the water pressed out and it is moulded into oval discs about two feet in diameter



General view of the development of the North Carolina Clay Company, Inc., of near Hayesville, in Clay County, N. C., showing the dryer sheds, engine room, part of conveyor system, refining vat, commissary and quarters of some of the workers. This quarter million dollar concern is mining and shipping high grade kaolin to potteries in Ohio and New Jersey.

and about two inches thick. These discs are then placed into steam dryers for twenty-four hours, after which it is ready for shipment. At present the finished product is being carried two miles to the railroad by a fleet of caterpillar tractors and trailers and Ford trucks.

Extent of Operations and Properties

The Company owns two bodies of clay in fee simple. The first deposit is about a quarter of a mile in length 140 feet wide and 150 feet deep. The second deposit is a half mile long, 250 feet wide and approximately 100 feet deep. Only one opening has thus far been made. There is a tremendous tonnage here and it will take years to exhaust it. The deposits have been examined and estimated by clay experts from several different sections of the country and they are all of the opinion, after making numerous drilling tests, that there are from eight to ten million tons in these two deposits, literally millions of dollars

contained Mr. Fisher. From forty to sixty men are now employed on a single ten hour shift, but when the new system is put into effect, about 125 men will be employed on three shifts of forty or fifty men each. This will give twenty-four hour operation.

contracted and a sort of hotel for the workers, opened up by the company. Lumber is being placed on the ground for this latter purpose. A company commissary is operated on the grounds for the convenience of the help. The officials of the company have built houses on



Dryer shed and shipping room of the company. The dryers are in the rear end. Some of the finished kaolin is shown in the near end of the shed, sacked and ready for shipment.

Is Used for Chinaware

Most of the kaolin is going to Ohio and New Jersey, according to the manager, where it is used in making the highest grade china and tableware, tiling, enamels, etc. Products made from this kaolin are said to equal those made from the much-talked-of foreign clays. This clay requires the addition of a very small portion of other clays to be thoroughly workable.

The clay is remarkably free from foreign substances, and by special process worked out by the company these small portions are entirely removed from the clay. This refuse, consisting largely of pure silica sand has been tested for road purposes and found to be excellent for this purpose. It is being used locally.

Tenements for Help

Tenement houses have been constructed for much of the help. Although most of the labor is drawn from the immediate section, officials considered it more desirable to have its labor supply on the ground, and this led to the construction of quarters both for white and colored laborers. They bunk and do their cooking in these quarters. As soon as possible, more quarters will be

the grounds and make their homes there.

The property is located on the Hayesville-Murphy road, about two miles out of Hayesville, which is the postoffice. However, this new development is taking on the appearance of a small town and no doubt before long a postoffice will be established there.

The company is interested in its help, as is evidenced by the Fourth of July celebration recently given.



Quarters erected by the company for the use of its workers. Two of the large trailers, in which the kaolin is hauled to the railroad, are shown in the foreground.

Public speaking, races, and other entertainment featured in the celebration.

Northern Capital Making Development

This huge development is being done by northern capital. President E. E. Fisher, of the company, is a native of New England, although he came south from Toledo, Ohio. His son, Arthur, is associated with him in the management of the business and a few intimate friends make up the company, which is a closed corporation.

Mr. Fisher came south about two years ago and investigated this property and then organized the Titanic Ore Company, and originally planned to mine titanium and other

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ore, along with kaolin. But the kaolin has proved such a tremendous deposit and the demand has increased so rapidly that the mining of anything but kaolin for the present, at least, has been given up.

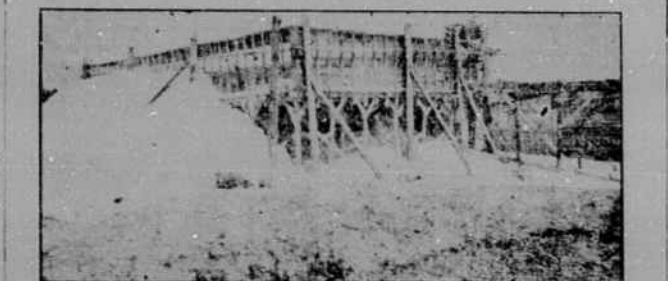
For more than a year tests and experiments with the clay were made and six months ago the company got such favorable reports from potters and ceramic engineers over the country that it began to install machinery. One hundred and sixty horse power boilers now drive the finishing machinery, engine of 75-horse power capacity. Smaller engines are used for driving the pumps and conveyor system. A steam crane is being placed in the mine to pick up the clay and place it on the conveyors. Additional presses and drying machinery is being added which will necessitate the building of more sheds, more washing vats, and greatly increase the tonnage output. It is expected that it can be increased to several cars a day when the new equipment is in place.

Other Possibilities in This Section.

This huge development in southwestern North Carolina is only one out of many hundreds of possibilities in this section. The waterpower on the rivers in this extreme corner of the State are sufficient to generate electrical energy to turn the wheels



Interior view of the mine, showing the conveyor and some of the miners. Note the small amount of overburden on the clay.



One of the first finishing vats used by the company in removing foreign substances from the kaolin. The coarser particles of mica and silica are removed from this vat. This refuse, shown on the outside, is very desirable for road building.

worth of clay. The company holds 180 acres of land and it is practically all underlain with this kaolin. At many places the overburden is practically nothing and at no place is it heavy. There is such great demand for the clay that the company is planning to put on three shifts just as soon as men and quarters can be secured. "The company has orders booked three years ahead," said President Fisher a few days ago, "and any one of three or four companies would sign contracts for the entire output."



Interior view of one of the two large finishing vats used in the final finishing of the kaolin in the special process of the company. In these vats the finer portions of foreign substances, such as mica and silica, are removed.

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