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# Ymir-almo Mines Busy Despite Labor Machinery Shortages

Despite a multitude of difficulties Ymir-Salmo Sheep Creek district miners have been busy opening up new mines, bringing old ones back to production, shipping customers to the smelters and leaving no worrying to others. One of the oldest producing areas in B. C. (the district extends from Nela to the International Border and beyond to Pend d'Oreille & Metaline in Northeast Washington. Equipment and the lack of labor have been the two main hardships of the mine, but the leaders and small operators have kept on working.

An optimistic report on current developments at the Euphrates and Golden Age mines by Murrell A. Nelson of Portland, Ore., President of Trimetals Mining, Inc., recent purchasers of both properties, previously planned underground inspection of which had to be cancelled due to an unavoidable breakdown of schedules, says the current Northern Miner.

The capacity of the Euphrates mill, Mr. Nelson reported, has been increased from 50 to 100 tons daily. Transformers have been installed and connection with West Kootenay Power Company transmission lines completed. It was hoped that milling of Golden Age development ore can be initiated during July or early August. Previous work on the Euphrates property, he said, including two miles of underground development, had opened up a long low-grade vein which had been drifted on over a distance of 1400 feet. The Trimetals company is preparing to resample this vein in the hope that some good mill-feed may be found.

## CONTINUE EXPLORATION WORK

Work of an exploratory nature will be continued on the Euphrates this summer, including an extensive diamond drilling campaign. A drill used on the adjacent Golden Age property will be moved to the Euphrates for this purpose.

In the Golden Age, the Trimetals President stated, the main drift has been extended 1100 feet on the vein. A raise has been driven to provide two additional levels approximately 100 feet apart, and stoping on the vein can be commenced at any time. At present the main drift is being extended on contract and additional diamond drilling of this section of the properties is being carried on. The Golden Age vein, Mr. Nelson said, had narrowed down in recent drift rounds, but with 12 to 16 inches quartz in the face, it appeared to be coming in again, and he expressed belief that it would be making ore again shortly. A short crosscut driven to provide a drill station had encountered a substantial width of quartz in the hanging wall which is to be investigated in due course. Questioned as to grade of ore developed in the Golden Age drift, Mr. Nelson and D. P. McComb, in charge of work at the property, concurred in the statement that a rough average would be from 0.75 to 1.0 oz. gold per ton across approximately 30 ins.

A small crew totalling 10 men is working on the property and efforts are being made to engage additional employees.

The Euphrates property was formerly operated by the Gold Silver Tungsten Mining and Milling Company of Seattle, Washington. During 1941, a flotation mill was installed and a small amount of ore from the Nickel Plate and Minto veins was run through as a test, with a view to possibly increasing the mill capacity. That same year, 2000 feet of diamond drilling was done on the adjoining Golden Age by Trimetals. The following year, arrangements were made to mill Golden Age ore at the Euphrates and a small tonnage of concentrates was reported as mined, milled and shipped to Trail. Following a breakdown in the Euphrates mill, both properties were closed for the duration of the war.

Acquisition of the Euphrates property by Trimetals will provide easily available milling facilities, the two properties being on opposite sides of the valley at Hall Siding, about 10 miles South of Nelson and connected by road.

The Trimetals company, in addition to its Hall Siding operations, Mr. Nelson advises, has also purchased controlling interest in the Jo-Jo and Miner Boy mines, each consisting of four crown-granted claims, in the Slokan District. He states that it is expected first ore shipments will be made this summer.

## SURFACE WORK AT YMIR GOOD-HOPE

At the Ymir Good-Hope property on Huckleberry Creek, about six miles from Ymir, a crew of 13 men is engaged in surface exploration and stripping. The Ymir Good-Hope Mining Company of Seattle is carrying on this program on the X-Ray group of claims. Previous development work included a crosscut which intersected three veins, one of which showed a width of two feet. A small complete mining plant was installed during 1944. It is expected that work of an exploratory nature will be continued throughout the year.

Renovations to camp and buildings have recently been completed. It is reported that an excellent showing has been obtained in surface stripping during the early part of this year, with a gold-silver vein opened up over widths up to 16 feet. Finances are being provided by the Seattle interests who own the property.

On the Ymir Goodenough, located on Elise Mountain, five miles from Ymir, James Turk and Frank Padulo are continuing to work on lease. The work is principally of a salvage nature being carried on underground above the No. 1 level. One shipment of ore has been made so far this year. Leasers are also working the old Arizona Mine on Wildhorse Creek, six miles from Ymir. A small crew is engaged in open cutting at the Oxide Group property, discovered in 1943 by Ed Haukedahl of Ymir. High grade samples of lead and zinc ore running as high as 60 per cent have been obtained from these claims on which an option was granted to Leta Exploration Company in 1944.

Inconclusive results were obtained in a limited diamond drilling program undertaken by the optionee. It is now reported that International Mining Corporation has taken an option on the group and is financing the current work.

Reconditioning of the camp at the Clubine Comstock Gold Mines property, four miles north of Salmo, has been commenced. Arrangements to provide approximately \$40,000 for development work have been concluded and this work will be undertaken without loss of time. The program calls for development of the main vein by extension of the 575-foot level crosscut to open up orebodies beneath those sectors from which previous production was obtained. Diamond drilling of known veins will be conducted both from the surface and underground.

It is also proposed to carry out some work on the No. 2 vein, previously developed in the No. 1 level, where a two-foot vein shows good values in lead-silver ore. Surface showings will be opened up by bulldozer stripping and the vein will be diamond drilled from the main workings to test extension to depth. I. G. Nelson is President of Clubine Comstock, and Paul Lincoln, well-known Nelson mine operator, is Vice-President and Managing Director.

B. and K. Golac are continuing work on the old Arlington property, on Keystone Mountain, near Eric. The claims are held under lease and bond. Ore is being recovered from the old workings and shipped to Trail smelter.

The old Second Relief property on Eric Creek is being worked by the Burgess brothers, Murray, Hanson and Donaldson syndicate who purchased the property two years ago. A small compressor is utilized in mining operations, driven by an International diesel engine. During the winter of 1945-46, shipments were suspended because of difficulties encountered in keeping the road to the property open due to heavy snowfalls. Shipments of high-grade ore are now being made to the Trail smelter. Three hundred tons of ore mined during the winter months, averaging between 0.7 and 0.8 ounces gold per ton, are now being moved down from the mine for shipment. During 1944, 833 tons were shipped and 885 tons during 1945.

The syndicate has been doing some exploration work and in the course of surface development shipped some high grade ore. Plans for this year include further development work on both sides of North Fork Creek where good surface showings have been uncovered.

At the old Kootenay Belle mine on Sheep Creek, Russell Thompson is continuing his leasing operation. This work is entirely of a salvage nature.

A. Enderby is continuing with his operations on the Nuggett property where mining to date has provided sufficient returns to pay a good part of the purchase price with the balance to be paid from current operations. Results obtained during the past two years have been definitely encouraging, with fair returns obtained from smelter shipments.

Pend Oreille Mines and Metals Company has announced intention to proceed immediately men and materials are available to install a 1000-ton mill on the Reeves-MacDonald lead-zinc property South of Salmo. This announcement, of major importance to all of British Columbia, has been received with great enthusiasm throughout the Ymir-Salmo district. Very large bodies of comparatively low grade ore have been opened up in previous work on the Reeves MacDonald property and it is felt that the Pend Oreille Company, an experienced base metal operator, will be able to make a success of this venture, particularly since plans call for treatment of large tonnage. It is not expected that construction will be commenced before Autumn at the earliest, since

Larsen of Spokane, President of Pend Oreille, heralds the advent of another large-scale base metals operation in British Columbia.

## GOLD BELT PROSPECTS

Prospects for development of new orebodies at the Gold Belt Mine are considered favorable. F. W. Reger, Mine Manager, reported. The now privately financed Gold Belt property is being subjected to a new program of development and exploration designed to bring the mine back into production.

Gold Belt was previously developed on four main levels, the 1100, 1400, 1800 and 2100, with a number of sub-levels most important of which were the 1600 and 1700-foot levels.

Orebodies consist of a series of parallel quartz veins in quartzite with gold content mainly in sulphides. Additional mineralization includes lead and zinc, the presence of the latter being accepted as an indication of good grade ore.

Of the series of parallel fissure veins, 12 were worked up to the time milling was suspended, all of these producing some ore. Large sections of the Gold Belt property, extending over a distance of more than two miles, remain to be investigated, and in this area a number of unexplored veins are known to exist. The principal objective of the present program is to explore these favorable sectors, lying to the north of the old workings, with work to be concentrated on the 1100 foot level and above. It is noted in this connection that in the adjacent Reno Mine good ore was developed at much higher levels in the same formation. The Reng workings were extended to within 500 feet of the Gold Belt border.

From the 1850-foot adit at the 2590-foot vein, a raise was driven through to the 1400-foot level and a long crosscut extended to the 4600-foot vein, a distance of approximately 2000 feet in previous development. In the course of the present program, at the intersection of the 3500-foot vein and west of the 3500-foot stope a raise has been driven from the 1400-foot level through to the 600 level, 1250 feet above. This raise has been driven principally for ventilation and exploration, but will also serve as a transfer for ore developed on the 600 level and above.

More than 7000 feet of unexplored ground reaching to the Gold Belt border line remains to be tested beyond the face of the 600 level crosscut, with a number of known veins to be intersected. On this level, the crosscut directed to a vein thought to be the 3500 has been driven over to meet the raise from the 1400-foot level.

On the 1100-foot level, drifting is being continued on the 3900-foot vein to test continuation to the east of the overlying quartzite which made ore on a number of veins previously developed. Exploration by diamond drill of favorable areas beneath the 1850-foot adit level to test possible extension of veins to depth is being considered as an addition to the present program.

A crew of 4 men, including 28 working underground, have been employed at the Gold Belt property. A well-equipped and modern camp is maintained with all facilities readily available. Shortages of skilled underground employees have hindered the company's program, the Mine Manager pointed out, and activities were further hampered during the past winter by the exceptionally heavy snowfall. In spite of the many difficulties besetting all mining operations at the present time, however, the Gold Belt program is being continued with all possible speed and efficiency. The possibilities of a return to production will be given a thorough test in the course of the present well-planned and well-directed campaign.

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