Property File
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Nugset

HEPORT

OF EXAMINATION OF THE NUGGET & MOTERAL DE MINES
SALMO, B.C.

**#0:** 

Mr. F. R. Weekes, Manager. Porcupine Goldfields Development & Finance Co.Ltd.

> Chas. C. Starr. July 3, 1925.

> > The copy in Motherlode
> > 082 FSWOULD Say 1925
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#### NUGGET & MOTHERLODE MINES

LOCATION: On Sheep Creek, eleven miles east of Salmo, B. C.

PROPERTY: Fifteen claims, amounting to 506 sores, owned by the Selkirks Mining Co.Ltd.

TORMA: Water power is used, but it is insufficient in amount about helf the year.

PRODUCTION & COSTS. The total production is approximately 95.400 tons from which \$12.62 per ton has been recovered in gold.

During the best days of the property (1913) 2727 tons of ore were milled por month, having a gross value of \$13.41 per ton, at a cost of \$7.11 per ton. In 1921 and 1922, due to kek of ore and power, 1667 tons were milled per month, having a gross value of \$7.14 at a cost of \$7.75 per ton.

EQUIPMENT: There is the usual mine equipment, tromway, and a very good 60 ten eyenide mill.

DEVELOPMENT: 4900 feet of crosconting and 10,700 feet of drifting as well as much raising, stoping, and 170 feet of short.

dipping, beds of massive quartaites and schists. The veins strike nearly cast and west, are nearly vertical, and make one in the quartaites only.

The veins are quarta filled fissures averaging about two feet wide and carrying gold; the ore is exidiced. There is faulting which is not large but rather complicated. There is, geologically, resson to expect continuance or at least recurrence, of crebodies to a considerable depth.

ORE; There is very little ore exposed on one side in the mine, and none developed. A limited tonnege is indicated in the Eugget upper workings, and there is good expectation of the Eugget ore going below the present deepest level and showing a grade of \$10 to \$15. The lowest work on the Motherlode has not exposed much ore.

FUTURE PROSPECTS: Prospects of developing ore laterally to the east are good in the Pugget, and there is a rescondle hope of getting a tonnege of ore at greater depth that is comparable to that obtained in the past, but the cost and risk of such work is too great to be justified by the grade of ore that may reasonably be expected, or the basis of past operations.

COMCLUSION: The acquisition and development of the property can not be recommended.

## INTRODUCTION:

About a week was spent in the examination of the property, assisted by five men. Mr. 0. D. Frith was in charge of the sampling.

Mr. Harold Lakes, the former superintendent, and her Harry Gamble, the former foremen, represented the owners and acted an guides over the property.

LOCATION:

The Metherlode Mill is mituated on Shoop Creek, a tributory of the Jalmon River, eleven miles southeast from Salme, a small town on a branch of the Great Northern Railway. The property is 57 miles by highway from Nolsenk 3.0.

helf long leads to the Metherlede Mine which is nearly 2000 feet higher. The old upper workings of the Mugget Mine may be reached by a steep trail, less than a mile in length, from the Metherlede Mine, or by an auto road from salmo to within two miles of the workings, and thence by fair trail.

PROPERTY:

The group consists of cleven nearly full sized claims, the Motharlade, Independence, Golden West, Virginia, Constock, Midorado, Augget, Bonanza, Minoru, Lone Star, and Cayote, and four Practions, the Motharlade Fr., Downlon Fr., Cook Cr., Searchlight Fr. Those clothes are all Grown Crantod and cover an area of 506 sores.

the property is owned by the SelkirksMining Co.Ltd., of which Mr. Alieter Forbes, 901 Vancouver Block, Vancouver, 3.06 is the President and principal stockholder.

### TOPOGRAPHY:

sheep Creek forms a narrow "V" shaped valley, at an elevation of approximately 2180 at the Salmon River, rising to 3400 feet at the Motherlode Mill. The No. 5 tunnel of the Motherlode Mine is on the steep slope on the north side of the creek little more than a helf mile distant and at an elevation of 5330 feet. Thence, the mountain rises to an elevation of 6400 feet, and the Bugget Mine lies to the north of the summit, at an elevation of from 5950 to 6200 feet. The apex of the mountain lies between the Bugget and Motherlade outcrops, from which point it slopes dewnward in all directions; the slopes to the east, north and west, are comparatively smooth, but to the southward the slope is quite rough.

### TRANSPORTABLON:

by a fair auto road 11 miles long. To and from the mill ere and supplies are taken to the Motherlede wine by serial tram; from the Motherlede to the Rugget meterial is taken through the mine.

# WATER:

Shoop Creek furnished an emple supply of water at the mill. At the Metherlode Mine there is no surface water but a crossout in the mine has been demaed up and furnishes a limited, but generally sufficient, supply of water for campuse. There is a good spring at the Eugget Mine.

POWER:

Sheep Creek, the dame being about two miles from the mill, and the head at the mill about 700 feet. This water supplies about 500 H.P. during the period of high water, which usually lasts about four months of the year. During the period of extreme low water there is little more than 75 H.P. available, and for eight months of the year operations must be more or less curtailed.

H.P. must be provided from other sources.

HISTORY:

previous to 1900. The first record of production from the Motherlode is in 1906, and the Eugget in 1907. The Motherlode mill began production about the middle of 1912 and closed down in October 1915. About 1919 it was bonded to M. McMartin and incorporated as the Motherlode Sheep Creek Mining Co.

consolidated under the name of the Musget Gold Mines Ltd. in 1918 and in March 1919 development was begun, which principally consisted in the driving of a 1200 foot eressout from the lower Motherlode workings to the Musget vein; this was completed about the end of the year. The first record of production of the Musget was in 1907; later a four stamp will was erected and ran for three years, closing in 1911, and the mine lay idle until 1919. During 1920 the mill was operated for four or five months on part time, due to lack of ore. During 1921 and 1922 the mill was fun for ten months, usually at less than full capacity. Since 1925 the property has been idle.

PRODUCTION AND COSTS:

The total production of the two properties, compiled from Government and Mine records, is as follows:

	lone	Recovery per ton	Gross Recovery
Motherlode, shipt up to 1911 Motherlode, up to 1915 -milled Mugget, up to 1916, - Motherlode & Mugget, since 1916	905 60504 15471 16675 93485	\$81.27 11.67 18.97 6.92 12.62	\$65,420 706,180 292,549 115,484 1,179,603

was periodically abut down, or its operation surtailed on secount of lack of water, and from the fact that the mine was unable to produce one fast enough. On this account costs have been high and variable. The period during which there appears to have been the least interference to continuous operation was from Jane to November, inclusive, 1915 during which time the following record was made:

Avorage tons	Avorage gross value per ten	Average Cost & mill loss per ton	Profit per ton
272 <b>7</b>	£15.41	37.11	\$6.29

the "Average Cost " includes development expense, but it is probable that insufficient development was done to develop the amount of ore mined. The mill loss was approximately 54 cents per ton.

Prom the summer of 1912, when the mill started, to December Slat 1923, a profit was made every month aggregating \$190,500 at the end of the period; from then to seppember 1915, when operations were suspended, the surplus dropped to \$116.750.

Since the mill and mine equipment cost around \$500,000, exclusive of the mining property, the operation was a

considerable loss.

During 1921 and 1922 the mine and mill were operated about ten menths with the following results

Average tons Average gross Average cost & loss per per month value per ton mill loss per ton ton

f Figures are approximate.

The above costs apparently covered current development done during the months the mill was operated, only.

During the carly operation of the mine, development costs are given as approximately \$9.00 per foot, but it is not specified just what is included in these figures.

Cost figures given by Mr. Hereld Lakes, the lest superintendent, in his report to the Mugget Company are as follows: based on continuous and full depactty operation:-

Tunnel work in schist
" quartsite
Brifting on vein

\$10 to \$12 per foot \$15 " " \$12 " "

The above are direct costs, only.

Mining and Milling costs, on an 80 ton per dey

basis, ares

Wining, labor \$2.58

Supplies 1.04

Proportion of goneral \$3.65

Willing labor .75

Supplies .94

Proportion of general .23 1.90

Zotal operating cost per ton 5.76

MOULEMEDT:

MISS: The mine equipment consists of the usual track, cars, etc. stoping drills and steel, and a limited number of harmer drills for drifting. In the blacksmith shop at the

No 5 Mothorlode tunnel there is a wough drill sharpener and other usual mine equipment. The mine and blacksmith equipment is, in general, in fair condition.

TRAMWAY: The tremway from the No. 5 Motherlode tunnel to the mill, was built by the Al Leschen & Son Rope Co.

It is 3600 feet long, and the terminals are 1770 feet spart vertically; its capacity is ten tone per hour.

MILL: The mill is a ten-stamp cyanide plant of rated at 80 tons per day especity, designed by the Merrill Metallurgical to. It is a well assigned and well built plant containing atendard mechines for crushing, classifying, agitating, filtering, and precipitation.

It is driven by nine Pelton water wheels, including one for the 1400 feet Sulliven compressor which furnishes air for the mine. The mechinery and equipment at the mill is generally in good condition.

BUILDINGS: At the Sugget mine openings there is one small bunk- and cook- house, and several other buildings in poor condition. Between the No. 5 and No. 5 tunnels on the Metherlode there are three good sized buildings for the accommodation of men, the transmy terminal, and several small buildings of various corts.

Wear the mill there are ample buildings for the scoomodation of the mill crew and the staff, besides other necessary offices etc. These are generally in very good condition.

DEVEL PMANT:

The footage of "level" development on the property is approximately as follows:

Mine & Level	Kain Crosscut	Miscelleneous Crosscuts	Mein drift mostly on vein	Other drifts	Elevations
Pagget #1 #5 #5 #4 #5	70 120 550 1275	45 70 185 15	75 435 945 1500 360 <u>240</u>	0 170 255 250 0 0	6240 6190 6110 5960 5550 5360
rotel	1925	315	8575	655 - 64	70
Motherlode #1 #2 #3 #4 #5 #6	70 400 635 0 780 0 0	85 160 300 50 175 20 0	600 1025 1710 360 1400 660 115	70 875 130 0 85 0 0	5735 5655 5555 5450 5320 5225 5145
Both mines	361 <u>0</u> 491	1105	9445	1315 - 15	675 Feet

In addition to the above there is 175 feet of winze to the #6 and #7 levels, on the Motherlede, end 615 feet of raise from the #5 to #4 levels of the Rugget; there is probably a total of about 2000 feet of raising.

Practically all this work is now open and accessible, and the workings are in excellent condition.

The stopes were worked on the shrinkage system and on account of lack of timber are generally inaccessible although open.

### GHOLOGY:

CEMBRAL: The general goology of the district has been briefly summarized by LeRoy (see Sketch Mep of Sheep Crock Mining Camp, Dept. of Mines, Canada), and the local geology has been worked out in considerable detail by Amthur Lakes.

both of these sources of information have been largely drawn on in the following.

In the area covered by the Nugget & Motherlode claims the rocks are massive quartzites, with interbedded schists, belonging to the Beshive and Ripple formations of Cambrian age. The strike is generally slightly east of north and the dip steeply eastward.

A porphyry dike crosses the west end of the property following the stratification of a band of the Beshive schist; several small basic mics dikes occur in the mine.

to accompany the report on the geology of the property by arthur Lakes, and give a good illustration of the geology of the property in detail. The essential details have been checked over and appear generally to be correct; any essential differences noted will be mentioned later.

VEINS: The veins, which vary from a more crack to seven or eight feet wide, occur in fault fissures in the quartistes and schiats. They vary only slightly from 8 80° E in strike, and from vertical to 75° south in dip.

with smell amounts of pyrite which have exidised and stained the vein a brownish color. The hanging well is usually, though not always, well defined but the footwall is more indefinite and irregular and leaves a rather jagged footwall in the stopes. With one unimportant exception the ore occurs exclusively in the quartaits, and the vein is narrow and nearly barren in the schiet.

have a strike and dip nearly parallel to the vein, viz..

N 60 to 70 E and Vertical to 70° south. Since these faults out the vein, which itself occupies a fault plane, and since the filling of the veins and the faults are almost indistinguishable considerable complication results.

throw in the mine which cut the vein more or less at right angles and dip to the westward.

NUGGET MINE, DETAILS: The theory of faulting, as worked out in considerable detail by Mr. Lakes, and shown on the level maps of the Rugget, fits the observable data well as far as the Rugget vein and the Calhoun fault are concerned. In the case of the Calhoun and No. 2 veins, and the Middle and South faults the data is not always in accord with the theory, although it can hardly be said to definitely disprove it. As an example of this note the insert on the Rugget No. 4 level map, showing the observed vein and fault fractures at the east end of the level.

On the whole, however, in the absence of any other theory. Mr. Lakes' delinection of the structure ferms a good working hypothesis.

MOTHERLODE MINE, DETAILS: On the Motherlode vein the evidence of similar faulting is not as conclusive as it is in the Mugget, and there seems to be a reasonable doubt as to the correctness of Lakes' hypothesis, although the evidence against it is mostly negative, in that it fails to prove it. The distinction between the vein and the nearly parallel fault, if there is such a fault, is very hard to make and must be based on the presence

of slips, differences in the amount that the strate are faulted by the veins and faults, on the presence or absence of ore, and on the strike at any given point.

On Level #1 nothing was observed that has any direct bearing on the problem.

On Level #2 the east end of the west workings was not entered on account of rotten timber, but the extension of the fault, as shown by Mr. Lakes, is not in evidence in the tunnel between the portal and the voin.

On Level #3 at "305" there is a seem leaving the drift toward the southwest which may connect with the slip shown in the Main Crossout, and which may be the evidence of a fault which cuts the vein and extends sastward to the Blacksmith Fault. A similar fault appears to occur at "329".

On #5 level a fault slip leaves the arift to the southwest between \*510" and \*511" but does not appear, or at least does not fault the strate, in the tunnel between the portal and the vein. This fault or vein continues westward to the Blackemith fault.

as I could determine the faulting along the voin, along the fault, or along the combination of the two (as shown by Lakes) is essentially the same, indicating that there is no fault but a vein only. Between, and somewhat beyond, "306" and "307"

Lakes shows a segment of the vein cut by a fault on both ends, where he attempts to show that the vein faults the strate a short distance, only, as compared with the dislocation of the strate by the fault. I am unable to see that the vein has

been cut, or that there is any difference in the amount of the faulting. It does not appear that ore is always present in the vein, and it is not entirely certain that the faults are always entirely bearen.

while admitting that Lokes undoubtedly spent much more time on the geology than I, and that he workes it out in much greater detail. I am not able to see much indication of the system of faulting nearly parallel to the voin on which he lays much stress.

at right angles to the voin which are shown on the maps so clearly that they need no comment.

The two orebodies parallel to each other at the east end of the Se. 5 level appear to be on two separate parallel veins, and not, as Lakes believes, parts of the same voin thrown into their present position by faulting. The insert on the map shows my interpretation of the structure there.

IMPERMECHS FROM GEOLOGY:

should not extend to much greater depths than present development has shown them. The same formations should continue thousands of feet below the present workings, and there is no evidence of the weakening of the vein fractures in the present lowest workings. Ore has been found at an elevation of from 6500 feet on the Rene claim, to 2400 feet in the queen mine. On the mugget vein ore has been worked over a vertical range of more than a thousand feet.

It is evident that there has been a certain amount

of enrichment in the veins adjacent to the surface, and, in
the Motherlode vein there was apparently a diminution of values
in the Mo. 6 and No. 7 levels which may or may not indicate the
approaching end of the creshoot. Even if the creshoot has been
bottomed, there is every reason to expect that another shoot
will be opened at still greater depth. On the Mugget vein there
is no evidence of the values decreasing since the zone of surface
enrichment was passed. Oxidation continues nearly as strong at
a thousand foot depth in the Sugget as at any point, and it is
probable that the primary sulphide cres will carry essentially
the same values as the exidised ores.

It seems to be well established that the white messive quartzites are the favorite locations of the orebodies, and there are excellent chances that the Nugget vein will prove productive in the mastern Quartzite.

SAMPLIEU: There was said to be very little ore exposed in the Mugget and Motherlode workings, and practically no ore that was in any sense blocked out. The lask of workeble ere was apparently the cause of the property being shut down. Therefore no great number of samples were taken, and those that were taken were with the idea of, generally, checking former sampling.

In most cases samples taken in the past seem to have been taken ever a stoping width, with its attendant possibility of error due to taking too large a proportion of the softer high grade material. The samples taken on this examination covered the good portion of the vein only, leaving the value of the stoping width to be calculated on the assumption that the well rock is barren. This is not entirely true, but it is cortain that in most cases the vein

walls contain very little value, and no serious error should result. Wherever bottom samples were taken the coarse pieces only, were saved in order to obviate salting by fine ore from the chutes.

Nugget Workings; On the No. 3 Level twelve samples were taken across the bottom of the drift under the east stope; they represent a length of 120 feet, width of 3.9 feet and show a value of \$4.85.

Just west of the first stope on the No. 4 Level five samples represent a length of 50 feet, width of 2.4 feet and show a value of \$18.25.

Four samples from the east stope on the No. 4 level, two in the top and two in the bottom, show an average width of 2.5 feet and average value of \$21.30.

Underneath this stope five samples represent a length of 50 feet, width of 2.7 feet, and average \$5.43.

On the No. 4 level, on the Calhoun vein, ten samples represent a length of 100 feet, over an average width of 2.0 feet, and average \$10.81.

In the main Nugget Raise, ten samples roughly represent 150 feet along the vein, and show an average width of 2.0 feet and average value of \$4.40

The top of the stope above the 200 sub-level is represented by seven samples which average 1.7 feet in width and \$5.35 in value. This stope also shows low values in the back by Lakes' sampling.

The back of the drift on No. 5 level under this stope for a length of 150 feet is represented by seven samples which average 2.6 feet in width and \$15.53 in value. If a stoping width of 4.0 feet be assumed with the well rock containing 1.00, this

value will be reduced to \$10.48.

The value obtained by the face samples during the driving was \$19.52 over a width of 5.1 feet; this represents a longth of 120 feet. Car samples from the drift, over a length of 105 feet, average \$16.60. Since our samples were spaced at irregular intervals on account of the chutes, it is possible that they give a too low average.

The Sugget workings on and above the Sc. 4 level have been thoroughly sampled for the American smelting & Refining Co., and show more or less comparable results, if the large difference in the widths sampled is taken into account.

Motherlode Workings; Seven semples in the west raise on the No. 1 level, representing 70 feet in length, everage 1.15 feet and \$41.35 or \$12.60 over a 4 feet stoping width. All other samples taken on the Motherlode average less than \$4.00 and do not show any ore.

first period of operation show the following values and widths on the No. 5 and No. 6 levels:

105 feet, under stope on No. 5 - width 2.6 ft. Value \$26.57
70 feet. " " " " 6 - " 1.8 " " 15.27

If these values are brought up to a 4 foot stoping width they are reduced to \$17.49 and \$7.42 respectively. It is to be assumed that the remainder of the Mo. 6 level is too low grade to be classed as ore. There is no data whatever to be found in regard to the values on the Mo. 7 level.

OR B DETVELOPED:

On the Motherlode vain there is no ore exposed even on one side, except 60 feet above the No. 1 level which averages

## 1.15 feet wide and 541.04.

one side at two places on the No. 4 level, and on the No. 5 level there is 140 feet of ore averaging 2.6 feet wide and \$15.53 in value (according to Lakes, 3.1 feet and \$19.52 for 120 feet in length) which may be presumed to extend some distance townward.

FUTURE PROSPRETS:

Possibilties of further ore are (1) at greater depth. (2) laterally, (3) ore faulted to one side of the drifts, (4) now value to be developed.

- (1) From a geological point of view the prospect of developing ore at any reasonable depth is very good, but there is an apparent falling off in the value of the cre opened in the levels below the No 5, which may possibly indicate the bottom of the present west Motherlode creshoot is about reached. If that is the case the discovery of a new shoot might be expensive, and this fector must be considered before planning deeper development.
- There is no particularly favorable ground to the westward of the present faces. To the eastward, there is a reasonable probability of developing ore in the imaget vein in the eastern quartite, and a possibility of finding ore in both veins in the eastern bend of quartitic of the Ripple formation.
- 8 very good probability of finding ore by chart crosscuts at various points to faulted parts of the vein. Although arguments were advanced tending to disprove this theory it still carries weight enough to justify some prospecting.

and Motherlode, do not, where they have been cut, show any indications of ore and may safely be neglected. If deeper development should be carried out by means of tunnels, other veins will probably be cut, notably the Colden Belle and Clyde, and these have fair possibilities of showing ore in the messive quartaites.

the history of the property, showing that only during low prices for labor and supplies and for a short period, while the richer ores near the surface were being worked, was the operation profitable, is a most discouraging feature, and one which must be given full consideration, since, under future conditions, costs may be expected to be higher and the ore grade lower than during the best days of the property, and to compare with those during the 1921 and 1922 operations.

Since it is impossible to estimate the grade of ore that can reasonably be expected by further development, the grade of ore that would be required to make the venture profitable is

figured, as follows:
Ore developed to date per foot of level work
Ammuning the same ratio for the future, excepting
long tunnels from the surface to cut the value
and \$12 per foot as a reasonable cost, the
cost of development will be

8.96 tans.

\$2.00 per ton

If it be assumed that a new tunnel be driven 400 feet lower, and a crossout driven to tap the Mugget vein, the footage will be approximately 1400 and 1500 feet respectively, which at \$12 per foot wil cost

#40.500.00

Assuming that the total length of stopes on the No. 5 level will extend to a level 400 feet below, and a stoping width of 42 feet, the new ore developed by the new tunnel and crossout will be

77,000 tons

then, essueming Lakes' estimate of \$5.75 per ton the cost of mining, milling, and general, plus \$2.00 per ton for ordinary development. & \$0.54 (40500 - 77000) for extra dovelopment, a mill recovery is needed to pay expenses amounting to

9.29 per ten

The total cost of development required is estimated by Lakes at \$100,000, which seems a responsible figure; in addition to this must be included say \$25,000 for additional power equipment at the mill making a total investment before any ore is milled of

\$125,000.00

The profit on an operation such as this should be at least 100% (really more than this under the conditions) to make it attractive or

85.25 per ten

which added to the calculated cost of production necessitates a recovery of

11.54 per ton

or an ore value (at 95% recovery) of

12.15 per ton

assumed development, and costs, the value of the ore must be about \$12. per ten to return the investment required for further development, plus a sufficient profit to make the risk justified. This is a higher value per ten than has been obtained from the mine, except during the first year of the mill operation, and higher than there is any reasonable hope of obtaining through deeper development.

RELATION SO OTHER PROPERTIES:

The Golden Fawn group adjoins the Nugget on the north, and has two small voins from which a little ore has been taken. Further north about a mile is the Reno group which has some ore. From both of these properties are could be transported by transport or read to the Nugget and through the mine to the Motherlode mill.

To the south of the Motherlode mine Mare are the Golden Belle and Clyde-Belt groups which both have fairly

strong veins and some small showing of ore; they are ideally located for the transport of ore to the Motherlode mill by tram.

Still further south across theep Creek the Kootensy Belle property has a small but good showing of high grade cre, the outerop of which is 600 feet above the Motherlede mill, to which ere could easily be transported by transey. Further east the Euroka group has a strong voin which is well situated for transaction to the mill.

equipped with any transportation facilities, and in none of them is there any tennage of ere eveloped, with the exception of the Kootenay Belle which has a small tennage partially developed.

None of these properties are particularly attractive at the present time even in conjunction with the mill.

The Motherlode No. 5 tunnel is close to the south edge of the Motherlode ground, and a tunnel driven to gut the vein deeper, would have to be started on the Golden Bolle claim which is owned by the Analgamated Gold Mines.

while the geological and general conditions at the property are feverable, the ere to be expected is too narrow and low grade to be worked at a sufficient profit to justify the further development of the property, and to make a sufficient return for the risk of the capital involved in such development. The property therefore cannot be recommended.