

Property File

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REPORT
ON THE
PHOENIX MINE
RESTALLACK, B.C.

*(Later called "Highland Surprise")
& some ore shipped.*

To
E. A. Julian, Manager,
Goldfield Consolidated Mines
Exploration Co.

By
Charles C. Starr,
June 18th, 1934.

INTRODUCTION:

On account of old age the owner was unable to show the property, and a man was hired who had been foreman for a short time. Four days were spent in examining and sampling the property, as there was no place to stay on the ground and considerable time was consumed in travelling back and forth.

LOCATION:

The property is situated on the west side of Lyle Creek, near its headwaters, and about two and a half miles airline north-east of the small town of Retallack, which is itself fourteen miles northwest of Kaslo, B. C. The claims are in the Ainsworth Mining Division.

PROPERTY:

The group consists of one full claim, the Phoenix, and three fractional claims, the Fletcher, Havana, and Connie; the group amounting to 120 acres, more or less. All but the Connie are Crown Granted. Mr. M. J. Mahoney, of Retallack, B. C. is the principal owner.

ACCESSIBILITY and TRANSPORTATION:

The property is reached from Kaslo by highway, or the Kaslo-Nakusp branch of the C. P. Ry. to Retallack, a town of some fifteen or twenty families, and thence by trail three miles or more to the mine. At the present time there are no regular trains operating on the Kaslo-Nakusp branch, but it is reliably reported that a special train will be run whenever there is a substantial amount of freight to be moved. The highway is usually blocked by snow early in the winter, and the railway is occasionally blocked by slides for two or three months in the Spring.

The trail from Retallack is a fair one, but rather steep, and something over three miles in length. The last mile at the upper end of the trail is subject to snowslides at close intervals in winter, and is dangerous to travel after the early part of December. The Consolidated M. & S. Co. kept a pack-horse on the trail all winter up to the spring months with some difficulty, but were then compelled to shut down until the snow melted.

TOPOGRAPHY: (Aneroid elevation)

The Phoenix tunnel is at an elevation of approximately 5300 feet, 2500 feet above the town of Retallack. The summit of the ridge near the west end of the property is about 6400 feet. Below the Phoenix tunnel the topography, while steep, is not particularly rough but above that level it is both very rough and steep and subject to snowslides throughout the winter.

GENERAL:

The region is subject to heavy snowfall which starts early and continues late. Water, even domestic water, is scarce except along Lyle Creek.

Probably from 100 to 300 H. P. could be developed on the lower part of Lyle Creek. There is only a little scrubby timber, mostly balsam, in the vicinity of the mine and supplies for mining purposes or fuel for a large camp would have to be brought up from below.

A tractor or truck road could be built to within a mile of the mine for a very reasonable cost. The last mile might involve considerable rock-work,

and numerous snowslide courses could not possibly be avoided.

EQUIPMENT:

There is no equipment on the property. At the time it was under development by the C. M. & S. Co. it was equipped with a boarding house, bunk house, compressor shed and blacksmith shop, but these have been crushed down by snow and are completely wrecked. There was also a one-drill portable gasoline compressor which was dragged up the trail in pieces, and was removed when the property was abandoned.

DEVELOPMENT:

The only development is two small cuts above the tunnel, and the tunnel itself. This consists of drifts 257 feet; crosscuts 154 feet. (See Map)

GEOLOGY:

The property lies in the "Kaslo Volcanic Series" about three quarters of a mile northeast of their contact with the Slocan Series of sedimentary schists.

The Kaslo Series is of Triassic age, slightly

older than the Slocan Series, and consists of serpentine, extrusives (largely andesite and dacite), and related intrusives, forming a rather complex mass.

The Phoenix shear-zone and ore occur in a fine grained, indeterminate, greenish rock locally known as greenstone, and while the old maps show the ore occurring in serpentine, I do not believe that it is properly named.

A belt of serpentine does occur, however, a few hundred feet southwest of the orebodies.

ORE-BODIES:

A belt of strong shearing, a hundred feet and more in width, shows on the surface from the southerly end of the tunnel to several hundred feet northwest of the northerly end. The strike is about N 35° W on the average, being somewhat more westerly at the south end, and swinging almost north on the surface north of the tunnel face. The dip is 75° to 85° westward. The shear outcrops along a line where a small cliff meets a soil covered slide and it is possible that the main shear may continue northwest for a considerable distance under the soil, and that the north end of the observed shear is only

a minor off-shoot.

To the south and southeast of the tunnel the shearing is not visible and undoubtedly lies under soil and slide-rock for a considerable distance, - perhaps the length of the property.

In the tunnel, the strike of the shearing is indicated on the map. The strike of the shearing and the position of the orebodies suggest that the ore may not occur along the strike, but in lenses in different parts of the shear zone; in other words that the ore is not continuous. East of the quartz in each of the three most northerly crosscuts, there is a band of finely sheared schist, carrying water, which appears to be the same belt, but its location on the map is contradictory to this assumption.

ORE and SAMPLING: (See Map)

The ore consists of quartz and more or less thoroughly replaced country rock in which there is generally little other mineral. Pyrite usually occurs in very small quantities except in a few places where it is accompanied by traces of ^{chalc}pyrite and good gold values. The ore is usually very hard, massive, and tough.

On the surface there is no visible mineralization

south of the open-cut 100 feet northwest of the tunnel portal; here there is some mineralization but the cut is too badly caved to allow sampling. At 175 feet further north quartz carrying pyrite over a width of six or eight feet is exposed on the west face of a small cliff; ore may also extend further west under the soil. Samples Nos. 1 to 4 were taken on this outcrop wherever ore could be reached. All of them show considerable pyrite, and some of the quartz is honeycombed from the oxidation of pyrite. These samples are in part across the same bands, and in part across different bands; as a whole they represent a width of around seven feet. The average assay is 2.77 Oz. Gold, 1.4 Oz. Silver.

Samples Nos. 5 to 9 were taken on the north side of the second crosscut in the tunnel; their logs, which are fairly typical of the other crosscut samples, read as follows:-

#5 1.7 feet; quartz & silicified rock with Tr. of pyrite; poor parting on the foot. Strike N 15° W, Dip 77° W. Assay .22 Oz Gold, .5 Oz. Silver. Unsilicified schist to east.

#6 2.1 feet. Quartz and silicified rock; very little pyrite. Assay .09 Oz. Gold, .4 Oz. Silver.

#7 2.5 feet; quartz and silicified gray rock; small amount of pyrite; assay .38 Oz. Gold, .4 Oz. Silver.

#8 2.8 feet; quartz and fair, spotty pyrite; best looking sample, Assay .09 Oz. Gold, .8 Oz. Silver.

#9 1.5 feet; schist and silicified rock; little quartz; trace of pyrite; no definite slip or parting; unsilicified schist to west; strike indefinite N 30° W, dip 85° W. Assay .14 Oz. Gold, .4 Oz. Silver.

Average: 9.8 feet at .19 Oz. Gold, .5 Oz. Silver. 46.65

Samples Nos. 10 to 13 are on the south side of the same crosscut; their logs are similar; the average assay is .14 Oz. Gold, .4 Oz. Silver. 47.90

Samples Nos. 14 to 17 are from the south side of the third crosscut; the average is 14.2 feet at .13 Oz. Gold. Only one sample shows much value, - #14, 4.7 ft. at .22 Oz. Gold. 48.25

Samples Nos. 18 to 21 are on the north side of the same crosscut; the average is 16.5 ft. at .10 Oz. Gold. Only one sample, #19, is of important value, - 3.5 ft. at .22 Oz. Gold. 49.50

Sample No. 27 was taken at the end of the third crosscut across ten feet of barren appearing schist to make certain that it was not ore-bearing; it assayed .09 Oz. Gold. 50.75

Samples Nos. 22 & 23 were taken over the best appearing part of the fourth crosscut; their average is 2.4 ft.

at .15 Oz. Gold.

Sample No. 24 taken at the face of the drift covers 1.5 feet of schist with three small stringers of quartz; it assayed .13 Oz. Gold.

Samples Nos. 25 & 26 were taken at 50 feet north of the main crosscut. They are separated by 2.0 ft. of apparent waste. No. 25 consists of quartz and a little silicified rock with considerable pyrite and a little chalcopyrite; the full width at the point sampled is not exposed; it assays 6.68 Oz. Gold, 3.5 Oz. Silver. This appears to be a bunch or lense of ore with small lateral extent. No. 26 is a streak of quartz 1.6 feet wide which pinches out in a few feet to the south; to the north it strikes N 30° W but pinches to 2 inches where it enters the wall of the crosscut. It assays 1.04 Oz. Gold.

COMMENTS:

The outcrop where exposed above the face of the tunnel makes an attractive showing, and carries high values, but its extent is concealed by overburden. Two or three hundred feet further north there is a ten or twelve foot zone of shearing with a few stringers and lenses of quartz which appear to be nearly barren; this outcrop extends for perhaps 150 feet when the quartz disappears and the shearing

weakens. There is a possibility that this is not the main outcrop, which may possibly swing further west under the slide.

In the tunnel, it would seem that if the shear extends southward strong it would show more than it does in the main crosscut from the portal. Also it is apparent that ore in the tunnel does not occur in the same line of schisting, and therefore is probably bunched, and the sampling shows most of the quartz to be below ore grade.

An iron gossan outcrop is reported to occur just west of the summit of the ridge on the Phoenix claim; report does not say what values may be obtained there. A trip was made to examine this but it was not found; either the guide had forgotten its location or it was under one of the numerous snowbanks still left at that elevation. It is not known whether it is an extension of the shearing at the tunnel or not.

It is impossible as development stands at present to determine the strike, width, and continuity of the shear zone or mineralization over any great distance on the surface.

The impression obtained in the tunnel workings is that the shear is weakening at both ends, this however is far

from an established fact and would require further development to prove or disprove. Further cross-cutting might also open more orebodies of possibly better grade.

CONCLUSION:

It cannot yet be said with any degree of certainty that the Phoenix will or will not develop into a mine. It has interesting possibilities of doing so, but I believe the probabilities are against it, - sufficiently so, that it is unwise for anyone except the owner to undertake to develop it further, especially in view of the adverse transportation conditions.

Respectfully submitted,

Chas. C. Starr

One Map accompanies Report

