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PROPERTY FILE

OLD ENGLAND
GROUP

REPORT OF THE OLD ENGLAND GROUP

DEC 10 1948

CAMP MCKINNEY,
GREENWOOD MINING DIVISION

Referred to _____

Ans'd _____

December 5th, 1948INTRODUCTION:

Under instructions from R. W. Wyllie I visited Camp McKinney in October, 1948. Mr. Wyllie had recently acquired the Old England, Snowdon, and Lemon crown-granted mineral claims. He instructed me to stake a group of eight claims surrounding the crown-grants, and to arrange for the rehabilitation of old workings on the Old England crown-grant with a view to making a geological examination at a later date, after the workings had been made accessible.

It was found, however, that a forest fire which swept the area in 1932 had destroyed most of the camps and timbered portals of tunnels and collars of shafts, and that subsequently a thick second growth of tamarack had masked the location of these workings even further. In addition, some of the workings which are in the creek canyon had been hidden by slides.

Such being the case it was decided that much more time would be needed to find these workings than was available and so search for them was postponed until the Spring of 1949.

Eight claims were staked, however, and a traverse was made down the canyon of Jolly Creek which resulted in the finding of some workings and mineralization which will be described in the following notes.

CLAIMS & OWNERSHIP:

All of the mineral claims shown on the accompanying map, with the exception of the Victoria crown-granted mineral claim, are owned by R. W. Wyllie of 1220 Homer Street, Vancouver, B. C. They comprise:

Crown Granted Mineral Claims

<u>Name</u>	<u>Lot No.</u>
Old England	Lot 658
Snowdon	Lot 583
Lemon	Lot 760

Claims Held by Location

Eight fractional mineral-claims named W-1 to W-8 inclusive.

LOCATION AND ACCESS:

The Old England Group is about nine miles north of the

International Boundary and six miles north of Bridesville, a small village on the Provincial Highway between Greenwood and Osoyoos. A branch road of easy grade and in good condition leaves the highway some four miles east of Bridesville and provides easy access to the claims which it crosses as is shown on the accompanying map. The workings found in the creek bottom are reached from this road by following a graded trail for a few hundred yards down to the placer camp and then following the creek-bottom up-stream to the various workings.

A power-line of the West Kootenay Power Company passes by about one mile south of the claims.

BUILDINGS:

All of the old camp buildings have been destroyed by fire except a log cabin located at the placer camp shown on the accompanying map. This building could be rehabilitated cheaply and would house four or five men during preliminary investigations.

HISTORY:

Following is a summary of notes taken from the Annual Reports of the B. C. Department of Mines:

- 1894-Page 754. Shaft sunk 35 feet. ^{Old England.} Ore is high-grade gold ore similar to that found on neighboring Victoria Claim. *Victoria 110' inclined shaft - rich ore taken.*
- 1895-Page 705. Has 65 foot inclined shaft. Shaft was sunk to tap a chute of telluride ore carrying gold and silver, the ore being in talco-schist formation.
- 1896-Page 575. On this claim there are three veins running more or less parallel in a northerly and southerly direction the entire length of the claim. The dip of the veins is easterly. The main or centre vein is over 20 feet in width, and at a depth of 75 feet may be described as follows:- Commencing at the hanging wall is a gouge or salvage some 10 to 18 inches in thickness, composed of talc, impregnated with sulphides, adjoining which is a rich streak of ore some two or three feet in width, following which, towards the foot-wall, there are streaks of quartz and talc, intermixed, containing sulphides and galena, carrying gold. The shaft follows the hanging wall at a dip of about 45° for 50 feet; thence straightens to about 70° . The shaft is 6 feet by 8 feet 8 inches, securely timbered. A tunnel has been run a distance of 90 feet, with the object of tapping the vein at a depth of about 200 feet from the surface. The east vein is exposed by an outcrop of about 50 feet in length, and has been cross-cut 8 feet in ore carrying copper and iron sulphurets. This vein also crops out on the "Homestake" which is to the north of the "Old England". On the west vein a tunnel of about 30 feet has been run. The vein is

4 feet in width, and carries galena and sulphurets. The centre and east veins can be traced continuously through the claim, and the three veins are not more than 80 feet apart. The "Homestake" adjoins the "Old England" on the north end. The centre and east veins of the "Old England" have been traced through this claim. A tunnel to tap the east vein has been commenced and run about 60 feet about the centre of the claim. A prospecting tunnel of some 30 feet has been run lengthwise on the east vein. The character of the ore is gold quartz, containing copper.

1897 - Page 576.

Crown-granted. L 658 Shaft is a few feet from end line. Farther along a cross-cut did not reach vein. On opposite side of creek a tunnel is opening up a small quartz-vein. Strike N-S. Good gold content.

1898-Page 1118.

Workings consist of three tunnels 90', 50' and 52', respectively, and an 80' shaft.

1899-Page 603.

Sent samples to Paris Exhibition.

1926-Page 447.

New crown-grant issued. L 658.

1930-Page 221.

Pacific Copper Mines reconditioned camp buildings on Victoria, did ground sluicing, and cleaned out most of the tunnels on Old England. Two foot to twelve foot wide shear-zones plus pyrite.

1933-Page 157.

Old England showings may be continuation of Waterloo-Fonteroy shear.

In 1936 W. E. Cockfield made a brief examination of the Camp McKinney area for the Geological Survey of Canada. He was unable to find most of the old workings because of the forest fire that swept the area in 1932 and because rock-slides had hidden some located in the steep canyon country.

The geology shown on the accompanying map is taken from Dr. Cockfield's Memoir 179.

TOPOGRAPHY:

Camp McKinney consists of a series of ridges which extend in a general southeasterly direction from Baldy Mountain which is the highest point in the district, having an elevation of 7,558 feet above sea-level. The ridges are separated from each other by the various branches of Rock creek. The lowest portion of Rock Creek is 2,600 feet above sea-level, so that the maximum relief is in excess of 4,950 feet. Most of the area, however, stands at

between 3,000 and 3,500 feet above sea-level, and the difference in elevation between the valley-bottoms and the crests of the rounded ridges averages some 500 feet.

The highest elevation on the claims in question is 3,900 feet above sea-level, and the lowest is 3,200 feet above sea-level.

Most of the area held by these claims is flat to gently rolling and is covered by deep glacial-drift. The branches of Rock Creek, however, have cut deep valleys in the overburden and in some places have cut through rock to form steep walled canyons. The only rock exposures found during this examination are in such a rock canyon on Jolly Creek, where it flows through the W-2 Fraction, Snowdon C.G., Victoria C.G., and Old England C.G. In portions of this canyon slides of the overlying glacial drift have masked the rock and hidden old workings.

According to Cockfield's map much of the Old England crown-grant is free of overburden, but this fact was not checked during my examination.

GEOLOGY:

The geology of the Camp McKinney area, as given by W. E. Cockfield, may be briefly described as follows:

The oldest rocks of the area are grouped in the Anarchist Series which consists largely of highly metamorphosed sedimentary rocks but includes also altered greenstones and possibly also altered intrusive rocks. The sediments include micaceous quartzites, mica schists, and crystalline limestone. They are provisionally classified as being upper Palaeozoic.

Intruding the Anarchist Series are several types of intrusive rock including light grey gneissic, granitic rocks and granodiorites of the Osoyoos Batholith, which is possibly Jurassic; sheared basic intrusives; and a belt of granodiorite which bears an unknown relationship to the Osoyoos Batholith. Dyke-rocks of various compositions intrude both the intrusive masses and the Anarchist Series.

The youngest rocks of the area are basic volcanics. They are thought to overlie the granitic rocks and the Anarchist Series unconformably and are considered to be of Tertiary age.

GEOLOGY OF THE CLAIMS:

As has been noted before the main object of this visit was to arrange the preparation of the workings for examination and to acquire more ground, and hence only a generalization of the geology can be given.

The claims are underlain mainly by greenstones of the Anarchist Series. These rocks are hard, competent, brittle rocks capable of sustaining a strong break and are the rocks in which are found the main mineral showings of Camp McKinney.

In addition to the greenstones, however, a soft, schistose, sedimentary member of the Anarchist Series was noted covering a relatively short length of canyon near Workings No. 1 on the W-2 Fraction; an area of ultrabasic intrusive rocks has been mapped in the creek-canyon on the Old England claim W-3 Fraction, and W-8 Fraction; and the younger lavas cover much of the Lemon claim, W-6 Fraction, W-3 Fraction, and W-8 Fraction. It is probable that the Anarchist Series underlies the volcanics on these latter claims.

A traverse was made down Jolly Creek to look for old workings and to check the geology. The traverse started on W-2 Fraction where the road crosses Jolly Creek and ended at the old placer-camp just north of the Old England claim.

At the bridge the creek valley is in glacial drift and is about 20 feet deep. About 100 feet downstream, however, a rock-canyon commences which continues for over 3,000 feet to the placer camp, interrupted by occasional stretches of glacial overburden.

The first working encountered is shown on the map as No. 1. It is about 400 feet below the bridge and I believe is the one described by Cockfield on Page 18 of Memoir 179, G.S.C. as being on the Gold Standard claim.

Exposed on the hill-side immediately above the portal of the cross-cut adit, which was driven due South, is a quartz vein which varies in width from 6 to 8 feet.

The vein trends, on the average, N 70° E and dips 35° -45° S, but is broken into short segments by frequent faults and is somewhat contorted as it follows the folds in the incompetent, soft, schistose formation that is its host-rock. It is probable that this vein will be much more consistent if it can be traced into a more competent host-rock, such as the nearby greenstones.

The vein on surface consists mainly of hard, white quartz which is only slightly iron-stained and contains only a small amount of iron-pyrite.

Not having a light with me, I was unable to examine the tunnel, which is open. Cockfield reports, however, that it is 400 feet long and that it exposed several stringers and bunches of quartz which carry pyrite and some coarsely crystalline galena. The large quartz-vein occurring near the portal was not encountered. This may be due to faulting or to the lensy nature of the vein where found in the schists.

Cockfield reports that 400 feet farther downstream and still on the Gold Standard (now W-2 Fraction) a shaft was sunk for 90 feet on a small quartz-vein reported to carry free-gold. Slightly farther down-stream and still on the Gold Standard he reports a quartz-vein outcropping which is about one-foot wide, strikes E-W and dips 45° N. This carries pyrite and galena and is reported to have assayed 0.2 to 0.3 ounce of gold per ton.

On the Snowden claim he reports that an adit has been driven 80 feet on a shear-zone about a foot wide carrying some quartz, pyrite, galena, and zinc blende, and said to hold low values in gold. It is possible that this is the caved portal I observed on the south side of the creek 200' below No. 1 at the contact between the schist and greenstones.

The only other evidence of workings found by me on the Snowdon Claim is a large dump found on the west side of the creek. This dump is about 500 feet downstream from workings No. 1 and is 100 feet above the creek. This dump, which is designated as workings No. 2 on the map, is composed mainly of greenstone but contains also some quartz plus pyrite and galena. The actual workings from which this large dump came is not in evidence.

At the point designated as No. 3 on the west bank, and probably on the Victoria claim, is a 30 foot tunnel driven on a shear-zone varying in width from six inches to one foot. The shear contains quartz plus pyrite, galena and sphalerite. It trend $N 10^{\circ} E$ and dips $54^{\circ} W$. Between three and five tons of ore has been stored on the east side of the creek. It contains fairly plentiful pyrite and galena but was not sampled.

Cockfield reported that the Victoria workings, from which several carloads of high-grade gold ore were taken, were hidden by a slide previous to his examination.

On the side-hill directly across the stream from Workings No. 3 I found considerable quartz float up to one foot thick containing pyrite.

About 200 feet farther downstream a small creek comes in from the east side, and 100 feet below this, on the west side of Jolly Creek is an old powder-house, indicating the presence of nearby workings which I did not find.

Several hundred feet farther downstream is workings No. 4 which is very near to the boundary between the Old England and the Victoria. It is a tunnel, now caved, which enters the east bank only a few feet above the creek. Its bearing is $S 80^{\circ} E$. Probably a day's shovelling would permit entry.

The final workings found are designated as No. 5, which are about 500 feet upstream from the old placer camp and barely above the stream. They consist of two tunnels, one on each side of the creek and probably on the same lead.

The tunnel on the east side is caved but it appears that a week's work at the outside should open it up.

The tunnel on the west side is open, but being without a light I could not examine it. It appears to follow a strong shear-zone for 50 to 60 feet. The shear zone is about two feet wide and contains quartz, plus pyrite and galena. It trends N 10° W and dips 65° E.

Between 15 and 20 tons of ore has been stacked near the portal. Specimens were taken to determine the gold-content of the various types of mineralization. The assay results are surprisingly high.

Sample No. 1 was composed of very porous leached quartz and iron oxide. It ran 1.00 ounces of gold and 1.3 ounces of silver per ton.

Sample No. 2 consisted of almost solid pyrite containing considerable galena and little quartz. It ran 1.36 ounces of gold and 3.4 ounces of silver per ton, plus 16.7% lead.

Sample No. 3 consisted of more representative vein-matter. It was composed of quartz plus possibly 20% pyrite and a little galena. The pyrite was not very promising in appearance, consisting of some cubes but mainly of coarse irregular aggregates. Surprisingly enough this sample ran the highest, assaying 1.92 ounces of gold and 4.3 ounces of silver per ton.

The above assays are not presented as representative of the average grade of the vein in question, but they do illustrate the high-grade nature of the mineralization of the area.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

This investigation of the literature and the area has been too brief to yield sufficient evidence to warrant the recommendation of a major exploration programme. The information obtained, however, is sufficiently encouraging to cause me to recommend that all of the claims be prospected thoroughly, and that the Old England claim be subjected to an intensive search for the three veins and the workings described as occurring thereon.

In view of the following data I believe it to be quite probable that the results of these preliminary investigations will warrant recommendation of a substantial expenditure to explore the showings further.

(1) Camp McKinney has already had one very profitable gold-producer, the Caribou-Amelia Mine, which had a gross production of \$1,180,000.00 in gold and paid \$565,588.00 in dividends.

(2) The claims of the Old England Group are underlain mainly by the same rock-type as is host to the veins of the Caribou-Amelia Mine, namely greenstones of the Anarchist Series.

(3) Three strong veins are reported in the old B. C. Minister of Mines reports to occur on the Old England claim, and several other veins occur on the other claims of the group. The main vein on the Old England claim is described as being 20 feet wide and to contain, in addition to a great width of disseminated pyrite and galena, a two to three foot width of high-grade ore at the hanging-wall. In view of the high gold-content of the specimens that I have had assayed, it would be of great interest to know the gold content of this hanging-wall portion of the vein; and the current high price of lead may make the remainder of the 20 foot width of economic value.

(4) Copper content is noted as occurring in some of the veins. Here again, as with lead, the current high price for copper may make ore out of vein matter that was not of interest when these claims were last investigated around 1930 to 1934 when metal prices were greatly depressed.

(5) The presence of placer gold in Jolly Creek just below the Old England claims, while not a positive indication that vein-matter of commercial gold content occurs thereon, is certainly not a discouraging factor.

Respectfully submitted,

(Sgd.) B. I. NESBITT
Consulting Geological Engineer.

LEGEND



Glacial drift.



Lavas



Sheared amphibolite & serpentine.



Anarchist series. Qtzite, schist, limestone, greenstone.



Workings

After map 316A, G.S.C.

D.I. Nesbitt, October, 1948.

COILY Cr.

49° 07' 30"

L 760

LEMON

C.G.

W-7
FR.

W-6
FR.

W-4
FR.

W-3
FR.

Placer
camp

W-8
FR.

W-1
FR.

LG58
OLD

ENGLAND

C.G.

W-3
FR.

W-2
FR.

LG53
SNOWDON

L218
VICTORIA

C.G.

YO

ROCK CR.

OLD ENGLAND GROUP

CAMP MCKINNEY

Owned by R.W. Wyllie
1220 Homer St. Vancouver, B.C.

Scale: 1" = 1500'

119° 07' 30"

49° 05' 50"

119° 10'