# NORTHWEST LEAD MINING DISTRICT

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The lead situation in the northwest district appears to present a more optimistic picture at this time than it did two or three years ago, declared Mr. Haffner. There is a market for the lead and a fair price for it. The only difficulties in view are labor and taxes, said Mr. Haffner. As far as labor is concerned, besides wage negotiations, a problem already upon them is that of the loss of labor to the armed forces, to dam construction and other so-called defense jobs. At present mine operations must compete with the higher wage scales offered by many of the dam contractors. Production for the three northwest states (Idaho, Washington and Montana) was 114,000 tons in 1950 compared to 85,000 tons in 1949. The monthly production thus far in 1951 is a little less than in the corresponding period of 1950 but still ahead of the 1949 figure.

None of the mines "died" during the year and most of the mines managed to develop as much new ore as the amount that was mined during the year. However in this connection Mr. Haffner pointed out that much of the mineral in the mines which was waste at a 10 or 11¢ lead became ore with lead at 17¢.