

Progress Report November 15, 1956THE WESTERN EXPLORATION CO., SILVERTON, B.C.

In the Monarch-Hecla mine the raise between the Hecla and Monarch levels, a distance along the vein of 420 ft., is progressing satisfactorily, and has 100 ft. to go to connect with the Monarch tunnel. It is expected that this will be completed before the end of the year. A station has been cut at the bottom of the orebody outlined by diamond drilling in the spring of 1954 and intermediate drifts will be driven from it as soon as the raise is completed. Besides opening up the ore body for stoping this should throw more light on the rake of the ore which has not yet been proven. The east face of the station shows about 2 ft. of ore assaying 9.6% lead, 18.8% zinc and 51.6 oz. silver. The west face is in sub-commercial ore.

Above the station the raise is being driven in the hanging wall rock immediately above the ore, since under the existing conditions this will speed up the work considerably. This ore, as indicated by the drill holes, will average 8.7% lead, 5.1% zinc, and 35.2 oz. silver over a stoping width of 5.0 ft.

Diamond drilling from a 200 ft. hanging wall crosscut, to cut the vein below the Hecla level, has been inconclusive as no ore of commercial grade and width has been found, although all holes have shown some lead and zinc.

Drilling has now been discontinued but will be resumed as soon as a second hanging wall cross-cut can be driven for a drill station some 200 ft. west of the present one. This has been delayed by a shortage of good miners.

In the Buffalo-Mammoth mine development is continuing on good ore but has been slowed down by chute construction and other preparations for stoping and shortage of timbermen.

The Company's concentrator at Silverton continues to treat custom ore, but has also treated its own development ore in periodical runs.

Since last June the company has milled 2656 tons of development ore (no stoping has been done) in which the mill heads averaged 5.2% lead, 6.3% zinc and 12.2 oz. silver. From this known and estimated smelter returns have amounted to \$26.46 per ton of mill feed which has paid all current development costs as well as increasing the working capital.