

Property File

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Starr

REPORT
OF PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION OF
THE
UNITED MINE
AINSWORTH, B. C.

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

By
Charles C. Starr,
May 12, 1930.

INTRODUCTION: Nearly all the workings of the property are inaccessible on account of water, so that only the surface and the dumps could be inspected.

SITUATION: The property is situated four miles by road southwest of the town of Ainsworth, B. C., and about a mile, air-line, from the shore of Kootenay Lake.

PROPERTY: There are four claims in the group, - the United (Crown Granted and holding extra-lateral rights), the Burt Fr., the Wallie #2 Fr., and the La Berta.

They are owned by Mr. J. W. Smith, Ainsworth, B. C. The price asked is \$60,000; the terms were not specified except that either a cash payment is required, or a satisfactory guarantee posted that no debts against the property will be contracted.

TIMBER, WATER & POWER: There is ample timber for mining purposes which is conveniently situated. Krao Creek crosses the property and furnishes ample water for all purposes except power. The Nelson City power line to the Kootenay-Florence mine passes within a mile of the mine, and power can be bought reasonably.

TRANSPORTATION: The mine is four miles by fair road from the C. P. R. wharf at Ainsworth, and the Nelson-Kaslo highway.

TOPOGRAPHY: The mine is at an elevation of 3300 feet (about 1500 feet above the Lake), on a comparatively flat bench composed of little ridges with swampy ground between.

EQUIPMENT: There is a shaft house in fair condition covering shaft, boiler, and blacksmith shop. There is a 7 x 10 steam hoist, a vertical boiler of about 30 H. P.,

a No. 5 and a No. 6 Cameron sinking-pump, and a boarding & bunk house that will do for about ten men.

The machinery appears to be in fair condition.

GEOLOGY: (See also C. G. S. Memoir 117 by Dr. Schofield)

The rocks of the district are limestones, schists, and quartzites which strike north and south and dip at moderate angles westward; they are of Carboniferous and pre-Carboniferous age. Those on the United property consist of interbedded calcareous schists, hornblende schists, and limestones. These are cut by a lamprophyre dike near the shaft.

VEIN: The vein follows a line of northwest-southeast fissuring which dips 60° southwest. It is best seen in an open cut just northwest of the shaft; here there is two or three feet of quartz, galena, and sphalerite between walls of calcareous schist which has been considerably silicified and weakly impregnated with ore minerals for a width of six or seven feet. Shallow open-cuts at a few hundred feet both northwest and southeast show some metallic mineralization, but it is not certain that they are on the same fissure.

Ore on the dump at the shaft shows coarse sphalerite and galena in well silicified rock, and the whole dump contains numerous fragments showing lead and zinc.

DEVELOPMENT: The chief development is through an inclined shaft which is full of water. It is said that the shaft is 170 feet deep, that it is slightly flatter than the vein, and that levels have been driven at fifty, one hundred, and one hundred and fifty feet. The maps show several

small stopes between the levels. The total drifting amounts to several hundred feet.

GENERAL NOTES:- The United vein is a true fissure cutting the formations at a considerable angle, while somewhat more than half of the producers of the district have bedded veins. Little definite information can be obtained from the surface regarding the Union vein, but there is a suggestion that there are several parallel fissures. It is possible, and perhaps probable, that ore makes in the vein where it crosses certain favorable strata, and that the shoots of ore will therefore be short but possibly also wide from replacement of the favorable beds. If there are several fissures crossing these beds it is not unlikely that ore may be found at each intersection. Possibly the underground workings have been sufficiently extended to give some hint of this if they were accessible.

There are no good tunnel sites on the United property. The McCuen tunnel, driven to develop the Krao and United veins, is supposed to have reached the former vein but is still some two thousand feet distant from the United vein under the shaft, although only a few hundred feet from the projected position of the vein to the southeast of the shaft. The United property is said to have working rights through this tunnel which is 500 feet below the collar of the shaft. The Highlander tunnel is also some two thousand feet from the United vein at a depth of one thousand feet. Development of the United

through either of these tunnels at the present time would be premature, but might logically follow favorable development through the present shaft.

CONCLUSION: What is now visible on the property does not justify the unwatering of the mine; reports of those who have seen the underground workings are more favorable and indicate some rather attractive ore, and should be given more weight than my own opinion. However, my own opinion is that the ore to be expected, while of fair grade, is likely to prove of no very great size, and I am rather luke-warm as regards the economic future of the property, and the advisability of unwatering the shaft.

Respectfully submitted,

Chas. C. Starr