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DESCRIPTION OF DEPOSITS.Pinchi Lake

The mercury property at Pinchi Lake owned by the Consolidated Mining and Smelting Company of Canada, Limited, comprises the following mineral claims: Mercury Nos. 1 to 3, Pinchi Nos. 1 to 4, Dugout Nos. 1 to 8, Chief Nos. 1 to 2 and fractions.

The discovery of cinnabar was made in the summer of 1937 by J. G. Gray of the Geological Survey of Canada, and is described by him on p. 9 of Paper 38-14, 1938. However the original claims, the Mercury Nos. 1 to 3, were not staked until May, 1938, by A. J. Ostrem, George Nielson and A. R. Brown; these were optioned in that year by the Consolidated Mining and Smelting Company of Canada, Limited, and the remaining claims staked the same year. Since that time this company has erected a comfortable camp on the northern shore of Pinchi Lake.

The discovery showings are along the top of a prominent limestone ridge 700 feet above and adjacent to the northern shore of Pinchi Lake approximately 6 miles from the north-western end of the lake.

The property may be reached from Fort St. James at the southern end of Stuart Lake, by one of two land-water routes. Of these the better and the one in common use in 1939, is via Stuart Lake for 13 miles to Pinchi Lake Indian Reserve, thence by an unimproved wagon-road on good grade for $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles to the southern shore of Pinchi Lake. From this point the distance by water is about 2 miles to the company's camp on the northern shore of the lake, behind a small island, beneath the showings. Alternatively, the property may be reached by a trail and poor wagon-road, 8 miles in length, branching westerly from the Fort St. James-Manson Creek road at a point about 17 miles north of Fort St. James, and connecting with a point on the northern shore of Pinchi Lake, about 7 miles distant by water from the company's camp. By far the quickest way to reach the property, however, is by airplane from Fort St. James, where planes are usually obtainable. The air-line distance is about 15 miles.

The Pinchi Lake cinnabar deposit consists of a cinnabar-bearing fracture-zone that cuts a series of dynamically metamorphosed sediments. The rocks include limestone, cherty quartzite, quartz-mica schist and a little glaucophane schist.

The first shipment of mercury from the Pinchi Lake plant, was made in July 1940, when 400 flasks were sent by plane from the reduction plant to Fort St. James, and to Montreal.

The shipment was the largest ever sent from a Canadian mine. Previous production in British Columbia has been light, between 1890 and 1895, 138 flasks were sent from Copper Creek cinnabar deposits, near Kamloops; five flasks were recovered from the same source in the period 1924 - 1927. During 1938 ten flasks were produced from the property of the Empire Mercury in the Bridge River country, and a slightly larger quantity in 1939.

Press reports under date of October 29, 1941, state that at the Pinchi Lake property a new 500-ton mill will be in operation by November 1st, and will step up to 800 tons daily, the capacity of the plant. The Pinchi Lake operation of the Consolidated, has developed into the major mercury producer in the British Empire.

Production: (Confidential to Bureau and not to be disclosed)

1940	153,444 lb.	Approx. value, \$354,000
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The same press reports make note that George Snell, of Vanderhoof, is credited with an important discovery of cinnabar ore in the Tatla lake district, and the Bralorne Mines, Ltd., is reported to have an engineer looking the ground over. Interest is added in no far the discovery may indicate an extension of the Pinchi Lake field.