

82G/13E

82G/N-8

THE ESTELLA GROUP

THIRTY-THREE MILES SOUTHEAST OF CRANBROOK, B.C.

003449

Butte, Montana. Dec. 14, 1910

Mr. M. W. Bacon,  
General Manager,  
Davis-Daly Copper Company,  
Butte, Montana.

Dear Sir :-

On November 29, I left Butte for Cranbrook, British Columbia, with an owner's report upon some mines showing startling values, which had been presented to Mr. F. A. Heinze by one John Sullivan, of Moyie, British Columbia.

I arrived duly at Cranbrook, via Spokane, with Mr. Stadler, whom I had taken to assist me in the necessary surveys and sampling, which appeared from the report would be very exacting.

I left Cranbrook by team, duly, with Mr. John Sullivan, proceeded twelve miles to Fort Steele, on the East Kootenay, and up the east bank of that river to the deserted mining village of Tracy, on the creek of that name, seventeen miles beyond Fort Steele. We spent the night four miles further north, at the ranch of one Stevens, on Fisher Creek. From him, the next morning, we procured pack and riding horses, and passing through Tracy, proceeded up the creek of that name by a circuitous trail four miles in length, which overcomes two thousand feet in elevation, to the cabins on the Estella Group.

These claims are said to be crown granted and are shown on the accompanying plat. The group comprises the Estella, the Dog Star, the Rover, the Alice, the Sky Lark, the Cashier, the Morning, and the Mountain Daisy, containing three hundred and thirty-three (333) acres.

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PROPERTY FILE

The workings are shown from rough surveys on the accompanying plat, which also shows approximate elevations of the various workings and the points from which samples were taken.

The claims lie in a basin of Tracy Creek, heavily wooded excepting where frequent snowslides have swept the steep surface. The snow, at time of visit, was two to three feet deep, and prevented an inspection of the surface and numerous surface workings.

WORKINGS:---- From the southwest side of Tracy Creek the Estella Tunnel No. 2 was driven in 100 feet. A winze threfrom was sunk 30 feet on the lead, dipping  $35^{\circ}$  southeastward. This tunnel started in four to five feet of quartz, from which was taken sample No. 600, evidently barren but which Mr. Sullivan insisted should show gold values. The width of this ore diminished until at the southwest face there was less than one foot of barren quartz showing. At one or more places in the tunnel, the ore was enclosed, in both hanging and foot wall, by an igneous rock, which is probably quartz porphyry. Generally these walls were of slate and this ore occurrence seems to be in a twisted fissure across the slate beds. About the center of this white quartz, in numerous places ( notably in the winze and in the short raise) there was a band of one foot or less of ore, the best of which had recently been sacked by Mr. Sullivan, with a purpo of shipping. The contents of one sack, sampled at mine, is shown in sample No. 601. This is by far the best ore shown anywhere in the property. It is small, at least two miles by rawhide route to the foot of the mountain, and after reaching there it is doubtful if it would pay expenses of freighting to Cranbrook and smelter charges.

Tunnel No. 3 was run northeastward, on the opposite side of Tracy Creek. It showed similar white quartz but very little

Tunnel No. 1, a hundred feet below, was run to cross-cut the Estella ledge. It starts in quartz porphyry and enters slate, in the bedding planes of which show occasional patches of white, barren quartz, with no mineral. No trace of the Estella ledge was found therein. Some former tenderfoot, blowing in his money on this prospect, when he failed to locate the Estella ledge, continued the crosscut south to intersect in the Rover Tunnel. No spot which promised to show values could be located in Tunnel No. 1.

ROVER TUNNEL: -- Rover Tunnel runs southeastwards from an elevation of 5,900 feet, along the softened bedding planes, which were generally of very hard, silicious slate, which constitutes the country rock of the district. For a distance of 400 feet, more or less, quartz is shown, very often accompanied with lead and zinc. Within this distance there are several small cross fissures in the country rock, marked usually by an inch or two of white, barren quartz. In two places, at least, this softened slate has been replaced with lead-zinc ores. At one point, where samples 600 and 604 were taken, these bands of ore running at right angles to the course of the tunnel, showed ten feet in width. It is not probable that they will continue into the country rock very far, or make ore bodies of magnitude. The last named samples were picked as specimens, showing the very best lead ore and zinc ore that could be found in the tunnel. Sample 602, taken at point indicated on plat, was from the best streak in a one foot veinlet of ore, near a fault, which terminated it. The tunnel, as shown, continues along in the slate bedding planes, which while dipping either north or south slightly, terminate in nearly vertical beds shown in the crosscut at the end of the tunnel. The last 400 or 500 feet shows no ore or mineralization of any kind and the work evidently was quit in disgust by a lumberman miner, who ran it some years since. An inspection of the plat will show the barren slates, cut by Estella Tunnel No. 1, went by and

crosscut the slate beds followed in the Rover Tunnel. An inclined shaft, from a point 75 feet above the mouth of the Rover Tunnel, follows down in slate beds, which shows occasional bunches of lead-zinc ore.

MOUNT DAISY SHAFT:- Mr. Sullivan's report claimed five feet of solid ore in this shaft, which showed remarkable lead, zinc, and silver values. The shaft followed down some softened slate, following other bedding planes to a depth of 45 feet, where water was encountered. Generally, evidence of mineralization in this shaft were very weak. Immediately above water level, a crosscut was run in northeastward, a distance of twelve feet. The east side of this crosscut showed five feet of ore. A selected sample, much better than the average, is shown in sample 605. The west side of this crosscut shows very much less mineralization and indicates in the absence of further development that these people were fortunate in striking a bunch of attractive ore. Mr. Sullivan endeavored to find some of the ore from which he got extraordinary values, on the dump, but was unable to give us anything to assay that would be better than samples we took at the bottom of the shaft.

Since Mr. Sullivan has held the option on this property from the two owners, one residing in the State of Washington and another in Texas, he had done, to date of our visit, no particle of mining development work, his efforts having been confined to sacking the few tons of ore mentioned and attracting the attention of those whom he could approach to the wonderful prospect. That it had not been developed before, was accounted for him by lack of transportation facilities, this would now be shortly removed. The Kootenay Central was building a line from the Crow's Nest Pass extension of the

Canadian Pacific, northward through the Kootenay Valley. In fact, the heavy work for the first twenty-five miles section was about completed and the line ready for rails to a point above Fort Steele. This he assured people, would be stretched the following summer many miles northward. From the neighborhood of Wasa, a spur could be cheaply built to Tracy; the ore could be readily delivered by a proposed aerial tram from the mines to Tracy, a distance of about two miles. This, with a statement of these facilities for handling an indefinite amount of developed and fairly high grade ore, made the proposition appear attractive. The facts are, that such a railway would cost \$150,000 to grade. Mine to be connected by aerial tramway with a railroad terminus. Such a tramway would cost a considerable sum. It would be impossible to extend the railroad to the mine. In fact, it would be impracticable to even build a wagon road into them; or, if built, to keep it open for six months in the year, on account of snowslides, which are frequent and generally threatened and killed a surveyor making these patent surveys.

Finally, these ore beds, as shown, running with the formation, make the bunches of ore generally found, with no great promise of any extensive ore development by future work. The average grades of ore, so far exposed, in tonnage insignificant, in values very much less than our samples of specimens, are not very inviting for profitable treatment, even if they lay at the door of a custom smelter; and with various drawbacks mentioned they are impossible.

The conditions of Sullivan's bond on the property prevents him ~~even~~ from even moving his sacked ore until after the payment in February of \$10,000. No doubt this property has been frequently examined in the past and we found evidences of a very recent and careful sampling of faces, of which Mr. Sullivan knew nothing. In

fact, his ignorance of the development work results was profound. The Mountain Daisy shaft he reported 250 feet deep. It was little more than 50 feet in depth. He didn't know the position of a corner, the direction of a lead, nor the relation of one working with the other, and could show us no map of even the surface lines until we insisted he procure one from the surveyor at Fort Steele.

I want to apologize for taking up so much time in telling you the results of my trip to projects that I regard of no present and very little prospective value.

Very respectfully,

(Signed.) E. H. Wilson

E.H.

ESTELLA GROUP OF MINES, B.C.

December 9, 1910.

No.		Gold	Silver	Copper	Zinc	Lead
600	5 ft. white quartz near portal of Es- tella Tunnel No. 2	0.03	0.80			
601	Sacked ore, assorted from dump of Estella Tunnel No. 2.....	0.30	51.30	4.10	8.32	18.00
602	1 ft. streak of ore near fault in Rover Tunnel.....	0.02	14.90		19.65	47.30
603	Best zinc ore, Rover Tunnel.....	Trace	1.40		39.30	1.10
604	Best Lead ore, Rover Tunnel.....	0.01	6.60		33.07	10.20
605	5 ft. ore in cross- cut from bottom of Mountain Daisy shaft	0.015	10.40	0.10	36.61	22.00