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C O P Y

Toronto, Ontario,
Feb. 11, 1937.

The Editor,
Northern Miner,
122 Richmond Street West,
Toronto, Ontario.

Dear Sir:-

On reading an article on the Salmo-Malartic property in British Columbia in your issue of today's date, I am moved to write you at once and ask that you publish this letter and its accompanying full text of my report on Salmo-Malartic in your next issue, giving it the same publicity as the above article.

The article in question quotes Mr. H. Sargent, resident engineer for the B. C. Department of Mines, as saying there is no commercial ore in the Salmo-Malartic property. I say that in making this statement Mr. Sargent, whom I have not the pleasure of knowing, is absolutely wrong.

I hold no brief for Salmo-Malartic or for British Columbia either. But when called upon to examine a mining property I offer facts, figures and engineering data, and not merely opinions. I have not had the advantage of seeing Mr. Sargent's full report and therefore cannot say upon how much or how little sampling his opinions are based. But I can say that my own work there was thoroughly done and I stand squarely behind my report in every particular. All engineering, sampling and assaying procedure is detailed in the accompanying report. The report concludes that there is commercial ore in moderate quantities at Salmo-Malartic and I will allow no man, government engineer of otherwise, to cast a public doubt upon these statements without a challenge.

But hasty and ill-formed conclusions like those of Mr. Sargent leave a bad taste in the mouth. We have had several of them in Ontario and Quebec and we have seen them very quickly and thoroughly refuted.

A retraction or a much more thorough examination by Mr. Sargent or his superiors is clearly indicated, unless it is the desire of the B. C. Government to frighten mining capital away and hinder rather than help all legitimate and serious efforts to transform their prospects into mines.

Yours truly,

"V. A. JAMES"

The above ore occurs as a flat-lying deposit in silicified, thin-bedded crystalline limestone. It has a depth on the rake of 400 feet, an indicated length of 125 feet and a sampled width or thickness of 6.4 feet. The ore is of high specific gravity, ten cubic feet in place constituting a ton. The orebody indicated as above would, therefore, contain 32,000 tons. There are, however, several areas in the orebody which remain to be proven by further development, and as, in addition, current development is reported to be in ore of higher-than-average grade, I would recommend that development work be continued not only with a view to filling in the full outline of the ore but also for the purpose of opening up as much as possible of the higher grade material before coming to any decision as to commercial mining. The outlook at the property and also base metal prices have improved materially in the past year and this further development is therefore considered well justified.

The development should take the form of horizontal drifts on the ore at the bottom of the present winze and again at elevation 4754 (95-ft. level) to prove the ore conclusively along the strike at these horizons. Three further connections should be made from the new level at the bottom of the winze to the closest points in "B" tunnel workings, for gravity handling of ore. In addition, of course, development should be carried on with a view to extending the known ore zone both to North and South as long as values persist.

There is a good chance for diamond drilling to advantage, supplementing mine development work, and I have marked on the mine plan several points where this would give valuable information if successful in establishing further length on the strike. Almost all work to date has been kept in ore as far as possible, with the result that there is very little of the usual straight development work required for actual mining. Some further workings for the definition of this orebody will be essential, under the best of circumstances, before the ore can be mined.

When this work is done, the situation should be reviewed by a competent mining engineer for the purpose of ascertaining whether the property is ready for production.

Respectfully submitted,

"V. A. James"