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NOTES ON BUTTERWORTH PLACER PROPERTY

Leech River.

NOVEMBER 1937

Several placer leases were taken up two years ago by a syndicate headed by E. Butterworth on Leech river, upstream from the junction of this river with the Sooke river. Access is obtained by the gas-car on the Canadian National Railway to Leechtown flag station. From this point the workings are about $\frac{3}{4}$ mile upstream on the left bank of Leech river, *or by motor-road to within 1 1/2 miles of the property.*

A small hydraulic system has been installed, taking water from McDonald lake by ditch, a distance of a mile to a penstock. From this point, a pipe-line delivers water through a 10-inch pipe to the 3-inch monitor with a head of 100 to 125 feet. In order to assist the water supply, Humbug creek has been diverted into McDonald lake, and in the wet season sufficient water should be available for hydraulicking.

The first work a year ago consisted of opening up a small pit, starting from the bank of Leech river. Bed-rock was not reached in this and a shaft from the bottom of the pit, 12 feet deep, failed to reach bed-rock. The gravel moved in this operation contained little or no gold content.

A pit was then started higher up-stream, commencing on a bench of bed-rock well above the river-level. A cut was made through gravel and down into bed-rock at right angles to the course of the stream. Now the pit has been turned going upstream on the

assumption that an old high-level channel of the river has been reached. The evidence from bed-rock dip is, however, not conclusive, and the whole working may simply be in benches of various levels of the stream channel. The face of the pit at present shows schistose bed-rock, then 3 feet of blue compact clay and gravel, then 3 feet of compact yellow gravel and above this 6 to 10 feet of loose stream gravels.

Very little gold was obtained in the gravels cut through from the river but ^{somewhat} better returns are being obtained from the material now being worked. When a good head of water is available, a thorough test run for about 30 days and a complete clean-up will show conclusively whether the gravels contain sufficient gold to pay for operation. The property is at present in the prospect stage with proper testing for values necessary.

The gold obtained is flat and fairly well worn, but somewhat coarser than fine gold, and therefore easy to save in a sluice-box. Nine men are being employed, with A.S. Bennet, foreman, in charge of operations.