Starr

Property File
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REPORT OF INSPECTION

OF THE

RED BIRD MINE

ON

PEND OREILLE RIVER

B.C.

To
Frank Eichelberger, Trustee,
Field, B. C.

By Chas. C. Starr,
May 19, 1930.

INTRODUCTION: This report is based on a one day inspection of the mine. No samples were taken.

LOCATION: The property is situated on the south side of the Pend d' Oreille River about fifteen miles east from Waneta on a branch of the Great Northern Railway. It is just across the river from the lower workings of the Reeves-McDonald mine.

PROPERTY: There are seven Crown Granted claims in the Group, the Lead Pot, Lead Cup, Red Bird, Royal, Edna, Annie, Betty, as well as a number of claims that are held by location. The property is owned by the Red Bird Mining Co., a Washington corporation, of which Beeson Bros. of Spokane are the heaviest stockholders. Arthur Campbell of Nelson was the locator of the property and owns 180,000 shares.

TIMBER, WATER, & POWER: There is a large amount of very good timber on the property. Water is scarce and only sufficient for domestic use, except at the river which is much lower. It is understood that electric power will be furnished to the Reeves-McDonald mine within the next two years, and it will undoubtedly be possible to obtain power from the same transmission line.

TRANSPORTATION: The bridge at the river is fourteen miles from Waneta and 24 from Salmo, but the road to the latter place is much the best; both of the towns are on the Spokane-Nelson branch of the Great Northern Railway. The river is crossed on a suspension bridge which will be covered with water when the dam of the West Kootenay Power Co. is completed. From this bridge a fair trail of good grade

leads to the mine a mile and a quarter distant.

TOPOGRAPHY: The mine workings are situated in a steep shallow gulch from 900 to 2000 feet vertically above the river, and from a half mile upwards distant. The vein outcrops along the gulch and on its north side. The slopes are steep but fairly smooth. The elevation at the lower tunnel is approximately 2600 feet.

EQUIPMENT: The equipment is quite limited and consists of a cook-house, bunk house, blacksmith shop, ore-car, track, and a few hand mining tools.

HISTORY: The property was purchased from the original locator in 1924; the Red Bird Company was organized in 1925 and most of the work was done between then and 1927. For the past year the mine has been under option to the Boundary Basin Mining Co. who have defaulted in their payments, after digging some surface cuts and doing some diamond drilling.

GEOLOGY: The rocks on the property belong to the Pend d' Oreille series and consist of argillaceous schists and limestones striking northeast and southwest and dip from 55° to 70° southeast. While there are some local variations, the strike and dips observed are unusually uniform although some of the schists are much crumpled. There are occasional small dikes of lamprophyre.

There is some faulting of post-mineral age nearly at right angles to the strata; the throw has not been positively determined.

VEIN: The Red Bird vein conforms with the strata in dip and strike; the former varies from 50° to 70° southeast

and the latter from S 50° to 70° W. The width of the vein is not definitely known. In the surface workings it varies from five feet to nearly forty in some places; in the main tunnel three crosscuts expose a width averaging about twenty feet.

The vein filling consists of limonite and oxidised lead and zinc minerals in a gangue composed of sand and clay residual from the decomposition of the limestone which evidently formed the body of the vein as well as both its walls. There is practically no quartz, calcite, or sulphides of any kind to be found in the present workings. The vein is comparatively dry and very soft, but usually stands without timbering, if theopening is arched.

Very little metallic mineral of any kind can be distinguished by the naked eye, and, to a stranger at least, there is little to differentiate ore from waste except the weight.

DETAILS OF WORKINGS:

<u>1st Cut west of Main Tunnel Portal</u> - This is the most easterly point the vein has been found on the surface. Sandy limonitic material shows over a width of 35 feet. The average of four samples, width not given, is 0.9 Oz. silver, 4.85% lead, 12.7% zinc. (NOTE: This and all following assays were furnished by the Company, and have not been checked by the writer).

<u>No. 2 Tunnel and Shaft above</u>: A rather indeterminate width of mineralization shows just above the shaft - perhaps 25 feet. The shaft is closely timbered but is said to have shown high lead values. However, the

samples do not show exceptionally high lead: - (average) 0.9 Oz. silver, 5.3% lead, 15.5% zinc.

Near the portal of the tunnel a ten foot vein shows, and further in there ~~is~~ are scattered streaks of mineralization.

Six feet of the ten foot vein is reported to assay, 2.0% lead, 15.2% zinc.

No. 3 Tunnel and Cut The width of the vein at this point is rather indeterminate, but probably more than twenty feet.

The values claimed for the cut, in coherent sandy material, is 1.0 Oz silver, 2.5% lead, zinc 15.9% over a width of about fifteen feet. The tunnel is a short one, driven along the hanging wall side of the vein which appears very strong. The fault in the main tunnel projects just southwest of the face of this tunnel, but is not visible on the surface.

No. 4 Tunnel and Cut This work is approximately 1200 feet southwest from No. 3 tunnel, and 2100 feet southwest from the portal of the main tunnel; it is far beyond the fault.

In the cut there is eight feet of strongly mineralized material plus a further twenty feet of weaker mineralization.

The only sample given showed no lead and 25% zinc across 16" in the face of the tunnel.

Work beyond No. 4 Tunnel At perhaps a thousand feet southwest of No. 4 Tunnel, and 400 feet higher, there is a cut showing twenty five feet of mineralized sandy material which is said to carry lead and zinc values, and may be the main vein, although it is uncertain on account of the distance from other exposures.

Main Tunnel The total footage of work in the tunnel is 1550 feet, exclusive of a winze, of which 500 feet is on the vein, and an additional 140 feet may or may not be on the main vein. The vein was first cut about 50 feet from the portal in an app rently low grade and narrow place.

A crosscut was then driven back cutting the vein in 65 feet and it was then followed for 500 feet until cut off by a northwest-southeast fault dipping 45° eastward.

There are three crosscuts to the southeast in this section of the vein which indicate an average width of about 20 feet.

There are no crosscuts to the northwest and it is possible there is more vein on that side also. The values through this section, based on eighteen samples, are given as 1.2 Oz silver, 6.0% lead, 18.5% zinc. It is stated that no specimen assays were included, it is however probable that the full width of the vein is not represented.

At the winze, 27 feet deep, some especially good lead assays are given.

Beyond the fault low grade vein-matter four or five feet wide was encountered and followed for 140 feet when it was again lost and was not again picked up. There is some doubt as to whether this is a segment of the main vein or not.

GENERAL NOTES: The vein is large and strong, but the surface openings are so far apart that it cannot be assumed that the vein width and character is maintained between them, or that all of them are necessarily on the same vein.

The values, as quoted, are not known to be correct

and it is probable that they do not represent the full width of the vein, - it is certain that in the tunnel they seldom represent more than the width of the drift.

Some diamond drilling has been done within the last year but the records were not available at the time of the examination. It is reported locally that the deepest point at which the vein was cut was two hunderd feet below the tunnel, or at a vertical depth below the outcrop of not more than 500 feet; the oxidised condition is reported to be unchanged at that depth. Holes were started to cut the vein at a greater depth but some of them had to be abandoned and none are reported to have reached its position.

The position of the vein is not known below the Main Tunnel, except that there is strong mineralization reported at the river on Reeves-McDonald property which is thought to be its faulted continuation. There is about nine hundred feet of Red Bird property along the course of the vein to the northeast of the Main Tunnel; the drop in elevation in this distance is around 350 feet.

Oxidation of the vein is complete to the greatest depth it has been opened, - about 500 feet -, and there is nothing to indicate at what depth sulphides may be expected, except that they should come in at the level of the river which is 900 feet lower.

So far as I am aware, no commercial treatment for ores of this type has yet been evolved, and until one is found the mine is of value only for the sulphide ores which are supposed to occur below the zone of oxidation,

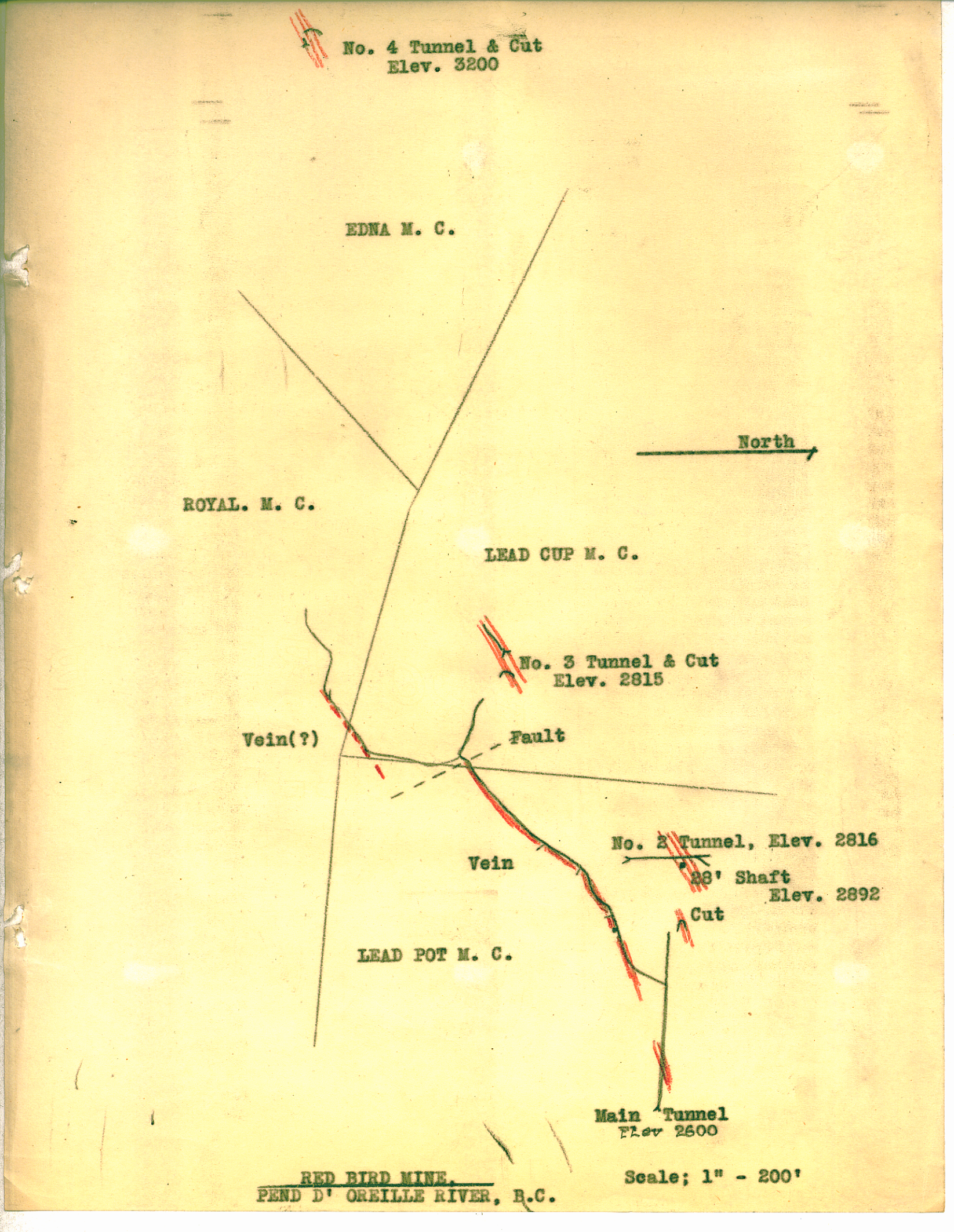
and from which the oxides and carbonates were undoubtedly derived. This being the case it seems futile to go to the expense of a more thorough study of the property, and sampling of the vein, at the present time.

CONCLUSION: The vein is large and strong and the metal content apparently good, except that zinc predominates, but the oxidised condition of the ore makes it of little or no present commercial value.

It is probable that there is a body of sulphide ore which is of commercial grade, below the zone of oxidation, but it is to be presumed that the sulphides would be high in zinc and at a very considerable distance below the present workings. Apparently diamond drilling in the hanging wall of the vein has been attended with a great deal of difficulty, and expense. Underground work to open the sulphide zone would probably be quite extensive and costly, therefore I do not recommend that the development of the property be undertaken.

Respectfully submitted,

Chas. C. Starr



RED BIRD MINE.
PEND D' OREILLE RIVER, B.C.

Scale; 1" - 200'