

**UNCLASSIFIED**

NYO-5114

PROGRESS REPORT

Work completed at Yale on AAA Ore during the period,  
April 2 to May 11, 1945

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For The Atomic Energy Commission

*A. F. Canale*

Chief, Declassification Branch TC

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Numbering System Used By Yale For Samples

The system is based on the plan of following various elements through the entire process - from digestion to final pure product.

|   |          |        |
|---|----------|--------|
|   | Gangue   | 2##-DG |
| Digestion:                                      | Filtrate | 2##-DF |
|   | Cake     | 2##-LC |
| Lead:   | Filtrate | 2##-LF |
|   | Cake     | 2##-BC |
| Barium:   | Filtrate | 2##-BF |
|   | Cake     | 2##-MC |
| Molybdenum:                                     | Filtrate | 2##-MF |
| Final solution after boildown and clarification |          | 2##-FS |

Extraction

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Ether Extract from extractor column                               | 2##-##-EE   |
| Raffinate from extractor column                                   | 2##-##-R  |
| Ether extract after washing (in shaker)                           | 2##-##-EE-W#  |
| Ether extract after washing (in column)                           | 2##-##-EE-WC#                                       |
| Water solution resulting from washing ether extract (in shaker)   | 2##-##-WW#  |
| Water solution resulting from washing ether extract (in column)   | 2##-##-WWC#   |
| Water extract from stripper                                       | 2##-##-##-WE  |
| Water extract from stripper after washing                         | 2##-##-##-WE-W#(Shaker)<br>2##-##-##-WE-WC#(Column) |
| Ether solution resulting from washing water extract from stripper | 2##-##-##-EWS#(Shaker)<br>2##-##-##-EWSC#(Column)   |
| Ether from stripper (recovered solvent)                           | 2##-##-##-RS  |

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For example:

Sample 215-25-16-WE-W5 refers to the water extract from

1. washing experiment No. 5 on the water extract from
2. stripper run No. 16 on ether extract from
3. extractor run No. 25 on the final solution from
4. digestion No. 15

## I. Introduction

Because of the possibility that a new plant might be built at MCW for processing a new type of X ore, it was deemed advisable to collect as much data as possible at Yale University where work had been in progress on the process in question for several months. Hence, Earl Miller, Howard Wibbels, and Harold Yeager were sent to Yale University from MCW to both acquaint themselves with the process and also to aid the personnel at Yale University. Upon completion of the contract it is expected that a pilot plant will be built at MCW to carry on the research work on a larger scale than is possible at Yale University.

## II. Summary of Work Done

### A. Digestion of Ore

The digestion of AAA ore is accomplished by the reaction of the ore with nitric acid at boiling temperatures. This can probably be best accomplished by adding nitric acid to a hot water slurry of the ore. The chief problems in the digestion of the ore are:

1. To obtain a high extraction of X from the ore.
2. To obtain a high extraction of the My from the ore.
3. To digest the material in such a manner that the gangue filtration may be easily accomplished.

X extractions of greater than 99% may be obtained using acid in quantities of 1.3X or greater (1X  $\text{HNO}_3$  assumes 7 moles of  $\text{HNO}_3$   $\approx$  1 mole  $\text{X}_3\text{O}_8$ ). X extractions using 2X  $\text{HNO}_3$  may be as high as 99.9% if the solution is filtered hot and the gangue is thoroughly washed. Low acid digestions such as 1.3X  $\text{HNO}_3$  may result in larger fluctuations in X extractions if the ore is likely to vary in X complexes such as X phosphates.

The My extractions are dependent on both the nature of the ore and the methods of digestion and filtration. Large mesh size ore and ore which contains relatively high quantities of sulfate gives poor My extractions. Factors which adversely affect the My extraction are low acid digestion, long digestion periods, and cold filtration.

The filtration of the digestion slurry is very dependent upon temperature of filtration and the acid strength of the digestions. Hot filtrations are much faster and strong acid digestions filter more easily than low acid digestions.

### B. Precipitation of Lead

The filtrate from the digestion contains 40-99 percent of the total My in the original ore in addition to the X and other elements present. Because of the radiation hazard, it is advisable

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to remove the My from the solution at the earliest possible phase. Experiments at Yale indicated that the My could be quantitatively co-precipitated with lead sulfate. Thus, because of the high value of the My and the radiation hazard, the filtrate from the digestion is treated with sulfuric acid to precipitate the lead, a small amount of barium, and My as sulfates. Because of the high acidity at this point and the relatively high solubility of lead sulfate in acid solutions, six times the amount of sulfuric acid, theoretically required to precipitate the lead, is used. The precipitate generally is crystalline, dense, and very easy to filter.

Two low acid digestions were made in which part of the filtrate from the digestion was extracted directly. The purpose of this was to eliminate the precipitation of excess  $H_2SO_4$  using barium, precipitating the lead and My in the raffinate<sup>2</sup> with  $H_2SO_4$ . These experiments proved unsatisfactory because lead sulfate<sup>4</sup> of high activity deposited out on the walls of the extractor during the extraction.

C. Precipitation of Excess  $H_2SO_4$

The excess sulfuric acid must be removed after the lead precipitation for two reasons:

1. The excess sulfate is harmful to the stainless steel equipment.
2. The excess sulfate will decrease the efficiency of the ether extraction.

In order to precipitate the sulfate as  $BaSO_4$ ,  $BaCO_3$  was added in 10-15% excess of stoichiometric quantities to the hot solution containing excess sulfate.

The conditions of precipitating the  $BaSO_4$  have a large influence on its filtration qualities. In the digestions at Yale the filtration rates for filtering  $BaSO_4$  ranged from 6 to 42 gallons per square foot per hour. It is believed that with slow addition of  $BaCO_3$  to a boiling solution containing sulfate, the optimum conditions of obtaining an easily filterable slurry are attained.

D. Precipitation of Molybdenum as Sulfide

In the original flow sheet received from the Manhattan District, the molybdenum was to be removed as molybdenum sulfide by adding sodium sulfide to the  $BaSO_4$  filtrate. However, the work on precipitation of molybdenum as the sulfide has been discontinued in favor of removal of the molybdenum by charcoal. The chief disadvantages of the  $MoS_3$  precipitation are as follows:

1. The  $MoS_3$  precipitation does not precipitate sufficient quantities to insure low Mo goods.

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2. The  $\text{MoS}_3$  precipitation also brings down a small amount of X as the sulfide.
3. Emulsion trouble was encountered at Yale after the Mo was removed as the sulfide; identical solutions from which Mo had not been removed did not emulsify.
4. Because the solution had to be adjusted to a pH of 2 (approx.) before the  $\text{MoS}_3$  precipitation, the quantity of  $\text{NaNO}_3$  in solution was too high to allow the addition of  $\text{NaNO}_3$  in the ore digestion to improve the My extraction.

E. Addition of Salting Agents

In most of the work at Yale,  $\text{NaNO}_3$  was used as a salting agent for the X extraction in ether. However, similar work at 'CW has indicated that  $\text{Ca}(\text{NO}_3)_2$  is better than  $\text{NaNO}_3$ . The chief advantage of using  $\text{NaNO}_3$  is that the  $\text{NaNO}_3$  may be added to the original digestion to aid the My extraction; if  $\text{Ca}(\text{NO}_3)_2$  were added,  $\text{CaSO}_4$  would precipitate with the  $\text{PbSO}_4$  in the next step in the process.

If it is desirable to use  $\text{Ca}(\text{NO}_3)_2$ , and recover the  $\text{Ca}(\text{NO}_3)_2$  for further use, it is necessary to add the  $\text{Ca}(\text{NO}_3)_2$  after the excess  $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$  removal.

If the use of  $\text{Ca}(\text{NO}_3)_2$  is desirable and need not be recovered, the  $\text{Ca}(\text{NO}_3)_2$  could be made in the process after the  $\text{PbSO}_4$  removal by adding  $\text{CaO}$  to the filtrate from a strong acid digestion which would be favorable for a good My extraction.

F. Ether Extraction of X Nitrate

Two continuous extractors were available at Yale, one a sieve plate, the other a packed column. The extraction efficiencies in both towers were better than 99%. The packed column proved superior to the sieve plate in handling feed solutions which tended to emulsify; solutions which emulsified in the sieve plate column could be run in the packed column by controlling the flow rate. No runs were made to exactly compare the efficiencies of the two towers, but it is felt that the difference is small and a minor factor as compared with emulsion difficulties.

Emulsions could be formed in both columns. Generally they were not extremely difficult to handle. The formation of emulsions seemed to be independent of the character of the preceding precipitations with two exceptions: liquor from the  $\text{MoS}_3$  and directly from the lead precipitations formed extremely difficult emulsions which were impossible to break. Some of the emulsions showed a tendency to break when a fine stream of water was sprayed in at the top of the tower. In other cases buildups of the feed were

found to be very effective in preventing emulsions. The ether used in the extractions was ordinarily molar in nitric acid. This prevented the formation of precipitates of phosphates, etc. in the column and the consequent efficiency loss.

#### G. Water Washing of Ether Extracts

A continuous spray washer similar to the washing column at MCW was constructed by H. L. Wibbels. An ordinary water wash of ether extracts containing Mo was not sufficient to remove the Mo. Samples of washed extract which were analyzed at MCW for vitamin indicated that a washing ratio of 10:1 ether extract to distilled water would reduce the vitamin to 0.5 - 1.0 ppm. While these values are greater than the limit of 0.5 ppm., it is believed that a lower washing ratio will wash the vitamin to less than 0.5 ppm. 3 kg of  $XO_2(NO_3)_2$  was prepared from "char-coaled" and washed ether extract for a shotgun analysis, results of which are in the latter part of this report.

#### H. Water Stripping of Washed Ether Extract

A small jet stripping column was made and installed by H. L. Wibbels to remove the  $XO_2(NO_3)_2$  from the ether extract. This apparatus proved very satisfactory in all respects, i.e., excellent efficiency and rates.

#### I. De-etherization of Extraction Liquors

Both raffinate and good liquor were de-etherized by heating until the temperature was above that of boiling water. No brown fumes were given off in either case until the temperature exceeded 90° C. Upon further boiling, copious brown fumes were evolved. A large batch de-etherizer as used in Building 52 (MCW) would be impractical for this process because of the vigorous reaction; however, a small continuous de-etherizer such as used in the MCW pilot plant may be satisfactory.

#### J. Precipitation of Raffinate

Two de-etherized raffinate solutions were precipitated by adding a NaOH solution to the boiling raffinate solutions. In both cases complete precipitation of X was obtained at a pH slightly greater than seven. The hot filtration of the raffinate was fair (good clarity but slow rates). From the data obtained at Yale, the indications are that a sludge pond (as indicated in the original flow sheet) will not be necessary for the raffinate and that the filtration may be accomplished to recover the salting agent.

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## K. Special Molybdenum Experiments

Preliminary experiments have indicated that it is possible to reduce the molybdenum content of the feed liquor by neutralizing to an excess acid of about 0.05 N. This causes the formation of a precipitate which contains phosphate, X, and molybdenum. This does not seem very promising in view of the loss of X in the precipitate formed. With this method, the phosphate content of the ore would be a great factor in the overall efficiency of the process, higher phosphate contents resulting in increasing losses of X.

It was found by H. L. Wibbels and E. Miller that it is possible to remove molybdenum from the ether extract quantitatively by mixing with finely divided activated charcoal. The adsorption of the molybdenum is practically instantaneous and there are indications that it will be possible to rejuvenate the charcoal at least five times. Likewise, it has been found possible to remove the X by flushing the charcoal with ether.

## L. Miscellaneous Experiments

### 1. Emulsions

#### a. Boildown of Feed Solutions

Three extractor feed solutions which gave bad emulsions in a small laboratory bubbler extractor were concentrated to approximately one-third their volumes (X = 120 - 130°C), diluted to original volumes, and filtered. On testing these boiled-down solutions in the bubbler, no emulsions could be formed. A boiled-down solution was similarly prepared for the continuous extractor; however, this solution was lost and this work was dropped at Yale to be continued at MCW if emulsion trouble still persisted.

#### b. Charcoal Experiments to Prevent Emulsion

Two experiments in which the feed solutions were treated with activated charcoal and filtered were unsuccessful in preventing emulsions.

### 2. Precipitation of Sulfate as $\text{CaSO}_4$ and $\text{BaSO}_4$

It was thought that the sulfate might be precipitated as  $\text{CaSO}_4$  in a solution which contained  $\text{Ca}(\text{NO}_3)_2$  as a salting agent. This experiment was tried and 40% of the sulfate was removed. Since the filtration of  $\text{CaSO}_4$  is easier than  $\text{BaSO}_4$ , a double precipitation of  $\text{CaSO}_4$  and  $\text{BaSO}_4$  was tried. The filtration

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of both  $\text{CaSO}_4$  and  $\text{BaSO}_4$  looked easier on a small scale and will be tried on a larger scale in the MCW pilot plant.

### 3. My Experiments

#### a. Roasting of Ore

Under the same conditions of digestion different ores would give a wide variation (40 - 99%) of My recoveries.

It was suggested that a roast of the ore might have a good effect on the My distribution.

An oxidizing roast and a roast with carbon was made on portions of the same ore. The roast was made at the relatively low temperature of  $265^\circ \text{C}$  for 18 hours. Subsequent digestions of the roasted ores and a portion of the unroasted ore showed only experimental error variations in My recoveries.

### III. Experimental Details

#### A. Raw Material

The raw material used in Digestions 216-220 (inclusive) was not uniformly mixed and no reliable sample was taken to obtain a complete analysis of the ore.

The X analysis of the ore used is recorded in the data for each digestion.

The analysis of a typical ore gives the following constituents :

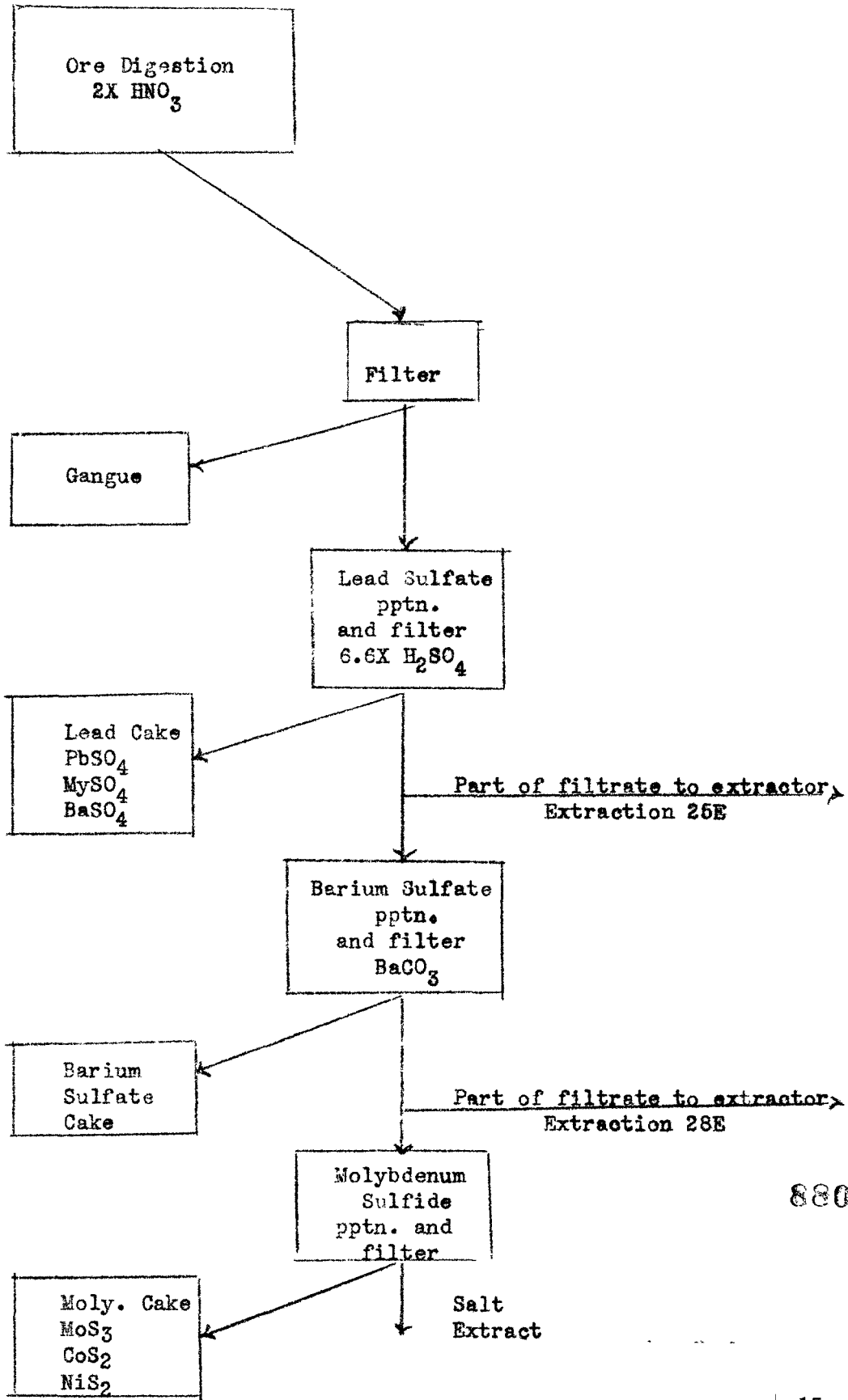
|                        |     |                                   |
|------------------------|-----|-----------------------------------|
| $\text{X}_2\text{O}_8$ | --- | 62-72 %                           |
| My                     | --- | (1.7 to 2.0) $\times 10^{-7}$ g/g |
| $\text{SiO}_2$         | --- | 16-19 %                           |
| $\text{SO}_4$          | --- | 0.5 - 2.5 %                       |
| $\text{P}_2\text{O}_5$ | --- | 0.05 - 0.09 %                     |
| $\text{MnO}_3$         | --- | 0.50 %                            |
| PbO                    | --- | 6.0 %                             |

The screen analysis of the ore wet ground in a ball mill is as follows:

|                  |       |
|------------------|-------|
| On 100 Mesh      | 1.8%  |
| On 150 Mesh      | 6.0%  |
| On 230 Mesh      | 19.3% |
| On 325 Mesh      | 10.9% |
| Through 325 Mesh | 62.0% |

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FLOW SHEET OF  
DIGESTION 216



880 015

XS<sub>3</sub>?

B. Digestion 216

Purpose: To familiarize the Mallinckrodt men with the 45-15 process.

1. Digestion of Ore (2X HNO<sub>3</sub>)

126 pounds of wet ore slurry (100 pounds dry weight - 67.5% X<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> dry basic), through 100 mesh, was added to 8.45 gallons of 42° Be HNO<sub>3</sub>, diluted with an equal amount of water and heated to 42° C. The ore was added over a period of 23 minutes. The reaction started immediately with the evolution of brown fumes. All visible reaction ceased five minutes after the ore addition was completed. The temperature of the slurry after the addition was 84° C, volume nineteen gallons. The slurry was digested an additional 3.5 hours. At the end of the digestion, the volume of the slurry was brought up to 30.2 gallons by the addition of hot water (58° C).

The hot slurry was filtered through a plate and frame press at a low rate and with some difficulty. (See Engineering B Progress Report). The volume of the filtrate was 31.2 gallons, wash 14 gallons. The dry gangue weighed 15.4 pounds.

The following analyses were obtained:

| Sample             | Combined filtrate<br>and wash | Dry gangue    |
|--------------------|-------------------------------|---------------|
| 216-DF             | 216-DG                        |               |
| * XNO <sub>3</sub> | 0.1883 gms/ml                 | 0.1255 gms/gm |
| HNO <sub>3</sub>   | 0.13 N                        | --            |

X Extraction = 98.4%

\*  $XNO_3 = X_{O_2} (NO_3)_2$

2. Precipitation of Lead

The combined filtrate and wash from the digestion which had a total volume of 49 gallons was treated with 0.95 gallons of 93% sulfuric acid after control testing. This was 6.6 times the stoichiometric amount of sulfuric acid required. The acid was added to the liquor at room temperature with vigorous stirring.

The slurry was easily filtered through a stainless steel plate and frame press at a rapid rate. The dry weight of the load cake obtained was 5.7 pounds. The volume of the filtrate was 51.2 gallons, wash 5.2 gallons. (See Engineering B for details.)

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XNO<sub>3</sub> in cake (216LC) = 0.000494 gms/gm

X Recovery = 99.97%

Ten gallons of the filtrate was set aside to test the feasibility of extracting directly without precipitating the excess sulfate present. (See extraction run 25E.)

3. Precipitation of Excess H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>

The 46 gallons of filtrate remaining was heated to 82° C. 21.3 pounds of technical grade barium carbonate was added to the hot solution with stirring over a 30 minute period. The slurry was digested for two hours at 82-95° C. The hot slurry filtered fairly well through a plate and frame press. The total volume of the filtrate and wash was 48.3 gallons. The dry barium sulfate cake weighed 17.1 pounds. (See Engineering B for details.) The analyses are tabulated here.

|                   | <u>Filtrate Analysis</u> | <u>Barium Cake Analysis</u> |
|-------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Sample            | 216 BF                   | 216 BC                      |
| *XNO <sub>3</sub> | 0.1385 gms/ml            |                             |
| MoC <sub>3</sub>  | 0.00018 gms/l            |                             |

24.6 gallons of the combined filtrate and wash were set aside to run directly in the extractor without the sulfide precipitation and determine whether molybdenum could be removed in the extraction, washing, or stripping steps. (See extraction run 28E.)

\* XNO<sub>3</sub> used in remainder of report is XO<sub>2</sub>(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>.

4. Precipitation of Molybdenum as Sulfide

2.51 pounds of soda ash were added to the 23.7 gallons of filtrate left from the barium sulfate precipitation to bring the pH up from 0.68 to 2.48. 0.396 pounds of 60% sodium sulfide were dissolved in 0.264 gallons of water and the resulting solution added dropwise over a five-minute period to the 23.7 gallons of liquor. A precipitate appeared immediately. The final pH was 2.58.

The slurry was readily filtered through a plate and frame press. The dry cake weighed 0.154 pounds. (See Engineering B for details.) Analysis was as follows:

|                  | <u>Filtrate</u> | <u>Sulfide Cake</u> |
|------------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| Sample           | 216 MF          | 216 MG              |
| XNO <sub>3</sub> |                 | 0.5705 gms/gm       |

880 017

5. Extraction of Liquors

a. Extraction 25E (Filtrate from Lead Sulfate Pptn.)

The ten gallons of filtrate from the lead sulfate precipitation was boiled down to about 3 gallons, specific gravity 1.639. The solution was saturated with sodium nitrate, concentration about 1.5 pounds per gallon. The ether was 1N in nitric acid but no analysis was made on the feed solution (calculated 0.93 pounds H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> per gallon). This solution emulsified very badly and could not be run in either the sieve plate or the packed column.

b. Extraction 28E (Filtrate from Barium Sulfate Pptn.)

The 24.6 gallons of filtrate from the barium sulfate precipitation was boiled down to a specific gravity of 1.571 and saturated with sodium nitrate (Ca 2.0 pounds per gallon). The ether used was made 1N with 42° Be nitric acid. The analysis of the feed is tabulated here:

|                  |              |
|------------------|--------------|
| XNO <sub>3</sub> | 0.444 g/ml   |
| HNO <sub>3</sub> | 0.302 N      |
| MoO <sub>3</sub> | 0.00049 g/ml |

An emulsion formed at the top of the sieve plate tower and gradually worked down the tower. This run was unsuccessful and no samples could be obtained. The Yale people felt that the emulsion was due to the relatively low molybdic oxide content - about 1/3 the usual value for 2X digestions.

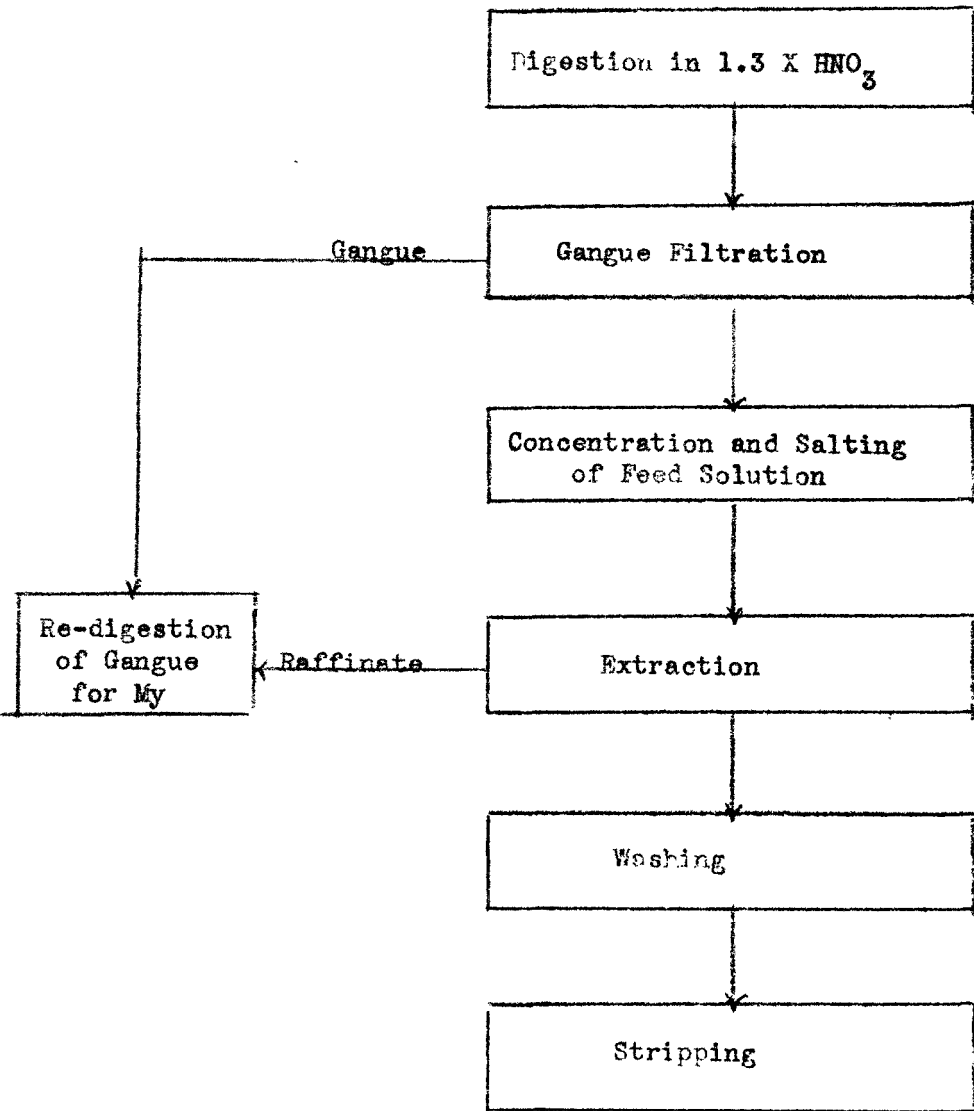
c. Emulsion Test on the Filtrate from the Molybdenum Sulfide Pptn.

After the sodium sulfide treatment to precipitate the molybdenum, the filtrate was boiled down. A red precipitate formed during the boildown which was presumed to be sulfur. The precipitate was filtered off and the solution saturated with sodium nitrate.

The Yale laboratory is equipped with a small bubbler setup which represents one of the plates in the sieve plate column. This small bubbler is very effective in ascertaining on a small scale whether or not a given feed will emulsify in the sieve plate column. If an emulsion forms in the bubbler, it will likewise form in the column. The feed solution from the molybdenum sulfide precipitation emulsified so badly that a large run was not attempted. This had been characteristic of all feeds from molybdenum sulfide precipitations tried at Yale.

C. Digestion 217

Because trouble was being encountered in washing the molybdenum complex out of the ether solutions, it was decided to try a low acid digestion to see what effect this type of digestion would have on the Mo problem. Also, since the My recovery from a low acid digestion would be poor, it was decided to try to run the solution through the extraction column without a removal of the  $\text{MySO}_4$ . The flow sheet for the process as visualized by this digestion is as follows:



880 019

1. Digestion of Ore

The ore slurry containing 22 pounds of AAA ore (68.5%  $X_3O_8$ , dry basis) was added to a hot solution containing 1.82 gallons of 42° Be  $HNO_3$  and 1.71 gallons of water. This constituted a 1.8X  $HNO_3$ . (Note: A 1.3X  $HNO_3$  digestion was intended, but a miscalculation of the acid was not realized until the liquor was extracted.)

The slurry was digested for five hours at 85-100° C and filtered hot and washed with 1.58 gallons of hot water in a table-top Buchner funnel.

3.53 pounds of dry gangue was obtained.

|            | <u>Filtrate</u> | <u>Gangue</u>             |
|------------|-----------------|---------------------------|
| Sample No. | 217-DP          | 217-DG                    |
| $XNO_3$    | 0.3627 g/ml     | 0.0605 g/g                |
| $HNO_3$    | 0.67 N          |                           |
| My         |                 | $62.5 \times 10^{-8}$ g/g |

X extraction = 99.3%

My extraction = 48%

The filtrate from the gangue concentrated to a specific gravity of about 1.6 and the solution was saturated with  $NaNO_3$ .

2. Extraction 26E

The feed solution, 217-FS, was run in the sieve-plate tower, and with the exception of a white precipitate forming in the water layer, no trouble was encountered in the run. The white precipitate, however, was tested qualitatively and found to be  $PbSO_4$  containing  $MySO_4$ .

Extraction Data:

|                            |            |
|----------------------------|------------|
| Feed Rate                  | 70 cc/min  |
| Solvent Rate               | 140 cc/min |
| Washing Ratio              | 1/10.2     |
| Stripping Ratio            | 1/1.4      |
| Acid in ether              | 1 N        |
| Efficiency of Extraction = | 99.93%     |

880 026

|                   | <u>Feed</u>            | <u>Extract</u> | <u>Raffinate</u>                    |
|-------------------|------------------------|----------------|-------------------------------------|
| Sample No.        | 217-26-FS              | 217-26-EE      | 217-26-R                            |
| XNO <sub>3</sub>  | 429 g/l                | 234 g/l        | 0.342 g/l )<br>0.05 g/l ) 2 samples |
| Sp.G              | 1.652                  | 1.005          | 1.315                               |
| NaNO <sub>3</sub> | 290 g/l                |                |                                     |
| HNO <sub>3</sub>  | 0.78 N                 | 0.96 N         | 0.87 N                              |
| MoO <sub>3</sub>  | 1.09 g/l               | 0.16 g/l       | 0.69 g/l                            |
| My                | 3.3 x 10 <sup>-8</sup> |                | 0.4 x 10 <sup>-8</sup>              |

|                  | <u>Wash Water</u> | <u>Good Liquor</u> | <u>Stripped Ether</u>   |
|------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
|                  | 217-26-WW         | 217-26-GL          | 217-26-SE               |
| XNO <sub>3</sub> | 276.6 g/l         | 192.7 g/l          | 0.0114 g/l              |
| Sp.G.            | 1.268             | 1.174              | 0.715                   |
| HNO <sub>3</sub> | 1.65N             | 0.75N              | 0.0002N                 |
| MoO <sub>3</sub> | 0.071 g/l         | 0.105 g/l          | N.D. (None detected)    |
| My               |                   | N.D.               | 0.01 x 10 <sup>-8</sup> |

217-26-EE (Ether Extract) (Spectrographic report by N.B.S.)

|    |          |    |             |
|----|----------|----|-------------|
| Ag | <0.1 ppm | K  | 10-25 ppm   |
| Al | <10 ppm  | Li | 0.2-0.5 ppm |
| As | 5-10 ppm | Mg | 9           |
| B  | 2.4 ppm  | Mo | 100-500     |
| Ca | <5       | Na | 100-500     |
| Cu | 5-10     | Ni | <2          |
| Fe | <10      | P  | 50-100      |
|    |          | Fb | 20-50       |
|    |          | Rb | 20-50       |
|    |          | Si | 31*         |
|    |          | V  | <10         |

\*Reported 67 but corrected for 36 ppm picked up in porcelain ball mill.

D. Digestion 218

Because Digestion 217 was not a 1.3X HNO<sub>3</sub> digestion as was intended, it was decided to make an actual 1.3X HNO<sub>3</sub> digestion to be carried through in a manner similar to Digestion 217.

880 001



1. Digestion of Ore

22 pounds of AAA ore (dry basis - 69%  $K_2O_8$ ) was slurried with 0.53 gallons of water. A nitric acid solution containing 1.39 gallons of 42° Be acid and 0.66 gallons of water was added to the hot slurry of ore. The time of addition was 22 minutes. The slurry was digested at 90-100° C for 5 hours, filtered hot, and the gangue washed with hot water.

The weight of the gangue obtained was 3.96 pounds (dry basis).

Analyses:

|                  | <u>Filtrate</u> | <u>Gangue</u>             |
|------------------|-----------------|---------------------------|
|                  | 218 DF          | 218 DG                    |
| XNO              | 0.4507 g/ml     | 0.0323 g/g                |
| HNO <sub>3</sub> | <0.006N         |                           |
| MoO <sub>3</sub> | 0.0052          |                           |
| My               |                 | 55 x 10 <sup>-8</sup> g/g |

X Yield = 99.4%  
My Yield = 49%

The combined filtrate and wash was concentrated to 12.3 liters and saturated with NaNO<sub>3</sub> to be run in the column.

2. Extraction (27E)

The extraction was made in the sieve plate column. A slight emulsion formed at the beginning of the run; however, later in the run the emulsion gave no trouble. A white precipitate formed on the walls and on the plates. This precipitate was similar to the one found in 26E. (PbSO<sub>4</sub> and MySO<sub>4</sub>).

Extraction Data:

|                          |                    |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| Feed Rate                | 70 cc/min          |
| Solvent Rate             | 140 cc/min         |
| Washing Ratio            | 1/10 (water:ether) |
| Acid in Ether            | 1N                 |
| Efficiency of Extraction | 99.96%             |

Analyses:

|                  | <u>Feed</u> | <u>Extract</u> | <u>Raffinate</u> |
|------------------|-------------|----------------|------------------|
|                  | 218-FS      | 218-27-EE      | 218-27F-R        |
| XNO <sub>3</sub> | 489.6 g/l   | 261.2 g/l      | 0.247 g/l        |
| Sp.G.            | 1.615       | 1.008          | 1.270            |
| HNO <sub>3</sub> | 0.0112N     | 0.37N          | 1.08N            |
| MoO <sub>3</sub> | 0.45 g/l    | 0.00335 g/l    | 0.61 g/l         |

880 022

## Spectrographic Analysis of MCF (ppm)

|         | <u>Wash Water</u> | <u>Washed Extract</u> |
|---------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Vitamin | >10 (Est. 30)     | 0.74                  |
| Cd      | >WE               | <WW                   |
| Fe      | low               | low                   |
| Pb      | >little           | little                |
| Mn      | very low          | very low              |
| Mo      | about 60          | <10                   |
| Ag      | <0.2              | >4                    |
| Na      | some              | none                  |
| Ni, Cr  | <10               | <10                   |
| Mg      | 20                | 20                    |
| P       | >WE               |                       |
| Co      | ~10               | ~10                   |

E. Digestion 219 (1.5X HNO<sub>3</sub>)

Digestion 218 was successful in keeping the Mo in the raffinate; hence, it was decided to make a 100-pound digestion to gather both engineering data and also to prove that a 1.5X HNO<sub>3</sub> digestion is successful in removing Mo.

1. Digestion of Ore

An ore slurry of 6.3 gallons was made with 100 pounds of dry ore. The weight of the wet slurry was 141.6 pounds.

The ore slurry was heated to 80° C and 7.2 gallons of nitric acid solution containing 3.51 gallons of 40° Be HNO<sub>3</sub> was added to the hot slurry over a period of 10 minutes. The digestion was made in the 100-gallon tank. Visible reaction started immediately upon the addition of acid and ceased about 10 minutes after the last of the acid was added. It was difficult to determine the amount of foaming in the tank because of the NO<sub>2</sub> fumes, but it was estimated that there was only about 3 or 4 inches of foam above the liquor while the acid was being added.

Samples were taken for X and My every 30 minutes after the digestion was started. The slurry was digested for 3 hours at 85-100° C.

The slurry filtered very poorly through the Sperry Filter press and the Oliver Filter. (See Engineering B for details.)

After 10.5 gallons of clear filtrate had been obtained, this amount was set aside to be treated with H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. The remainder of the slurry was filtered and 7.8 gallons of filtrate was obtained. The first filtrate of 10.5 gallons was sampled and labelled 219-DF.

880 023

Because of the difficulty encountered in filtering the gangue and also in order to expedite the remaining operations, it was decided not to re-slurry and wash the gangue to remove the remaining  $XNO_3$ . It was assumed that the small samples taken for My and X analyses would suffice to determine the X recovery. Also, it was assumed that the weight of gangue obtained after washing free of X would be the same as that obtained in Digestion 218; e.i., 3.9 pounds of dry gangue per 22 pounds of dry ore.

Therefore, the weight of gangue obtained from Digestion 219 was assumed to be 17.74 lbs.

Analyses:

Gangue Analysis

| <u>Sample No.</u> | <u>Digestion Time (Hrs)</u> | <u>My (g/g)</u>       | <u>XNO<sub>3</sub> (g/g)</u> |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| 219-DG-1          | 0.5                         |                       | 0.0076                       |
| 219-DG-2          | 1.0                         |                       |                              |
| 219-DG-3          | 1.5                         |                       | 0.00512                      |
| 219-DG-4          | 2.0                         |                       |                              |
| 219-DG-5          | 2.83                        | 34.0x10 <sup>-8</sup> | 0.0305                       |
| 219-DG-6          | 7.0                         |                       | 0.0324                       |

Filtrate Analysis

|                  |             |
|------------------|-------------|
| Sample No.       | 219-DF      |
| Sp. G.           | 1.401       |
| XNO <sub>3</sub> | 0.4074 g/ml |
| HNO <sub>3</sub> | 0.03N       |
| PbO              | 0.0154 g/ml |

2. Precipitation of Lead

a. First Portion of 219-DF

The lead in the first filtrate from 217-DF (10.5 gallons) was precipitated as  $PbSO_4$  by adding 0.221 gallons of 66° Be  $H_2SO_4$ . This quantity of  $H_2SO_4$  is 5.4 times the amount of  $H_2SO_4$  equivalent to the  $PbO$  found in the solution.

The  $PbSO_4$  slurry was filtered through the Oliver Filter and a table-top Buchner funnel. (See Engineering B for details on filtration.) The cake was not sampled or weighed because of losses and contamination in using the Oliver Filter.

Ten gallons of clear filtrate was obtained from the  $PbSO_4$  filtration.

880 024

Analysis of Filtrate

|                  |              |
|------------------|--------------|
| Sample No.       | 219-LF       |
| XNO <sub>3</sub> | 0.3982 g/ml  |
| MoO <sub>3</sub> | 0.00034 g/ml |

b. Second Portion of 219-DF

7.8 gallons of 219-DF (Second Portion) was treated with 0.18 gallons of H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> to precipitate the lead as PbSO<sub>4</sub>. The slurry was filtered through a table-top Buchner funnel. No filtration data or samples were taken.

3. Precipitation of Excess H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>a. First Portion of 219-LF

Ten gallons of 219-LF (First Portion) at 82.5° C was treated with 6.6 pounds of BaCO<sub>3</sub> and digested for 1 hour at 80-90° C.

The solution was allowed to settle for 35 hours and was filtered by decantation through a Buchner funnel.

No samples and no filtration data were taken.

The filtrate was then concentrated to a specific gravity of about 1.6 and was saturated with NaNO<sub>3</sub> to be run in the extraction column. See Extraction Run 29-E.

b. Second Portion of 219-LF

Because the feed solution (219-FS First Portion) emulsified in the sieve plate column (29-E) and also because it had been shown that concentration, dilution, and filtration of a feed solution tended to eliminate emulsion trouble, it was decided to concentrate the second portion of Digestion 219-LF after the BaCO<sub>3</sub> had been added to see if the material could be run in the column after boil-down.

7.8 gallons of 219-LF (Second Portion) was heated to 82° C and 4.9 pounds of BaCO<sub>3</sub> was added with stirring to precipitate the excess sulfate. After the BaCO<sub>3</sub> had been added, the solution was concentrated in one of the 30-gallon tubs to a thick paste over a period of about 5 hours. The temperature at the end of the heating period was about 120° C, though the measurement of the temperature was meaningless because the solution was not boiling. The solution was diluted to a specific gravity of about 1.6 and was filtered through a table-top funnel. The precipitate of BaSO<sub>4</sub> plus material boiled out of solution

880 025

was brown in color. It was then intended that the filtrate be saturated with  $\text{NaNO}_3$  to be run in the column, but the solution was lost when the container was broken.

#### 4. Extraction (29-E)

The feed solution from the 219-BF (First Portion) was tried in the bubbler and an emulsion was indicated. However, an attempt was made to run the solution in the sieve plate column. A bad emulsion formed and no samples could be taken.

#### Extraction Data:

|                    |            |
|--------------------|------------|
| Acid in Ether      | 1N         |
| Feed Rate Tried    | 70 cc/min* |
| Solvent Rate Tried | 140 cc/min |

#### Analysis:

|                 |           |
|-----------------|-----------|
| Feed            | 219-FS    |
| $\text{XNO}_3$  | 606.1 g/l |
| Sp. G.          | 1.695     |
| $\text{NaNO}_3$ | saturated |
| $\text{HNO}_3$  | 0.005N    |
| $\text{MoO}_3$  | 0.516 g/l |

\* The sieve-plate column can be run at only 140:70 rates in order to control the interfaces.

In order to determine the Mo distribution from Digestion 219, a counter-current batchwise shakeout of 219-FS was made.

#### Results: (Extract)

|                |            |
|----------------|------------|
| $\text{XNO}_3$ | 316 g/l    |
| Sp. G.         | 1.054      |
| $\text{MoO}_3$ | 0.0064 g/l |

This represents about 1/34 the  $\text{MoO}_3$  found in the extract of Digestion 217 (1.8 x  $\text{HNO}_3$ ).

#### F. Digestion 220 (2X $\text{HNO}_3$ + 20% $\text{NaNO}_3$ )

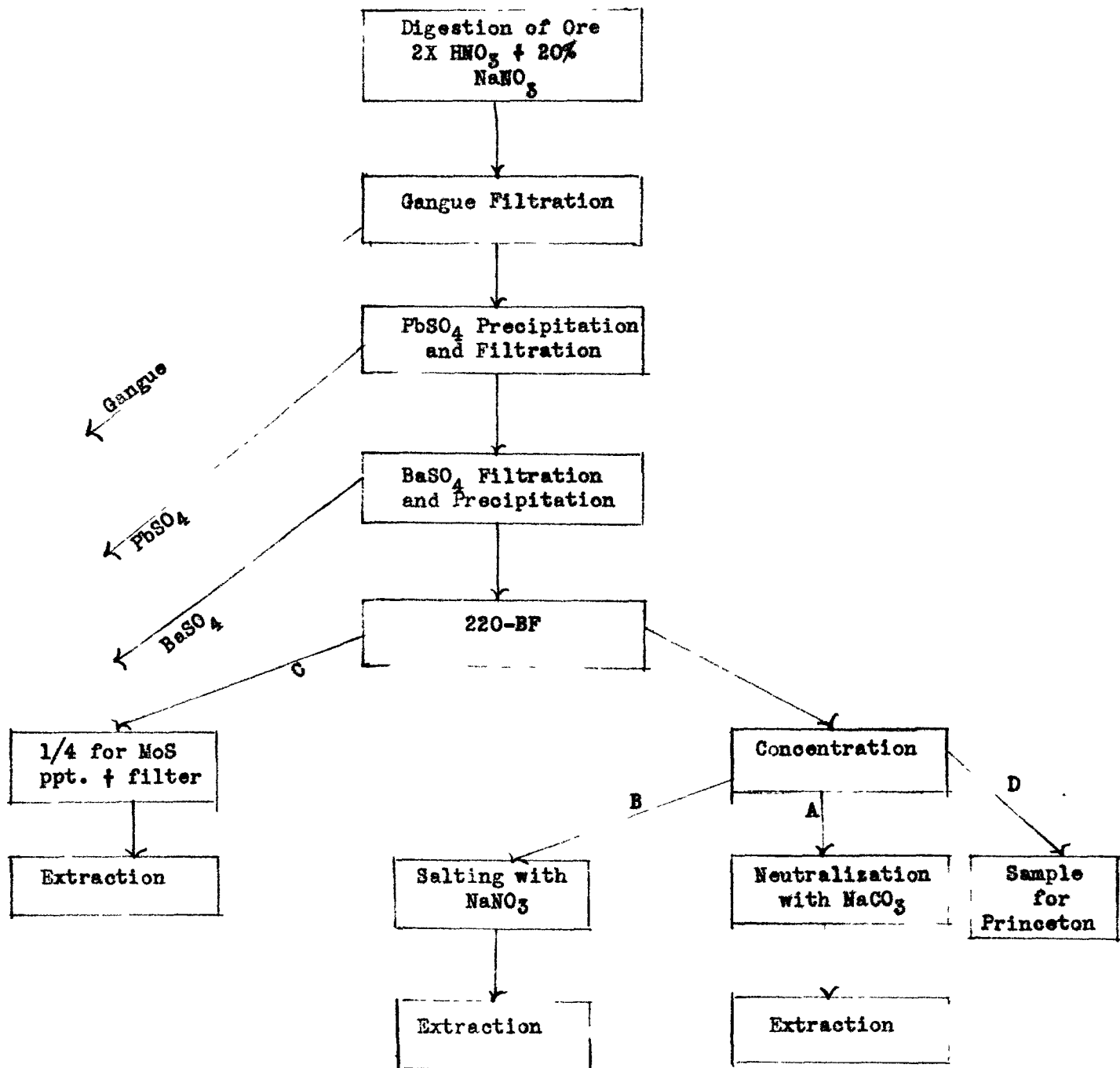
Purpose : To try 20%  $\text{NaNO}_3$  to improve My removal from gangue, also to try various experiments on the same liquors for Mo removal.

##### 1. Digestion of Ore

66 pounds of AAA ore (69%  $\text{X}_3\text{O}_8$  dry basis) and 13.2 pounds of  $\text{NaNO}_3$  were slurried with 3.33 gallons of water and heated to 50° C.

880 026

Flow Sheet For  
Digestion 220



880 027

3.33 gallons of 40° Be nitric acid was slowly added to the hot slurry and the slurry was digested at 90-100° C for 1 1/2 hours. At this time it was discovered that only 1X of HNO<sub>3</sub> had been added; hence, 4.02 gallons of 36° Be HNO<sub>3</sub> was added to the slurry. There was little evolution of nitrous fumes upon the second addition of acid. Digestion at 90-100° C was continued until the period of time from the beginning of the acid addition was three hours.

The slurry was then diluted to 12 1/2 gallons with hot water and a small sample of the slurry was filtered and washed with hot water to obtain the My and X recovery.

The remainder of the slurry was filtered and washed with hot water in the Nutsche Filters.

The total volume of filtrate was 28 1/4 gallons and the weight of the wet gangue was 39 pounds.

Analyses:

|                  | <u>Gangue</u>                | <u>Filtrate</u> |
|------------------|------------------------------|-----------------|
| Sample No.       | 220-DC                       | 220-DF          |
| XNO <sub>3</sub> | 0.0324 g/g                   | 0.2478 g/ml     |
| My               | 39.0 x 10 <sup>-8</sup> My/g |                 |
| HNO <sub>3</sub> |                              | 0.61 N          |
| PbO <sub>3</sub> |                              | 0.0138 g/ml     |

X Yield = 99.5%  
My Yield = 67.8%

2. Precipitation of Lead

0.528 gallons of 66° Be H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> was added to the 28 1/4 gallons of filtrate from the gangue filtration to precipitate the lead. Based on the lead analysis of the gangue filtrate, 5.3X the stoichiometric quantity of H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> was required to precipitate the lead.

The solution was then filtered by decantation through a Buchner funnel. No data was taken on the filtration.

Analysis:

Filtrate

|                  |              |
|------------------|--------------|
| Sample No.       | 220-LF       |
| MoO <sub>3</sub> | 0.00114 g/ml |

830 628

3. Precipitation of Excess H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>

The filtrate from the PbSO<sub>4</sub> removal was heated to 80-90° C and 14.75 pounds of BaCO<sub>3</sub> was added to the solution to precipitate the excess sulfate.

The solution was digested for about two hours and filtered by decantation through a Buchner funnel.

The total volume of filtrate and wash after the BaSO<sub>4</sub> filtration was 27.8 gallons. 5.7 gallons of this filtrate was set aside to be treated with Na<sub>2</sub>S. The remainder of the solution was concentrated to a volume of 11 1/4 gallons.

4. Precipitation of Molybdenum

From the analysis of 220-LF it was calculated that 2.01 pounds of Na<sub>2</sub>S (60%) would be required to precipitate the Mo. This amount of Na<sub>2</sub>S was dissolved in 1.16 gallons of water.

1.9 pounds of Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> was slowly added to the solution while stirring. The Na<sub>2</sub>S made the solution so basic that it became necessary to add nitric acid to the solution to prevent the precipitation of X compounds. A total of 940 cc of 36° Be nitric acid diluted 1:1 with water was used. The final pH of the solution was 1.42.

The sulfide precipitate was then filtered through a Nutsche filter. No filtration data and no samples of the cake were taken.

The filtrate from the sulfide precipitation was then concentrated to be run in the packed column. This feed solution was labeled 220-C. (See extraction 33E).

5. Disposition of Remainder of 220-BF

- a. 3 3/4 gallons of the 11 1/4 gallons of concentrated liquor from the BaSO<sub>4</sub> filtration was sent to Princeton to be used in some Molybdenum experiments. (220-D)
- b. 3 3/4 gallons of the concentrated liquor was saturated with NaNO<sub>3</sub> to be run in the packed column. This solution was labeled 220-B (see 32-E).
- c. The concentrated solution from the BaSO<sub>4</sub> filtration was tested for excess HNO<sub>3</sub> and found to be 0.98N. The amount of soda ash required to neutralize this acid was 1.635 pounds. This amount of soda ash was slowly added

530 029



to the remaining 3 3/4 gallons of the concentrated 220-BF. The solution was hot and being stirred while the soda ash was being added. A yellow precipitate formed.

The neutralized solution was then filtered. No filtration data and no samples were taken for analyses. The filtrate was labeled 220-A and was run in the packed column. (See 30-E and 31-E.)

6. Extraction of 220-A FS (30-E and 31-E)

a. Extraction Run 30-E

An attempt was made to run 220-A in the sieve plate column. However, the solution emulsified and a run could not be made.

b. Extraction Run 31-E

The packed column used in all of the previous experiments at Yale was packed with 7 mm rings. There was considerable channelling in this column. These 7 mm rings were removed before Run 31-E and replaced with 6 mm rings. Also, when the 6 mm rings were packed in the column, the free space between the rings was reduced by tapping the flanges between the sections with a wrench. The height of packing with the 6 mm rings was 9 1/2 feet. (19 sections) as compared with 13 1/2 feet (27 sections) with the 7 mm rings.

220-A was then tried in the packed column. At the start of the run the feed rate was 50 cc/min and the solvent rate was 100 cc/min. At this rate there was no flooding and no emulsion. The rate was then increased to 60:120 cc/min (feed:solvent). At this rate there was slight flooding, and an emulsion rose about 3 inches above the top of the packing. The rate was then reduced to 55:110 cc/min. At this rate there was no flooding and only about 1 inch of emulsion above the top of the rings. The rate was then reduced to 102:47.2 cc/min. and the run was completed at this rate with no further trouble

Extraction Data:

|                          |             |
|--------------------------|-------------|
| Feed Rate                | 47.2 cc/min |
| Solvent Rate             | 102 cc/min  |
| Acid in Ether            | 1.22 N      |
| Efficiency of Extraction | 99.77%      |

880 020

Analyses:

|                               | <u>Feed</u> | <u>Extract</u> | <u>Raffinate</u> |
|-------------------------------|-------------|----------------|------------------|
| Sample No.                    | 220-A       | 220-A-31-EE    | 220-A-31-ER      |
| Sp.G.                         | 1.648       | 1.007          | 1.287            |
| KNO <sub>3</sub>              | 508.5 g/l   | 242.3 g/l      | 1.4 g/l          |
| HNO <sub>3</sub>              | 0.15 N      | 0.80N          | 0.98N            |
| NaNO <sub>3</sub>             | saturated   | 0.80N          | 0.98N            |
| MoO <sub>3</sub>              | 0.45 g/l    | 0.052 g/l      | 0.53 g/l         |
| P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> | 0.41 g/l    |                |                  |
| Si                            |             |                |                  |

7. Extraction of 220-B-FS (Extraction 32-E)

Solution 220-B was extracted in the packed column.

The feed rate was started at 55 cc/min with a solvent rate of 110 cc/min. There was considerable emulsion and flooding. The rate was reduced to 50:100 cc/min, 45:90 cc/min., and finally to 41.5 - 88.6 cc/min at which rates the run was completed.

Extraction Data:

|                          |             |
|--------------------------|-------------|
| Feed Rate                | 41.5 cc/min |
| Ether Rate               | 88.6 cc/min |
| Acid in Ether            | 1.03 N      |
| Efficiency of Extraction | 99.55%      |

Analysis:

|                               | <u>Feed</u> | <u>Extract</u> | <u>Raffinate</u> |
|-------------------------------|-------------|----------------|------------------|
|                               | 220-B       | 220-B-32-EE    | 220-B-32E-R      |
| Sp.G.                         | 1.609       | 1.001          | 1.270            |
| KNO <sub>3</sub>              | 457 g/l     | 218.7 g/l      | 2.240 g/l        |
| HNO <sub>3</sub>              | 0.76 N      | 1.03 N         | 0.95N            |
| MoO <sub>3</sub>              | 1.83 g/l    | 0.222 g/l      | 1.0 g/l          |
| SiO <sub>2</sub>              | 0.14 g/l    |                |                  |
| P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> | 0.375 g/l   |                |                  |

The extract from 220 A (neutralized feed) had about 1/5 the amount of Mo in the extract from 220 B (not neutralized).

8. Extraction of 220 C-FS (Extraction 33F)

Extraction made in packed tower. This is the feed from which the Mo had been removed by Na<sub>2</sub>S.

880 031

Feed rate = 70 cc/min.  
 Solvent rate = 140 cc/min. (1.09 N in HNO<sub>3</sub>)  
 Extraction efficiency = 99.8%

Extraction Data:

No emulsions were formed which was contrary to previous results of feed from which Mo had been removed by Na<sub>2</sub>S. It appeared that most of the extraction was taking place in the upper 1/3 of the tower.

Analysis:

|                               | <u>Feed</u> | <u>Extract</u> | <u>Raffinate</u> |
|-------------------------------|-------------|----------------|------------------|
| Sp. G.                        | 1.512       | 0.880          | 1.340            |
| KNO <sub>3</sub>              | 238 g/l     | 120 g/l        | 0.55 g/l         |
| MoO <sub>3</sub>              | 0.026 g/l   | .0014 g/l      | 0.034 g/l        |
| HNO <sub>3</sub>              | 0.02 N      | 0.79 N         | 0.78 N           |
| NaNO <sub>3</sub>             | 380 g/l     |                |                  |
| SiO <sub>2</sub>              | 0.140 g/l   |                |                  |
| P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> | 0.025 g/l   |                |                  |

G. 1000 Pound Uniform AAA Ore Batch .

Previous digestion results were difficult to correlate because of using various lots of AAA ore which did not have complete analysis. It was therefore decided to get a large uniform ore batch on which to perform our next series of digestion experiments.

A 1000 pounds of dry ore was wet milled (ball mill) at American Cyanamid of Stamford, Connecticut. It was received at Yale in five 10 gallon clamp-top drums and one 25 gallon glass-lined drum. It was tested as it was milled to all pass through 100 mesh.

Since the milled ore slurry was not uniformly mixed, we mixed the complete batch (1500 pounds wet) in a 90 gallon stainless steel tank using two large Lightnin mixers and one small mixer. While stirring, six samples were taken in various parts of the slurry for X and moisture analysis and then the well-stirred mixture was subdivided into 10 and 30 kg. batches (dry basis).

Screen Analysis: (Wet, uniformly mixed ore slurry)

|               |       |
|---------------|-------|
| On 100 mesh   | 0.5%  |
| On 150 mesh   | 1.5%  |
| On 250 mesh   | 14.1% |
| On 325 mesh   | 8.0%  |
| Thru 325 mesh | 75.9% |

880 032

Chemical Analysis: (dry basis) (Slurry = 31% H<sub>2</sub>O)

|                               |                           |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| X <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> | 61.91%                    |
| SiO <sub>2</sub>              | 19.7%                     |
| P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> | 0.21%                     |
| MnO <sub>3</sub>              | 0.51%                     |
| PbO <sub>3</sub>              | 6.9%                      |
| My (Calc.)                    | $1.74 \times 10^{-7}$ g/g |
| My (Analyt)                   | $2.12 \times 10^{-7}$ g/g |

A small sample of the dry ore before milling was seen. It contained considerable fine dark gray heavy material and also larger particles up to 3/8 inch which varied in color from black to a bright yellow orange. The orange pieces were quite soft and very difficult to mill. It was also noted that this ore slurry was a lighter gray color than previous batches.

H. Digestion 221

Purpose: This digestion (2 hours with 2X HNO<sub>3</sub> + 20% NaNO<sub>3</sub>) was made to conform to the tentative process drawn up to obtain cost estimates on equipment. It is also the type of digestion recommended by Yale to give satisfactory My and X recovery from gangue.

Complete data through "shotgun" test is included in this digestion.

1. Digestion of Ore

A portion of the 1000 pound uniform ore slurry equivalent to 22 pounds of dry ore was mixed with 4.4 pounds of NaNO<sub>3</sub>. The mixture was heated to 55° C in a 6.5 gallon stainless steel tank with stirring and 2.43 gallons of 36° Be HNO<sub>3</sub> was added over a 21 minute period.

There was the normal short induction period before brown fumes came off. There was a maximum of about 3 inches of foam with brown fumes after about 2/3 of the acid was added. After this point, acid could be added as rapidly as desired.

|                             |              |
|-----------------------------|--------------|
| Volume before acid addition | 2.64 gallons |
| Volume after acid addition  | 4.75 gallons |

The 2 hour digestion was made at 92-106° C.

Throughout this digestion, samples of the digestion liquor were taken at the following designated times for My and X analysis:

880 033

(The samples were filtered hot on a Buchner and all were washed with the same amounts of hot water.)

| Sample                | Time of a Digestion | Analysis       |                              |
|-----------------------|---------------------|----------------|------------------------------|
|                       |                     | My % in Gangue | XNO <sub>3</sub> % in Gangue |
| 221-DG-1              | 21 min.             | 1.2            | 0.0029                       |
| 221-DG-2              | 51 min.             | 1.7            | 0.00424                      |
| 221-DG-3              | 61 min.             | 1.7            | 0.00757                      |
| 221-DG-4              | 121 min.            | 1.2            | 0.0218                       |
| 221-DG-5 <sup>b</sup> | 121 min.            | 1.2            |                              |
| 221-DG-6 <sup>c</sup> | 186 min.            | 9.2            | 0.037                        |

Notes:

- a. Zero digestion time is taken when acid addition is started.
- b. Sample four filtered in 1 minute 40 seconds at 100° C. Sample 5 was boiled down to 150° C, diluted back to original volume (same as 4) and filtered in 1 minute at 100° C.
- c. This sample was taken 67 minutes after completion of digestion-temperature approximately 60° C. This would simulate filtration time in plant.

On completion of the two-hour digestion period, the digestion slurry was diluted to 4.75 gallons (original volume after all acid added) and the greatest part of it was filtered through the Oliver at fairly good rates (see Engineering B report). The remainder of the slurry and the filtrate from the Oliver was clarified by filtering through a table top Buchner pre-coated with filter cel.

The gangue was reslurried with two gallons of water, heated to 70° C and filtered (see Engineering B report). Total volume of wash and filtrate = 6.0 gallons. Weight of gangue not obtained but by calculation from 100 g beaker digestions it was estimated at 4.54 pounds (dry).

Analysis of 221 -DF (from above 6 gallons)

|                  |              |
|------------------|--------------|
| PbO              | Samples lost |
| HNO <sub>3</sub> | 0.74 N       |
| ANO <sub>3</sub> | Samples lost |

880 034

2. Precipitation of Lead: (See Engineering B for filtration data)

0.132 gallons of 66° Be  $H_2SO_4$  was required to completely precipitate the lead, representing 3.44 x stoichiometric (from weight of LC). The precipitation was done at room temperature with very good agitation. The acid was added fairly rapidly and gave a precipitate which filtered easily but difficult to obtain an absolutely clear filtrate. Cake washed by displacement.

Analysis of 221-LG:

Analysis of 221-LF:

|                                |                      |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| Total wet weight = 1.81 pounds |                      |
| Total dry weight = 1.36 pounds | Vol. = 7.07 gallons. |
| $XNO_3$ = 0.0100 gm/gm         |                      |
| $H_2O$ = 24.8%                 |                      |

3. Precipitation of Excess  $H_2SO_4$

The 7.07 gallons of LF was heated to 84° C and 3.97 pounds of  $BaCO_3$  was added during a three-minute period with very slight foaming. (3.97 pounds  $BaCO_3$  represents a 33.6% excess which is at least twice too much).

The  $BaSO_4$  precipitate was digested two hours at 75-84° C. Filtration was attempted on the Oliver (see Engineering B report) and clarified in a Buchner with some difficulty. The cake was washed with two liters of cold water.

Analysis of 221 BG

|                  |                            |
|------------------|----------------------------|
| Total wet weight | 3.75 pounds                |
| Total dry weight | 3.26 pounds                |
| $XNO_3$          | 0.0010 gm/gm               |
| My               | $0.8 \times 10^{-8}$ gm/gm |
| $H_2O$           | 13.15%                     |

The BF was evaporated to 2.64 gallons. It crystallized at room temperature so it was diluted with two liters of water. Crystals still formed, so water was added until total volume was 4.1 gallons, crystals still formed. These crystals were identified as  $BaNO_3$ . The BF was not saturated with  $NaNO_3$ .

4. Extraction (34 E) (Packed Tower - 1 inch x 9 1/2 feet 6 mm rings)

Analysis of 221-FS

|          |           |
|----------|-----------|
| Sp. G.   | 1.584     |
| $XNO_3$  | 493 g/l   |
| $HNO_3$  | 0.90 N    |
| $NaNO_3$ | 104 g/l   |
| $MoO_3$  | 1.525 g/l |
| $SiO_2$  | 0.13 g/l  |
| $P_2O_5$ | 0.124 g/l |

The solvent was 1N with  $HNO_3$ .

880 035

Extraction Data:

Feed rate = 60 cc/min. (jet) Wash ratio =  $\frac{1}{12} \left( \frac{H_2O}{Et_2O} \right)$

Solvent rate = 120 cc/min. (jet) Stripping ratio =  $\frac{1}{1.7} \left( \frac{H_2O}{Et_2O} \right)$

There was no emulsion or flooding trouble at these rates. The extraction went smoothly. Flooding rates were 70:140.

The extract from this run was charcoaled, filtered, washed and stripped for the purpose of a shotgun sample. Details of this charcoaling can be found in this report under III-P Preparation of Shotgun Sample.

Efficiency of extraction = 99.8%

| Test             | Extract*  | Charcoaled Extract (not washed) | Good Liquor | Raffinate |
|------------------|-----------|---------------------------------|-------------|-----------|
| Sp.G             | 1.028     | -                               | 1.177       | 1.204     |
| KNO <sub>3</sub> | 260 g/l   | -                               | -           | 1.49 g/l  |
| HNO <sub>3</sub> | 0.95 N    | -                               | 0.87 N      | 1.24 N    |
| MoO <sub>3</sub> | 0.034 g/l | lost                            | -           | -         |

(Spec. at Mallinckrodt)

|    |         |         |         |
|----|---------|---------|---------|
| Ag | <2 ppm  | <2 ppm  | <2 ppm  |
| Co | <10 ppm | <10 ppm | <10 ppm |
| Cr | <10 ppm | <10 ppm | <10 ppm |
| Fe | 14 ppm  | 16 ppm  | <10 ppm |
| Mg | 8.4 ppm | 2.4 ppm | 2.0 ppm |
| Mn | 1.8 ppm | 2.0 ppm | 1.5 ppm |
| Mo | trace   | none    | none    |
| Ni | <10 ppm | <10 ppm | <10 ppm |
| Na | trace   | faint   | faint   |
| Pb | faint   | faint   | trace   |
| Si | trace   | trace   | trace   |
| B  | 4.7 ppm | 6.3     | 1.2     |

\* No analyses were run on the washed extract.

5. De-etherization and Precipitation of Raffinate

The Area Engineer's flow sheet indicates a sludge pond. This experiment was performed to see if we could precipitate X and other metals using caustic. We could then filter off

880 030

the insoluble sodium salts with the possibility of recovering  $\text{NaNO}_3$  from the filtrate or  $\text{Ca}(\text{NO}_3)_2$ , providing  $\text{CaO}$  is used to neutralize the raffinate and no  $\text{NaNO}_3$  is used during digestion or for salting the feed.

Volume of raffinate to de-etherize was 1.98 gallons. A steam coil was used for de-etherization. The ether evaporated off very nicely over about a five-minute period. When the temperature reached  $95^\circ \text{C}$ , brown fumes came off and there was approximately eight inches of foam. When steam was turned off, there was a continued auto-reaction with evolution of brown fumes and foaming for several minutes. After twelve minutes, the boiling with the steam coil was stopped (maximum temperature was  $106^\circ \text{C}$ ).

The de-etherized raffinate was diluted to nine liters with water and neutralized to a pH of 7.3 with 20%  $\text{NaOH}$ . The precipitate was filtered successfully.

There was 18 grams of dry solids for 100 cc of filtrate. Details of filtration data can be found in Engineering B report.

6. De-etherization and Boildown of Good Liquor

(See section III-P -Preparation of Shotgun Sample)

I. Digestion 222

Purpose: This 2.5X  $\text{HNO}_3$  2 1/2 hour digestion with no  $\text{NaNO}_3$  was tried in an effort to see if the extra 0.5X  $\text{HNO}_3$  would be equivalent to 20%  $\text{NaNO}_3$  in My recovery. If the feed turned out too acidic it was to be neutralized with  $\text{CaO}$ .

Complete data on this digestion through "shotgun" test is included.

1. Digestion of Ore

22 pounds (dry basis) of the ore slurry from the 1000 pound uniform ore batch was heated to  $50^\circ \text{C}$  and 2.99 gallons of 36° Be  $\text{HNO}_3$  was added over an 18 minute period.

Reaction was made in a 6.5 gallon stainless steel tank efficiently agitated with a small Lightnin mixer.

|                             |              |  |
|-----------------------------|--------------|--|
| Volume before acid addition | 2.64 gallons |  |
| Volume after acid addition  | 5.28 gallons |  |
| Volume after digestion      | 4.5 gallons  |  |

880 037

There was a maximum of approximately four inches of foam with brown fumes after a little over half the acid was added.



After two-thirds of the acid was in, it could be added as rapidly as possible with no foaming.

The 2 1/3 hour digestion was made at a temperature of 75-85°C.

At various times throughout the digestion samples of the digestion slurry were taken, filtered hot, and washed thoroughly with the same volumes of hot water for the purpose of My and X analysis to determine optimum digestion time.

Results are in the following table:

| <u>Samples</u>        | <u>Time of a Digestion</u> | <u>My Percent in Gangue</u> |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 222-DG-1              | 20 min.                    | 0.676                       |
| 222-DG-2              | 50 min.                    | 0.99                        |
| 222-DG-3 <sup>b</sup> | 140 min.                   | 0.52                        |
| 222-DG-4 <sup>c</sup> | 200 min.                   | 1.09                        |

Notes:

- a. Zero digestion time is taken when acid addition is started.
- b. Same sample volume same as 221 DG 5; same filter media and pressure. Filtration rate = 1 min. 15 sec.
- c. This sample represents time slurry would stand while filtering in plant. Temperature was 58° C.

The digestion was stopped after 2 1/3 hours and filtration in the Oliver was tried with fair success. (See Engineering B report.) The remainder of the slurry and the filtrate from the Oliver was clarified on table top Buchners.

The gangue was reslurried with two gallons of water heated to 60° C and filtered.

Combined volume of wash and filtrate was seven gallons. Weight of gangue was not obtained, but from beaker experiments of same ore it was estimated to be 4 pounds (dry).  
Analysis of 222DF (combined with wash)

|                  |                                |
|------------------|--------------------------------|
| XNO              | 0.304 gms XNO <sub>2</sub> /ml |
| HNO <sub>3</sub> | 1.45 N                         |

880 038

2. Precipitation of Lead

0.171 gallons of 66° Be H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> was added rapidly to the above seven gallons of DF with efficient stirring at room temperature. (The H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> was at least 0.04 gallons excess due to a miscalculation.)

The filtration on a table top Buchner was rapid but it was very difficult to obtain a clear filtrate due to the fineness of the  $PbSO_4$  crystals. Slower addition of  $H_2SO_4$  is observed by the Yale personnel to give a precipitate of better filtering qualities. Cake was washed with cold water. Volume of filtrate and wash was 7.8 gallons.

3. Precipitation of Excess  $H_2SO_4$

The 7.8 gallons of LF was heated to boiling (steam coil) and 5.08 pounds of  $BaCO_3$  was added during a nine-minute period. A control test<sup>3</sup> indicated no  $SO_4$  and an excess of  $Ba^{++}$ .

After digesting one hour at boiling, the filtration of the slurry was tested with good results (Engineering B Report). It was digested one-half hour more and filtration on Oliver was tried with good results (see Engineering B report). The filtrate was clarified and the remainder of the  $BaSO_4$  was filtered through a table top Buchner. The rapid filtration with clear filtrate from the  $BaSO_4$  slurry is attributed to the fact that we boiled the LF while adding the  $BaCO_3$  and also boiled during the digestion, thus giving a better precipitate for filtering.

Analyses of 222 BC : 222-BC-3- 0.0011 g  $XNO_3/g$   
 222-BC-4- 0.0023 g  $XNO_3/g$   
 My -  $0.60 \times 10^{-8}$  gms/gm

No analysis of 222-BF - volume was 4.85 gallons, which was boiled down with no salting to a 1.506 specific gravity.

4. Extraction (35-E) (Packed Tower) (1 inch x 9 1/2 feet - 6 mm rings)

Feed Analysis:

|          |            |
|----------|------------|
| Sp. G.   | 1.506      |
| $XNO_3$  | 464 g/l    |
| $HNO_3$  | 1.7 N      |
| $MoO_3$  | 2.62 gms/l |
| $SiO_2$  | 0.14 gms/l |
| $P_2O_5$ | 0.115 g/l  |
| $NaNO_3$ | 82 g/l     |

The solvent was 1N with  $HNO_3$ .

830 039

Extraction Data:

|              |            |                 |                                     |
|--------------|------------|-----------------|-------------------------------------|
| Feed rate    | 70 cc/min  | Wash water      | $\frac{1 (H_2O)(Jet)}{1.7 (Et_2O)}$ |
| Solvent rate | 140 cc/min | Stripping ratio | $\frac{1 (H_2O)(Jet)}{1.7 (Et_2O)}$ |

No emulsion or flooding trouble was observed at these rates.

The extract from this run was charcoaled, washed, and stripped to be combined with 221-34EGL for a shotgun test. Details of this can be found under III P- (Preparation of Shotgun Sample).

Efficiency of Extraction = 99.3%

| Test             | Extract | Charcoaled*           |                |           |
|------------------|---------|-----------------------|----------------|-----------|
|                  |         | Extract<br>(unwashed) | Good<br>Liquor | Raffinate |
| Sp.G             | 1.050   | --                    | 1.224          | 1.125     |
| NO <sub>3</sub>  | 266 g/l | --                    |                | 3.46 g/l  |
| HNO <sub>3</sub> | 1.20    | --                    |                | 1.65 N    |
| MoO <sub>3</sub> |         | 0.0012 g/l            |                |           |

(Spec. at Mallinckrodt)

|    |         |          |          |
|----|---------|----------|----------|
| Ag | <2 ppm  | < 2 ppm' | none     |
| Co | <10 ppm | <10 ppm  | < 10 ppm |
| Cr | <10 ppm | <10 ppm  | < 10 ppm |
| Fe | <10 ppm | <10 ppm  | < 10 ppm |
| Mg | 20 ppm  | <2.6 ppm | < 2 ppm  |
| Mn | 2.3 ppm | 1.7 ppm  | 1.7 ppm  |
| Mo | trace   | none     | none     |
| Ni | <10 ppm | <10 ppm  | < 10 ppm |
| Na | faint   | faint    | none     |
| Pb | trace   | trace    | none     |
| Si | trace   | trace    | trace    |
| B  | 4.8     | 5.9      | 1.5      |

\*No analysis run on charcoaled, washed extract.

5. De-etherization and Precipitation of Raffinate

Raffinate volume was 7.5 liters. Ether boiled off very nicely using a steam coil. When temperature reached 92° C after ten minutes, an auto-reaction started with considerable foaming and brown fumes which would continue several minutes after steam was turned off.

Solution heated to 105° C and steam turned off. (A sample of this de-etherized raffinate was taken for acid recovery experiment -- details under section III-O.) The remainder was neutralized to a pH of 7.15 with 20% NaOH. The solution was then heated for ten minutes (final volume 6.5 liters) and filtration tests were run (see Engineering B). There was 12 grams of dry solids for 100 cc of filtrate. 880 040

6. De-etherization and Boildown of Good Liquor

(Details under III-P - Preparation of Shotgun Sample).

J. Digestion 223 (Made by Yale group)

(2 hours - 2 X HNO<sub>3</sub> + 20% NaNO<sub>3</sub>)

Purpose: The purpose of this run was to obtain sufficient feed solution to divide into the following portions to experiment on Mo distribution by neutralization of feed in accord with results at Princeton:

- a. Un-neutralized feed saturated with NaNO<sub>3</sub> - no acid in ether (control run)
- b. Feed neutralized with Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> to 0.10N or less
  - 1. use no HNO<sub>3</sub> in ether.
  - 2. use 0.10N HNO<sub>3</sub> in ether
  - 3. use 1.0N HNO<sub>3</sub> in ether
- c. Feed neutralized with CaO to 0.05N or less
  - 1. use no HNO<sub>3</sub> in ether
  - 2. use 0.10N HNO<sub>3</sub> in ether
  - 3. use 1.0N HNO<sub>3</sub> in ether
- d. Try same feed in both packed and plate tower to get quantitative comparison.

1. Digestion of Ore

132 pounds (dry basis) of ore slurry (1000 pounds uniform batch) was mixed with 26.4 pounds (20%) NaNO<sub>3</sub>. The slurry was heated with stirring to 56° C and 4.5 gallons of 36° Be HNO<sub>3</sub> was added over a 20 minute period. Reaction was similar to 221 digestion.

After two hours' digestion, the slurry was filtered through table-top Buchners. (Largest portion of slurry cold when filtered.) Hot filtration rate was 4.78 gph/ft<sup>2</sup> with a 3/4 inch cake. Hot wash rate by displacement was 1.6 gph/ft<sup>2</sup>. Total weight of dry gangue was 35.3 pounds. Volume of gangue was 1.5 ft<sup>3</sup> wet.

2. Precipitation of Lead

Volume of DF was 60 gallons, to which was added slowly (30 minutes) in the cold with efficient stirring, 1.52 gallons of 66° Be H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. At first the PbSO<sub>4</sub> settled slowly, but at the end of the half hour when all the acid was added, it settled quite rapidly. Good filtration rates were obtained and no trouble obtaining clear filtrate.

Excess H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>  
LC (wet)

5.6 X stoichiometric  
15.9 pounds (31.7% H<sub>2</sub>O)

880 041

3. Precipitation of Excess H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>

The lead filtrate was boiled down to 35 gallons and 32 pounds of BaCO<sub>3</sub> (15.3% excess) was added during one hour at 90-95° C. The slurry was digested two more hours and gave a rapid settling precipitate but it was difficult to obtain a clear filtrate.

Final volume of BF = 40 gallons - boiled down to 31 gallons (1.04N in HNO<sub>3</sub>).

BC (wet) = 52.5 pounds (25% H<sub>2</sub>O)

Portions of the above thirty-one gallons of BF were treated as stated in the following extractions.

4. Extractions of 223 BF (boiled down)

a. Extraction 36-E (Control run)

This extraction was run as a control in order to get a comparison to the neutralized feeds in the extractions that follow. A portion of 223BF was saturated with NaNO<sub>3</sub> and no acid was used in the ether.

Feed Analysis

(223-A-FS)

|                               |           |
|-------------------------------|-----------|
| Sp.G                          | 1.561     |
| XNO <sub>3</sub>              | 370 g/l   |
| HNO <sub>3</sub>              | 0.98N     |
| NaNO                          | 206 g/l   |
| SiO <sub>2</sub> <sup>3</sup> | 0.13 g/l  |
| P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> | 0.043 g/l |
| MoO <sub>3</sub>              | 1.325 g/l |

Extraction Data: (Packed Tower) (1 inch x 9 1/2 ft. - 6 mm rings)

|              |             |
|--------------|-------------|
| Feed rate    | 65 cc/min.  |
| Solvent rate | 130 cc/min. |

A very slight emulsion was observed at the top of the tower. The raffinate was turbid.

Efficiency of Extraction = 99%

880 042

| <u>Test</u>      | <u>Extract Analysis</u> | <u>Raffinate Analysis</u> |
|------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| Sp.G.            | 0.904                   | 1.263                     |
| XNO <sub>3</sub> | 152 g/l                 | 5.41 g/l                  |
| HNO <sub>3</sub> | 0.40N                   |                           |
| MoO <sub>3</sub> | 0.068 g/l               |                           |

b-1. Extraction 37-E (Same tower as 36-E)

This extraction was run in accord with the results on Mo distribution as found at Princeton using a feed containing practically no free  $\text{HNO}_3$  and a solvent containing no  $\text{HNO}_3$ .

Preparation of Feed

Four gallons of boiled-down BF was neutralized with  $\text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3$ . A small shakeout was made on this neutralized feed to observe qualitatively how much Mo was in the extract; a fair amount was found. 180 grams more  $\text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3$  was added bringing the total added to 980 grams - a shakeout on this indicated no detectable Mo in the extract, so the feed was filtered in preparation for running in the tower. There was only a slight turbidity in the unfiltered liquor.

On standing overnight, the clear filtrate had become turbid, but it was used without refiltering.

Feed Analysis: Solvent was pure ether, no  $\text{HNO}_3$ .

(223-B-FS)

|                        |                          |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| Sp.G.                  | 1.561                    |
| $\text{XNO}_3$         | 352 g/l                  |
| $\text{HNO}_3$         | 0.096N                   |
| $\text{MoO}_3$         | 1.29 g $\text{MoO}_3$ /l |
| $\text{SiO}_2$         | 0.122 g/l                |
| $\text{P}_2\text{O}_5$ | 0.043 g/l                |
| $\text{NaNO}_3$        | 299 g/l                  |

Extraction Data: (Same tower as 36-E)

Feed rate 20 cc/min.) Higher rates gave emulsions  
 Solvent rate 40 cc/min.) and flooding. There were  
 emulsions at these rates  
 but not enough to prevent  
 operation.

Considerable precipitation formed in the raffinate in the tower. Semi-quantitative analysis by R. Mundy (Princeton) indicated approximately equal amounts of Mo and X (approximately 0.05%) and large quantities of  $\text{PO}_4$ .

Extraction Efficiency = 99.5%

880 043

|                  | <u>Extract Analysis</u> | <u>Raffinate Analysis</u> |
|------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| Sp.G.            | 0.841                   | 1.263                     |
| XNO <sub>3</sub> | 120 g/1                 | 3.43 g/1                  |
| HNO <sub>3</sub> | 0.03                    |                           |
| MoO <sub>3</sub> | 0.0006 g/1              |                           |

b-2. Extraction 38-E

Same as 37-E except 0.10N HNO<sub>3</sub> was used in the ether in an attempt to prevent precipitation in the raffinate.

Extraction Data: (Same tower as 36-E)

|              |             |   |
|--------------|-------------|---|
| Feed rate    | 15 cc/min.) | Considerable emulsion formed at these rates but still able to operate and obtain samples. |
| Solvent rate | 30 cc/min.) |   |

The precipitate in the raffinate was reduced to some extent using 0.10N HNO<sub>3</sub> in the solvent.

Extraction Efficiency = 98.8%

|                  | <u>Extract Analysis</u> | <u>Raffinate Analysis</u> |
|------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| Sp. G.           | 0.899                   | 1.282                     |
| XNO <sub>3</sub> | 166 g/1                 | 3.43 g/1                  |
| HNO <sub>3</sub> | 0.076                   |                           |
| MoO <sub>3</sub> | 0.021 g/1               |                           |

b-3. Extraction 39-E

Same as 37-E except the use of 1.0N HNO<sub>3</sub> in solvent which indicated less emulsion (2/3 less) than neutral ether when both were tested in Yale's bubbler emulsion tester.

Extraction Data (Same tower as 36-E)

|              |            |
|--------------|------------|
| Feed rate    | 30 cc/min. |
| Solvent rate | 60 cc/min. |

There was a slight emulsion, but rates were higher than those using less acid in solvent. The raffinate also had less precipitate than in 37-E and 38-E; however, it was still quite turbid.

Efficiency of Extraction = 99.3%

880 044

|                  | <u>Extract Analysis</u> | <u>Raffinate Analysis</u> |
|------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| Sp. G.           | 0.902                   | 1.282                     |
| KNO <sub>3</sub> | 143 g/l                 | 2.54 g/l                  |
| HNO <sub>3</sub> | 0.57N                   |                           |
| MoO <sub>3</sub> | 0.07 g/l                |                           |

c-1. Extraction 40-E

This extraction was made on 223 BF neutralized with CaO to observe effect on Mo distribution and extraction characteristics as compared to 223-BF neutralized with Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>.

Preparation of Feed

Four gallons of boiled down 223-BF was neutralized with 480 grams of CaO (5.8 Kg. wet Ca(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> made by H. Yeager was added). No precipitate formed, just a slight turbidity which filtered clear. A small shakeout using neutral ether was made before filtering and a slight amount of Mo was found in the extract (slightly more than when Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> was used.)

Extraction Data: (Same tower as 36-E) -No HNO<sub>3</sub> in ether.

|              |            |
|--------------|------------|
| Feed rate    | 30 cc/min. |
| Solvent rate | 60 cc/min. |

A bad emulsion formed and there was considerably more precipitate in the raffinate than in 37-E.

Extraction Efficiency = 99.5% (Assuming no volume change in feed to raffinate).

| (223-CFS)                         | <u>Feed Analysis</u> | <u>Extract Analysis</u> | <u>Raffinate Analysis</u> |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| Sp.G.                             | 1.558                | 0.837                   | 1.303                     |
| KNO <sub>3</sub>                  | 323 g/l              | 106 g/l                 | 1.75 g/l                  |
| HNO <sub>3</sub>                  | <0.02N               | <0.006N                 |                           |
| MoO <sub>3</sub>                  | 1.2 g/l              | 0.001 g/l               |                           |
| SiO <sub>2</sub>                  | 0.424 g/l            |                         |                           |
| P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub>     | 0.042 g/l            |                         |                           |
| Ca(NO <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> | 336 g/l              |                         |                           |
| NaNO <sub>3</sub>                 | 225 g/l              |                         |                           |

880 045



c-2. Extraction 41-E

This is the same as 40-E except for using 0.1N HNO<sub>3</sub> in the ether.

Extraction Data:

Feed rate                      20 cc/min.  
Solvent rate                    40 cc/min.

The raffinate was still very turbid with a yellowish precipitate and still considerable emulsion trouble.

Extraction Efficiency = 99.7%

|                  | <u>Extract Analysis</u> | <u>Raffinate Analysis</u> |
|------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| Sp. G.           | 0.832                   | 1.273                     |
| XNO <sub>3</sub> | 106 g/l                 | 1.55 g/l                  |
| HNO <sub>3</sub> | 0.04N                   |                           |
| MoO <sub>3</sub> | 0.019 g/l               |                           |

c-3. Extraction 42-E

This is the same as 40-E except for using 1N HNO<sub>3</sub> in the ether in an attempt to alleviate the emulsion problem and to inhibit precipitation in the raffinate, also to observe the effect of strong acid-ether on Mo distribution when using a neutralized feed.

Extraction Data:

Feed rate                      50 cc/min.  
Solvent rate                    100 cc/min.

The emulsion was considerably less than in 40-E and 41-E; also there appeared to be less precipitate in the raffinate although it was still quite turbid.

Extraction Efficiency = 99.8%

|                  | <u>Extract Analysis</u> | <u>Raffinate Analysis</u> |
|------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| Sp.G.            | 0.890                   | 1.310                     |
| XNO <sub>3</sub> | 125 g/l                 | 5.33 g/l                  |
| HNO <sub>3</sub> | 0.57N                   |                           |
| MoO <sub>3</sub> | 0.27 g/l                |                           |

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Analyses

| (223-D-FS)                    | <u>Feed</u> | <u>Extract</u> | <u>Raffinate</u> |
|-------------------------------|-------------|----------------|------------------|
| Sp.G.                         | 1.58        | 0.956          | 1.30             |
| XNO <sub>3</sub>              | 396 g/l     | 182 g/l        | 0.24 g/l         |
| NaNO <sub>3</sub>             | 272 g/l     |                |                  |
| MoO <sub>3</sub>              | 0.99 g/l    | 0.162 g/l      | 0.610 g/l        |
| SiO <sub>2</sub>              | 0.044 g/l   |                |                  |
| P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> | 0.102 g/l   |                |                  |
| HNO <sub>3</sub>              | 0.40N       | 0.82N          | 0.76N            |

e-2. Extraction 44-E (packed tower)

The purpose of this extraction is stated under 43-E. Same feed solution and same solvent used.

Extraction Data: (N HNO<sub>3</sub> in ether)  
I

|              |             |
|--------------|-------------|
| Feed rate    | 105 cc/min. |
| Solvent rate | 200 cc/min. |

Some emulsion built up at these rates but was not serious. Operating at decreased rates 70 cc/min. and 140 cc/min. caused no emulsion.

Extraction Efficiency = 99.82% (volume changes taken into account)

Analyses

|                  | <u>Extract</u> | <u>Raffinate</u> |
|------------------|----------------|------------------|
| Sp.G.            | 0.980          | 1.302            |
| XNO <sub>3</sub> | 205 g/l        | 0.81 g/l         |
| MoO <sub>3</sub> | 0.062 g/l      | 0.666 g/l        |
| HNO <sub>3</sub> | 0.83N          | 0.81N            |

K. Molybdenum Experiments1. Washing and Stripping

The details of several attempts to remove Mo from the ether extract by washing and stripping are included in the report, Washing and Stripping Experiments to Remove Molybdenum by H. L. Wibbels, dated 4-21-45.

The washer was made of 32 mm glass tubing; distance from inlet to overflow was 30 inches; the top jet was 5 inches below the overflow and had a rate of 9 c c/min. (18 feet, head); the second jet was 13 1/2 inches below the overflow

and had a rate of 13 cc/min; the interface was kept below the inlet by continuously draining the wash water layer; a bubble separator was placed in series with the inlet to prevent undue agitation in the washer.

Following is a typical washing experiment:

|                 |                                      |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------|
| Extract rate    | 150 cc/min. (24 EE)                  |
| Total wash rate | 22 cc/min                            |
| Ratio           | $\frac{H_2O}{Et_2O} = \frac{1}{6.8}$ |

Velocity of extract through tower (measured) 23 cm/min.

|                  | <u>Extract Analysis</u> | <u>Washed Extract Analysis</u> | <u>Wash Water Layer</u> |
|------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Sp.G.            | 0.932                   |                                |                         |
| XNO <sub>3</sub> | 146 g/l                 |                                | 192.9 g/l               |
| HNO <sub>3</sub> | 0.90N                   |                                | 1.67N                   |
| MoO <sub>3</sub> | 0.144 g/l               | 0.152 g/l                      | 0.01 g/l                |

Since the Mo complex seemed to give such a favorable distribution to ether, we thought it would remain in the stripped ether giving a good liquor with very little Mo. A jet stripper was designed to try this in a continuous process.

The stripper was made of 38 mm glass tubing; distance from inlet to overflow was 24 inches; the top jet was 7 inches below the overflow and had a capacity of 62 cc/min. (18 foot head); the second jet was 14 inches below the overflow and had a rate of 90 cc/min; the interface was kept below the inlet by continuously draining good liquor; a bubble separator was used as in the washer.

Following is a typical continuous washing and stripping experiment showing the distribution of Mo after leaving the extractor:

|                 |                                       |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------|
| Extract rate    | 150 cc/min.                           |
| Wash rate       | 24 cc/min.                            |
| Stripping rate  | 152 cc/min.                           |
| Wash ratio      | $\frac{H_2O}{Et_2O} = \frac{1}{10.4}$ |
| Stripping ratio | $\frac{H_2O}{Et_2O} = \frac{1}{1.65}$ |

Analyses

|                  | <u>Extract (26-E)</u> | <u>Wash Water</u> | <u>Good Liquor</u> | <u>Stripped Ether</u> |
|------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| Sp.G.            | 1.005                 | 1.268             | 1.174              | 0.715                 |
| XNO <sub>3</sub> | 234 g/l               | 276.6 g/l         | 192.7 g/l          | 0.01 g/l              |
| HNO <sub>3</sub> | 0.96N                 | 1.65N             | 0.75N              | 0.000                 |
| MoO <sub>3</sub> | 0.16 g/l              | 0.071 g/l         | 0.105 g/l          | 0.0000 g/l            |

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As the results plainly illustrate, Mo complexes cannot be washed out of the extract or left in the stripped ether under normal washing and stripping conditions.

## 2. Effect of Acidity on Mo Distribution\*

The washed extracts from all of our continuous washing experiments turned green immediately after washing and turned yellow again on standing a short time. One of these washed extracts was stripped with small portions of water until practically free of  $\text{KNO}_3$  and the ether layer was a light blue color. More water was added to complete the stripping (separatory funnel) and the blue color transferred quantitatively to the water layer. Addition of a small amount of  $\text{HNO}_3$  transferred it back to the ether phase. This blue color was identified (by sulfide precipitation in  $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$  solution) as molybdenum. It was concluded from these preliminary experiments that the distribution of Mo complexes was very sensitive to pH.

\*Note: These results are also in the report Molybdenum Distribution and Preliminary Adsorption Study by H. L. Wibbels dated 5-2-45.

### a. Neutralization of Extract

It was thought that neutralizing the excess acid in the extract would favor the Mo complex distribution to the water layer. The plan would be to neutralize the extract and then send it through its regular wash or else attempt an alkaline wash (which would require extremely strong caustic to neutralize the excess acid using 1/10 wash ratio).

To get a complete picture widely varied  $\text{HNO}_3$  and  $\text{NaOH}$  concentrations were used in 25 cc portions to strip 100 cc portions of unwashed extract from 26-E (0.16 g  $\text{MoO}_3/1$ ). Results are in the following table.

| 25 cc of<br>Stripping water | Grams $\text{MoO}_3/1$       |                             |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
|                             | <u>Et<sub>2</sub>O Layer</u> | <u>H<sub>2</sub>O Layer</u> |
| 1.0N in $\text{HNO}_3$      | 0.14                         | 0.0033                      |
| 0.5N in $\text{HNO}_3$      | 0.136                        | 0.0029                      |
| Pure water                  | 0.14                         | 0.0029                      |
| 0.1N in $\text{NaOH}$       | 0.136                        | 0.0027                      |
| 1.0N in $\text{NaOH}$       | 0.136*                       | 0.0027                      |
| 4.0N in $\text{NaOH}$       | 0.110*                       | 0.0128                      |

\*Note: Precipitate formed in these samples on standing-- probably soda salt.

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As evidenced by the foregoing table, neutralization did not have much effect until the X was practically converted to soda salt.

b. Acid Stripping of Extract

From the foregoing experiment there was a slight indication that a fairly acid stripping water could be used to keep the Mo in the stripped ether.

The experiment consisted of taking 170 cc of 24-E unwashed extract and stripping successively with ten 20 cc portions of 2N  $\text{HNO}_3$ .

After the tenth portion, there was still  $\text{XNO}_3$  in the ether layer. The stripped ether after the tenth stripping analyzed 0.16 gm.  $\text{MoO}_3$ /l. Higher value than original probably due to ether evaporation.

This method indicates possibilities but would seem impractical from the amount of nitric acid required per day. Also  $\text{HNO}_3$  tends to salt  $\text{XNO}_3$  into the ether layer, thus requiring more stripping water, giving a more dilute good liquor.

3. Adsorption by Charcoal.

a. Removal of Mo Complex by Charcoal

The Mo heteropolyacids being similar to organic acids, it was thought they would be adsorbed to some extent on charcoal.

13.5 grams of Merck activated USP charcoal (powdered) was mixed with 250 cc of 26-E extract (0.142 g.  $\text{MoO}_3$ /l). It was mixed and filtered immediately. The filtered extract contained 0.000 g.  $\text{MoO}_3$ /l.

Several grades of charcoal samples were ordered in an effort to determine if this adsorption was selective only to a certain type of charcoal. Results of charcoals tried to date are listed in the following table.

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(Mixing with immediate filtration)

| <u>Sample Identification</u>                               | <u>Grams of Charcoal used</u> | <u>Extract Identification and Volume</u> | <u>Grams MoO<sub>3</sub>/l</u> |                       |
|--|-------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
|  |                               |  | <u>Before Charcoal</u>         | <u>After Charcoal</u> |
| 1. Columbia Activated Carbon - Grade L<br>20-48 Mesh       | 4 grams                       | 100 cc - 26EE                            | 0.142                          | 0.100                 |
| 2. Columbia Activated Carbon - Grade 5P<br>200 Mesh        | 4 grams                       | 100 cc - 26EE                            | 0.142                          | 0.0014                |
| 3. Same as (1) except ground to approximately 150-200 Mesh | 4 grams                       | 100 cc - 26EE                            | 0.142                          | 0.0046                |

From the foregoing experiment it seems reasonable to conclude that the adsorption depends mostly on mesh size of the carbon.

Since 200 mesh charcoal would have to be used, an experiment was made to determine if a tower of this charcoal could be used through which the extract could be passed.

A tower was made of three 6 inch x 1 inch pyrex glass pipe sections only two of which were filled with charcoal which was retained by means of a plug of glass wool and Raschig rings at the inlet end and by a glass wool plug and perforated stainless steel plate at the outlet end.

A small Eastern centrifugal pump was used for pumping the extract.

The tower was filled by taking equal volumes of Nuchar T (powdered) and Columbia Activated Carbon Grade L (20-48 mesh), slurring it with ether and pouring into the tower giving a column 1 inch x 10 inches.

Ether extract was forced through this column for about 4 inches (10 minutes) under a head of 13 psi gage. The experiment was then abandoned due to slowness of rate.

Some experiments were run by the Yale group to determine minimum amounts of charcoal required for various extracts.

The following results are from using 250 cc of extract in each experiment with the specified amount of Merck USP activated charcoal (powdered):

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| Charcoal<br>grams<br>(for 250 cc Extract) | Extract Identification<br>and grams MoO <sub>3</sub> /l after charcoal |             |             |             |
|---|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|
|   | <u>26EE</u>  | <u>31EE</u> | <u>32EE</u> | <u>33EE</u> |
| 0.1                                       | 0.074  | 0.0035      | 0.141       | --          |
| 0.5                                       | 0.048  | 0.0025      | 0.117       | 0.0003      |
| 1.0                                       | 0.018  | 0.0021      | 0.023       | 0.00015     |
| 4.0                                       | 0.0005   | --          | --          | 0           |
| 5.0                                       | --   | 0           | 0.001       | --          |
| 7.0                                       | 0  | --          | --          | --          |
| 10.0                                      | 0  | 0           | 0.0003      | --          |

Extract Analysis Before Charcoal Treatment

|                  | <u>26EE</u> | <u>31EE</u> | <u>32EE</u> | <u>33EE</u> |
|------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Sp.G.            | 1.005       | 1.007       | 1.001       | 0.880       |
| XNO <sub>3</sub> | 234 g/l     | 242.3 g/l   | 218.7 g/l   | 119.7 g/l   |
| HNO <sub>3</sub> | 0.96N       | 0.80N       | 1.03N       | 0.79N       |
| MoO <sub>3</sub> | 0.150 g/l   | 0.052 g/l   | 0.184 g/l   | 0.0014 g/l  |

It appears that the minimum amount of charcoal to remove the Mo from an extract like 26EE is about 0.134 lbs/gal.

b. Rejuvenation of Charcoal

If charcoal is to be used in the plant, it would be very desirable to recover the charcoal both from a cost of materials standpoint and from the cost of handling large quantities of charcoal. Hence, a series of experiments were made to see if the X and Mo could be stripped from the charcoal so that the charcoal could be used again.

It was thought that the removal of X from the charcoal could be accomplished by washing with ether and that the Mo complex could be broken with some base such as NH<sub>4</sub>OH and then washed out of the charcoal. It was believed impractical to try to remove the Mo before the X was removed because the X precipitate made by introducing a basic solution into the charcoal would probably inhibit the removal of Mo.

Two 50-ml portions of 32EE (See Extraction of 220-B) were each shaken with 1 gram of charcoal (Merck USP XII).

The two portions were then centrifuged and the clear ether solutions obtained were diluted to 50 ml and analyzed for Mo and XNO<sub>3</sub>. Each of the two charcoal residues were set aside to be rejuvenated.

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Each portion of charcoal containing Mo and  $XNO_3$  were washed with three 25-ml portions of pure ether. In each wash the charcoal was separated from wash liquor by centrifugation. In each wash the ether solution was analyzed for Mo and  $XNO_3$ . The charcoal was saved to be washed with an  $NH_4OH$  solution.

One portion of charcoal received two 25-ml washes with 6N  $NH_4OH$ . The other portion of charcoal received two 25-ml washes with 12N  $NH_4OH$ . In all cases the wash liquor was separated from the charcoal by centrifugation. The washes were analyzed for Mo.

Another experiment similar to the above was tried. The only difference was the use of N ether for washing out the  $XNO_3$ .

One of the portions of charcoal which had been washed with ether and then washed with  $NH_4OH$  was then re-shaken with 50 ml. of 32EE to see if the charcoal would still remove Mo from the ether extract.

Another portion of washed and rejuvenated charcoal was ignited at  $300^\circ C$  and the ash was digested in  $H_2SO_4$  and  $HNO_3$  to determine the  $XNO_3$  and Mo left in the ash.

Results:

Analysis of 32EE

|         |               |
|---------|---------------|
| $XNO_3$ | 0.2187 gms/ml |
| $MoO_3$ | 0.184 gms/l   |

Analyses of 32EE after Charcoal Treatment

|         |               |
|---------|---------------|
| $XNO_3$ | 0.1811 gms/ml |
| $MoO_3$ | 0.0013 gms/l  |

Analyses of Pure Ether Washes (25 ml each)

| <u>Wash No.</u> | <u>Gms <math>XNO_3</math>/ml</u> | <u>Gms <math>MoO_3</math>/l</u> |
|-----------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1               | 0.0456                           | 0                               |
| 2               | 0.01022                          | 0                               |
| 3               | 0.00324                          | 0                               |

Analyses of 1N Ether Washes (25 ml each)

| <u>Wash No.</u> | <u>Gms <math>XNO_3</math>/ml</u> | <u>Gms <math>MoO_3</math>/l</u> |
|-----------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1               | 0.0526                           | 0.0016                          |
| 2               | 0.01162                          | 0.0008                          |
| 3               | 0.00434                          | 0.0008                          |

Analyses of NH<sub>4</sub>OH Washes After Pure Ether Washes

| Wash No.   | 6N NH <sub>4</sub> OH      | 12N NH <sub>4</sub> OH     |
|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|
|  | Total Gms MoO <sub>3</sub> | Total Gms MoO <sub>3</sub> |
| 1  | 0.006900                   | 0.007300                   |
| 2  | 0.000880                   | 0.000790                   |
| Total gms MoO <sub>3</sub> Removed                       | 0.007780                   | 0.008090                   |
| Total gms MoO <sub>3</sub> in Charcoals before Treatment | 0.0092                     | 0.0092                     |
| Percent Removed  | 83.5%                      | 88%                        |

Analyses of NH<sub>4</sub>OH Washes after 1N Ether Washes

| Wash No.   | 6N NH <sub>4</sub> OH      | 12N NH <sub>4</sub> OH     |
|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|
|  | Total Gms MoO <sub>3</sub> | Total Gms MoO <sub>3</sub> |
| 1  | 0.0074                     | 0.008450                   |
| 2  | 0.000660                   | 0.000850                   |
| Total gms of MoO <sub>3</sub> Removed                          | 0.008060                   | 0.008450                   |
| Total gms of MoO <sub>3</sub> in Charcoal Before Rejuvenation. | 0.0092                     | 0.0092                     |
| Percent Removed  | 87.6%                      | 91.9%                      |

Analysis of 32EE shaken with 1 gm of Rejuvenated Charcoal

Total amount MoO<sub>3</sub> left in extract was 56 μ. It originally contained 9200 μ. total MoO<sub>3</sub>; therefore a reduction of 99.4% is represented.

Analysis of Ash from Rejuvenated Charcoal

Total grams of MoO<sub>3</sub> = 0.0011 g (or 12% of original)

It was desirable to know how often the charcoal could be rejuvenated. This experiment is not too indicative but is the only one performed to date.

Four grams of Verck USP activated charcoal (powdered) was mixed with 100 cc of 26EE (0.160 grams MoO<sub>3</sub>/l) extract and filtered immediately. The charcoal filter cake was then reslurried with hot water, filtered and washed with copious amounts of hot water. The moist charcoal cake was then well mixed with 100 cc of hot N NaOH, filtered and washed with copious amounts of

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hot water. The moist neutral charcoal cake was then well mixed with a fresh 100 cc portion of 26EE.

This four gram portion of charcoal (with rejuvenation after each use) was used to treat 9-100 cc portions of 26EE. The dried weight of the charcoal after the last rejuvenation was 3.29 grams.

The first extract after treating with the fresh charcoal had 0.001 grams MoO<sub>3</sub>/l.

After the fifth 100 cc portion of extract had been treated with the 4X rejuvenated charcoal, the extract contained 0.0014 g. MoO<sub>3</sub>/l.

After the ninth 100 cc portion of extract had been treated with the 8X rejuvenated charcoal, the extract contained 0.010 grams MoO<sub>3</sub>/l.

As indicated under IV-K-3a, the minimum amount of Merck Charcoal to adsorb all the Mo was approximately 4 grams per 250 cc or 1.6 grams per 100 cc 26EE. There was then enough adsorbing power in this 4 grams to adsorb the maximum Mo from 250 cc of extract. This charcoal was still adsorbing at maximum after 500 cc, but after 900 cc it was only adsorbing 1/10 of the amount fresh charcoal adsorbs.

Another rejuvenation experiment was performed by the Yale group, the purpose being to try hot NaOH to see if it removes Mo better than cold NH<sub>4</sub>OH. The experiment consisted of treating each of four 50-ml portions of 32EE (0.184 g. MoO<sub>3</sub>/l) with 1 gram of Merck USP activated charcoal (powdered). The portions were well mixed and filtered. The charcoal residues were then well washed 3X with ether to remove KNO<sub>3</sub>.

The first two portions of charcoal were then washed with two 25 ml portions of 6N NaOH (room temperature) and the other two with two 25-ml portions of 6N NaOH at 90-100° C. The charcoals were then washed with two 25 cc portions of cold water to remove the NaOH and soluble Mo.

Results of Wash with Cold 6N NaOH

| <u>Wash</u>    | <u>Micro-<br/>Total gms MoO<sub>3</sub> in Filtrate</u> |
|----------------|---|
| 1st 25 cc NaOH | 7250)   |
| 2nd 25 cc NaOH | 760) total = 8010 micrograms                            |

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Results of Water Wash after 6N NaOH

| <u>Wash</u>          | <u>Total micrograms MoO<sub>3</sub> in Filtrate</u> |
|----------------------|---|
| 1st H <sub>2</sub> O | 430 micrograms )                                    |
| 2nd H <sub>2</sub> O | 85 micrograms ) total = 515 micrograms              |

The total MoO<sub>3</sub> removed by the cold 6N NaOH and subsequent water wash was 8525 micrograms. The total micrograms in the 50 ml of extract was 9200, which can be assumed to be adsorbed practically 100% into the 1 gm of charcoal. Therefore, the charcoal still retains 7.3% of the Mo.

Results of Wash with Hot 6N NaOH

| <u>Wash</u>    | <u>Total micrograms MoO<sub>3</sub> in Filtrate</u> |
|----------------|---|
| 1st 25 cc NaOH | 7350 )  |
| 2nd 25 cc NaOH | 840 ) total = 8190 micrograms                       |

Water Wash After Hot 6N NaOH

| <u>Wash</u>          | <u>Total micrograms MoO<sub>3</sub> in Filtrate</u> |
|----------------------|---|
| 1st H <sub>2</sub> O | 460 )   |
| 2nd H <sub>2</sub> O | 80 ) total = 540 micrograms                         |

The total MoO<sub>3</sub> removed by hot 6N NaOH and water washes was 8730 micrograms. This represents 5% of the Mo still in the charcoal.

4. Other Adsorbents Than Charcoal

Since removal of Mo complexes from the extract by charcoal seemed to be a pure adsorption, it was thought other common adsorbents might work.

a. Silica Gel

100 cc of 26E Extract (0.16 g. MoO<sub>3</sub>/l) was mixed well with 10 grams of Silica Gel (labeled 6595-8-2000-Davidson Chemical Co.) and filtered immediately. Analysis of the filtrate indicated 0.126 g. MoO<sub>3</sub>/l or 21.2% Mo removal.

This silica gel was about the mesh of fine sand. It was obtained from Dr. Harrington of M.C.W. It did not lose its identity in the acid-ether extract or when standing around several days in water.

880 057

- b. Charcoal Ash (constitutes approximately 4% of the charcoal)  
(28% Mo removed)

It was thought by Dr. Harned of Yale that the ash of the charcoal might be adsorbing or breaking up the Mo complexes. A portion of Merck Activated Charcoal was ignited and 2 grams of the ash was used to treat 50 ml of 32E extract (0.222 g. MoO<sub>3</sub>/l). On standing 48 hours, the treated extract contained 0.150 g. MoO<sub>3</sub>/l or 28% Mo removal.

- c. Activated Alumina (18.5% of Mo removed)

50 ml of 32E extract (0.222 g. MoO<sub>3</sub>/l) was treated with 2 grams of Activated Alumina. On standing 48 hours the treated extract contained 0.180 g. MoO<sub>3</sub>/l or 18.5% removal of Mo.

- d. Ferric Oxide (ignited): (46% Mo removed)

Two grams of Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (ignited) was used to treat 50 ml of 32E extract (0.222 g. MoO<sub>3</sub>/l). The treated extract on standing 48 hours contained 0.120 g. MoO<sub>3</sub>/l.

Since powdered charcoal adsorbs 99+% of the Mo immediately, none of these common adsorbents as used here compared favorably to powdered charcoal.

Another method of attack was tried and that was to "tie up" the phosphate or silicates, which form the complexes, as some insoluble or unreactive compound and thus change the Mo to a non-ether-soluble form and keep it in the feed and raffinate.

The only experiments along these lines tried to date are as follows:

To 25 cc of 223A feed solution was added 0.3 grams of Fe(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub>·9H<sub>2</sub>O. This was treated to one shakeout with 50 cc of ether 1N with HNO<sub>3</sub>. The resulting extract contained 0.0107 g. MoO<sub>3</sub>/l.

Another experiment same as above except using 0.60 grams Fe(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>·9H<sub>2</sub>O gave an extract containing 0.0096 grams MoO<sub>3</sub>/l.

5. Low Acid Digestions and Feed Neutralization

It was found that the extract from the 1.3X digestions (218 and 219) contained something on the order of 0.003 to 0.006 grams MoO<sub>3</sub>/l even when using 1N HNO<sub>3</sub> in the solvent. The feeds were 0.01 and 0.005N respectively. It is believed that in these low acid digestions very small amounts of the ether soluble Mo complexes are formed.

830 058

After our findings on the effect of acidity on the distribution of the Mo complex between ether and water, Princeton started working on the problem and soon found that neutralization of the feed with Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> or CaO and using no acid in the ether gave an extract with practically no Mo.



Results of Neutralization of Feed by Princeton

Feed used was 220E containing 2.20 grams MoO<sub>3</sub>/l. Procedure consisted of shaking once with an equal volume of neutral ether.

As a result of the above experiments it was decided to try running some neutralized feed in the continuous tower at Yale.

Princeton's Results Table

| <u>Trial</u> | <u>gms Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> per 100 cc of Feed</u> | <u>Extract Gms MoO<sub>3</sub>/l</u> | <u>N of HNO<sub>3</sub> in Feed Solutions</u> |
|--------------|--|--------------------------------------|---|
| 1*           | 5  | 0.0047                               | --  |
| 2            | 0  | 0.70                                 | 0.85  |
| 3            | 3  | 0.644                                | 0.38  |
| 4            | 4  | 0.11                                 | 0.19  |
| 5            | 5  | (ppt formed & discarded)             |   |

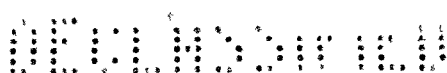
\* 1 is original solution; 2, 3, 4, & 5 are the original solution saturated with NaNO<sub>3</sub>.

Digestion 223 was made for the sole purpose of obtaining enough uniform feed solution to try various neutralization experiments. Details of this digestion and subsequent extractions can be found under IV-J.

Following is a table with a summary of the results on neutralizing the feed. (Packed tower used.)

| <u>% Efficiency of Extraction</u> | <u>Feed Solution Identity</u> | <u>Neutralizing Agent</u>       | <u>N of HNO<sub>3</sub></u> |                | <u>gms MoO<sub>3</sub>/l</u> |                | <u>Comments</u>   |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|------------------------------|----------------|---|
|                                   |                               |                                 | <u>Feed</u>                 | <u>Solvent</u> | <u>Feed</u>                  | <u>Extract</u> |   |
| 99.                               | 223A-36E                      | None                            |                             | 0.0            | 1.325                        | 0.068          | Good flow rates - very slight emulsion.                                   |
| 99.5                              | 223B-37E                      | Na <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub> | 0.096                       | 0.0            | 1.29                         | 0.0006         | Very low rates - bad emulsions - precipitate in raffinate.                |
| 98.8                              | 223B-38E                      | Na <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub> | 0.096                       | 0.1            | 1.29                         | 0.021          | Very low rates - considerable emulsion - slight precipitate in raffinate. |
| 99.3                              | 223B-39E                      | Na <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub> | 0.096                       | 1.0            | 1.29                         | 0.07           | Low rates - emulsions - turbid raffinate.                                 |
| 99.5                              | 223C-40E                      | CaO                             | 0.02                        | 0.0            | 1.2                          | 0.001          | Low rates - bad emulsion - lot of precipitate in raffinate.               |
| 99.7                              | 223C-41E                      | CaO                             | 0.096                       | 0.1            | 1.29                         | 0.019          | Very low rates - bad emulsion - considerable precipitate in raffinate.    |
| 99.8                              | 223C-42E                      | CaO                             | 0.096                       | 1.0            | 1.29                         | 0.27           | Moderately high rates - slight emulsion - turbid raffinate.               |

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Neutralization of the feed multiplies our emulsion problem and it also cuts our extraction efficiency especially if high  $P_2O_5$  ores would be used.

L. Emulsion Experiments

1. Boil-down of Feed Solutions

In experiments in both the laboratory and plant at MCW some success had been attained in reducing the emulsion problems in a batch extractor by boiling down the feed solutions to a temperature higher than the boiling point of pure  $XO_2(NO_3)_2 \cdot CH_2O$ . Hence, it was decided to try this on some of the feed solutions which emulsified at Yale.

300 ml of 219-FS (See Extraction 29-E) was concentrated to a boiling-point of  $140^\circ C$ . The solution was then diluted to its original volume. A red precipitate was formed during the boil-down and did not go back into solution when the liquor was diluted. The solution was then filtered. The residue was washed with water and dried. The weight of the residue was 0.815 grams, and a sample was sent to MCW for identification of elements present, especially Si. The filtrate was tested in the bubbler and no emulsion could be formed. The acid in the ether was varied from 0 to approximately 1N. No emulsion could be made with any of the various acid concentrations; however, when the acid concentration was as low as 0.15N, a yellow precipitate formed in the water layer after most of the  $XNO_3$  had been extracted.

Another 300 ml portion of 219-BF was concentrated to  $120^\circ C$  instead of  $140^\circ C$ , diluted and filtered. The extraction test again gave no emulsion.

A 300 ml portion of 216-BF (See Extraction of 216 Liquors) was concentrated to a boiling point of  $120^\circ C$ , diluted to original volume and filtered. The extraction test on the filtrate gave no emulsion.

A 300 ml portion of 216-MFS (See Extraction of 216 Liquors) was concentrated to a boiling point of  $150^\circ C$ , diluted to original volume, and filtered. The extraction test gave no emulsion.

2. Charcoal Treatment of Feed Solutions

One 300 ml portion of 216-MFS was thoroughly mixed with 1 gram of Merck Activated Charcoal (USP XII) and allowed to stand for an hour with occasional slushing. Another 300 ml

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portion of 216-MFS was treated in a similar manner with 5 grams of the same charcoal. Both solutions were filtered and tested in the bubbler. In both cases an emulsion was formed.

3. Water Spray for Breaking Emulsions

No detailed experiments were made to determine if a fine spray of water would break an emulsion. However, in at least three runs in the small bubbler in which emulsions had formed, the emulsion was easily broken by squirting a small stream of water from a wash bottle into the ether layer in the bubbler. The emulsion breaks almost instantaneously as the drops of water pass through; however, after the water has passed through, the emulsion forms again.

4. Miscellaneous Emulsion Experiments

Some of the 223B feed solution (neutralized with  $\text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3$ ) which gave a bad emulsion in the packed tower was tried in Yale's bubbler emulsion tester. Neutral ether was used for this test. (This bubbler simulates a single section of their plate tower except the water phase is not continuously drained and feed is not continuously added.) A bad emulsion was formed immediately. The water phase was drained and the emulsion layer and clear extract were saved. After washing out the bubbler, the partially extracted water layer was put back in and ether run through it again with formation of an emulsion. The water phase was drained and the procedure was repeated three times; on the fourth trial no emulsion formed. A portion of the water layer from a similar experiment using same feed and solvent was saturated with M.C.W. Chemical 253 ( $\text{XO}_2\text{NO}_3 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ) until the specific gravity exceeded that of the original feed. It was then tried in the bubbler again with no emulsion formation at all.

Samples of emulsion layer, clear extract, and extracted emulsion-free water phase were taken by R. Mundy of Princeton for analysis.

Results:

a. Emulsion Phase

Total Volume - 50 cc (46 cc clear extract (discarded)  
(4 cc aqueous

| $\text{SiO}_2$ | Mo    | $\text{P}_2\text{O}_5$ | Fe    | Insol. from $\text{SiO}_2$<br>(prob. $\text{BaSO}_4$ ) |
|----------------|-------|------------------------|-------|--|
| 0.020          | 0.115 | 0.023                  | 0.144 | 0.362  |

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b. Raffinate Phase

Standing overnight produced a precipitation - 30 cc of raffinate centrifuged gave 3.75 cc of precipitation.

|           | <u>SiO<sub>2</sub></u> | <u>Mo</u> | <u>P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub></u> | <u>Fe</u> | <u>Insol. from SiO<sub>2</sub><br/>(prob. BaSO<sub>4</sub>)</u> |
|-----------|------------------------|-----------|-----------------------------------|-----------|---|
| Ppt.      | 0.001                  | 0.049     | 0.010                             | 0.053     | 0.139   |
| Clear     |                        |           |                                   |           |   |
| Raffinate | 0.000                  | 0.029     | 0.004                             | 0.029     | 0.258   |
| Total     | 0.001                  | 0.078     | 0.014                             | 0.082     | 0.397   |

The greatest difference between the water phase from the emulsion layer and the raffinate is their silica content (20X). The water phase from the emulsion layer is from 0 to 2 times greater in the other analyzed constituents than the raffinate.

M. Roasting of Ore for My Distribution

600. grams of AAA ore (69% X<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub> - through 40 mesh) was thoroughly mixed and divided into three portions, A, B, and C. Portion A was roasted in the presence of air. Portion B was mixed with 5 grams of activated charcoal. Portion C was held as a control for comparison with either of the other two.

Portions A and B were roasted in a muffle furnace at 265° C for 18 hours.

Each of the three portions were then digested in 2X HNO<sub>3</sub>, filtered and washed with hot water. The gangues were sampled to be analyzed for X and My. The filtrates from A and B were sampled to be analyzed for X and Mo. Sample C was used in a beaker experiment for precipitation of sulfate as CaSO<sub>4</sub>.

Analyses:

|                    | <u>My<br/>In Gangue</u>      | <u>XNO<sub>3</sub><br/>In Gangue</u> | <u>% X<br/>Recovery</u> |
|--------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Portion A          | 39 x 10 <sup>-8</sup> gms/gm | 0.0400 gms/gm                        | 99.3                    |
| Portion B          | 38 x 10 <sup>-8</sup> gms/gm | 0.0562 gms/gm                        | 99.1                    |
| Portion C          | 42 x 10 <sup>-8</sup> gms/gm | 0.0506 gms/gm                        | 99.0                    |
|                    | <u>XNO<sub>3</sub> g/ml</u>  | <u>MoO<sub>3</sub> μ/ml</u>          |                         |
| Portion A Filtrate | 0.282                        | 740                                  |                         |
| Portion B Filtrate | 0.308                        | 590                                  |                         |

N. Precipitation of Excess H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> as CaSO<sub>4</sub>

In some of the BaSO<sub>4</sub> filtrations, difficulty was encountered in getting a clear filtrate and also the filtration rate was variable.

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Because  $\text{CaSO}_4$  filters easier than  $\text{BaSO}_4$ , it was thought that most of the excess sulfate after the Pb removal might be precipitated as  $\text{CaSO}_4$  in the presence of a large quantity of  $\text{Ca}(\text{NO}_3)_2$  which could be used as a salting agent. If the precipitation of sulfate as  $\text{CaSO}_4$  was insufficient it was thought that a double precipitation of  $\text{CaSO}_4$  and  $\text{BaSO}_4$  might filter easier than a single precipitation of  $\text{BaSO}_4$ .

The filtrate from a 100 gm digestion used as a control digestion for roasted ore (Portion C) was used in this experiment.

Assuming 6% PbO in the ore, it was calculated that 9.4 ml of 66° Be  $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$  would be required to precipitate the Pb as  $\text{PbSO}_4$ . This quantity was added to the solution and found to be sufficient by testing for completeness of precipitation. The  $\text{PbSO}_4$  was removed by filtration through a Buchner funnel.

The amount of excess  $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$  in the solution was calculated to be 14.5 grams. 10.95 grams of  $\text{Ca}(\text{OH})_2$  was added to the solution to neutralize the excess  $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$ . 57.8 grams of  $\text{Ca}(\text{NO}_3)_2 \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$  was then added to the solution to approximate a feed solution containing 300 grams per liter of  $\text{Ca}(\text{NO}_3)_2 \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$ . Upon the addition of  $\text{Ca}(\text{OH})_2$  only a slight amount of precipitate formed. However, there was considerable precipitation when the  $\text{Ca}(\text{NO}_3)_2$  was added. The solution after the addition of  $\text{Ca}(\text{NO}_3)_2$  was 800 ml. The solution was concentrated to 200 ml, at which time the solution was cooled. Upon cooling there was considerable crystallization. The solution was diluted with water to about 300 cc to dissolve the  $\text{Ca}(\text{NO}_3)_2$  crystals and filtered. The  $\text{CaSO}_4$  cake was washed with 100 cc of  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ . The weight of the dried cake was 8.2 grams, which is equivalent to 5.9 grams of  $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$ . Therefore, the percent of the sulfate precipitated was 40.2%.

The  $\text{CaSO}_4$  and the filtrate were then slurried again and heated to boiling. The stoichiometric amount of  $\text{BaCO}_3$  required to precipitate the remaining 59.8% excess sulfate was added to the boiling solution and digested for fifteen minutes at the boiling temperature. The hot solution was then filtered through an 11 cm Buchner funnel using No. 1 Whatman paper. The filtration was rapid and a clear filtrate was obtained immediately.

#### 0. Acid Recovery From Raffinate

The purpose of this experiment was to see if nitric acid could be recovered to any extent from the raffinate.

250 cc of 222-35E-R (Raffinate from 2.5 X - no  $\text{NaNO}_3$  digestion) was taken after de-etherization (during which some brown fumes were lost). It was 1.65N in acid.

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The apparatus used for distillation consisted of a 500 cc distilling flask with a thermometer placed in the liquor, a bulb condenser, and an adapter, the end of which was kept beneath the distillate throughout the distillation to prevent undue losses of HNO<sub>3</sub>.

Flame was removed after boiling had started at 105° C. No auto reaction was observed, so distillation was continued. Moderate brown fumes came over at first. They did not dissolve in the distillate and so were lost. The distillation was continued until the temperature reached 148-150° C. The volume of distillate was estimated at 30 cc. It was yellow and viscous and started to crystallize on cooling.

The volume of distillate and wash from the condenser was 250 cc, 1 cc of which was equivalent to 12 cc of 0.105 N NaOH or 1.26 N representing a recovery of

$$\frac{1.26}{1.65} \times 100 = 76.5\%$$

The still residue was diluted to 250 cc with water. The precipitate coagulated when boiled, leaving a clear, colorless, supernatant water layer. The above cooled slurry was neutralized (alkaline to litmus) with 80 cc of approximately 20% NaOH solution. It filtered only at a moderate rate, giving a very gelatinous cake.

P. Preparation of Shotgun Sample

Most of the chemical and spectrographic analyses of the good liquor made at Yale indicated that the material made by adsorbing the Mo in charcoal and washing the other impurities from the ether extract would pass practically all of the chemical specifications for Chemical 306. However, it seemed advisable to prepare enough good liquor for a shotgun analysis, and it was decided to prepare some good liquor from the ether extract from Digestions 221 and 222.

1. Good Liquor From Digestion 221

6.2 gallons of ether extract from Digestion 221 (221-34-EE) was treated with 2.17 pounds of Merck Activated Charcoal (USP XII). The slurry was stirred in a 20-gallon tank. The slurry was then filtered through a single frame stainless steel press made by clamping one frame between two plates using C-clamps. The filter media was glass cloth, which was precoated with about 1/8 inches of filter cell. The filtration was rapid and clear.

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The ether extract was then washed in the spray washer at a washing ratio of 1/11.9 (water:ether extract) and stripped in the spray stripper at a stripping ratio of 1/1.7 (water:ether). (For analyses of the products from these operations see "G. Digestion 221". The volume of water extract obtained was 3.96 gallons.

The water extract was transferred to a five gallon stainless steel tank to be de-etherized. The solution was de-etherized in 12 1/2 minutes, using a steam coil. The temperature range was 19° C - 102° C. No trouble was encountered and there were no brown fumes.

2. Good Liquor From Digestion 222

4.78 gallons of ether extract from Digestion 222 (222-35-EE) was treated with 1.6 pounds of Merck Activated Charcoal (USP XII) in the same manner that the extract from Digestion 221 was treated. The filtration through the single frame press was again rapid and clear.

The ether extract was washed and stripped using the same washing and stripping ratios as had been used for 34-EE. (For analysis of products in these operations, see "H Digestion 222").

The water extract was then de-etherized to a temperature of 80-90° C in a 5 gallon stainless steel tank. At this temperature, the de-etherized good liquor from Digestion 221 was poured in with the solution being de-etherized. When the temperature of combined solutions reached a temperature of 95° C, a vigorous reaction started with the evolution of brown fumes. This reaction continued with the steam off for about ten minutes. It was thought that the high acid concentration in the extract from Digestion 222 was the cause of the reaction.

The mixture of the two solutions was then concentrated in the five gallon tank and crystallized. After about two hours of concentration, it was discovered that the stainless steel lid on the tank had two brass rivets in it. Hence, the good liquor was probably contaminated.

By an ignition to  $X_3O_8$  assay of the solution, the amount of X in the form of good liquor was calculated to be 6.6 pounds. This good liquor was combined with 15.6 pounds X as  $XO_2$ , which had a shotgun of 0.02 ± 0.05% (without assay). A shotgun analysis was made of this mixture equivalent to 22.2 pounds X.

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Results:

MCF Sample #70 0.04 ± 0.05%  
 Total 0.04  
 Contributed by 15.6 pounds is  $\frac{15.6 \times 0.02}{22.2} = 0.014$   
 Contributed by 6.6 pounds = 0.026

$0.026 \times \frac{22.2}{6.6} = 0.0875$  shotgun result on our 6.6 pounds of metal.

Q. Test for Precious Metals

Since the filtrate from the caustic precipitated raffinate (also sump liquors in plant) is the only portion of material in this process likely to go down the sewer, it was advisable to have some of this liquor tested for precious metals.

A portion of the filtrate from the precipitated raffinates from extraction 43 and 44 was boiled down until upon cooling a solid crystal mass was formed. Spectrographic analysis of this crystalline material at M.C.W. gave the following results:

|    | <u>43</u> | <u>44</u> |    | <u>43</u> | <u>44</u> |
|----|-----------|-----------|----|-----------|-----------|
| Ag | N         | N         | Mn | N         | N         |
| Al | L-S       | L-S       | Mo | L-S       | L-S       |
| As | N         | N         | Na | C         | C         |
| Au | L         | L         | Ni | N         | N         |
| B  | L         | L         | Os | N         | N         |
| Ba | L         | L         | P  | N         | N         |
| Be | N         | N         | Pb | N         | N         |
| Bi | N         | N         | Pd | L         | L         |
| C  |           |           | Pt | N         | N         |
| Ca | L-S       | L-S       | Rb | N         | N         |
| Cb | N         | N         | Re | N         | N         |
| Cd | N         | N         | Rh |           |           |
| Ce | N         | N         | Ru |           |           |
| Co | N         | N         | Sb | N         | N         |
| Cr | N         | N         | Sc | N         | N         |
| Cs | N         | N         | Si | L         | L         |
| Cu | L         | L         | Sn | N         | N         |
| F  | N         | N         | Sr | L-S       | L-S       |
| Fe | L         | L         | Ta | N         | N         |
| Ga |           |           | Th |           |           |
| Ge | N         | N         | Ti | N         | N         |
| Hf |           |           | Tl | N         | N         |
| Hg | N         | N         | U  | N         | N         |
| In | L         | L         | V  | N         | N         |
| Ir | N         | N         | W  | N         | N         |
| K  | N         | N         | Y  |           |           |
| La | N         | N         | Zn | N         | N         |
| Li | N         | N         | Zr | N         | N         |
| Ma |           |           | Sm | N         | N         |
| Mg | L         | L         |    |           |           |