

PRELIMINARY NOTES ON THE PROSPER VEIN, BEDWELL RIVER.

The Prosper vein occurs in flows of fine-grained basalt that include both even-grained and amygdaloidal phases. The flows strike northwesterly, (dip unknown) and the vein strikes northeasterly and dips northwestward.

The writer traversed the hillside for approximately 2000 feet northeasterly, along the strike of the vein, and found outcrops of only lava. Because of drift and valley-fill, outcrops do not occur southwesterly along the strike of the vein. Occasional large boulders of pink granite float suggests the possibility of granite occurring in the general region.

The quartz vein-matter follows a shear-zone that ranges from 1 foot to 4 feet in width. Excluding the vein-matter, the shear-zone consists of intensely sheared lava, that is relatively unaltered. The shear-zone strikes northeasterly but the shear planes within the zone strike easterly, the difference in strike between them ranging from 10 degrees to 30 degrees.

The quartz vein-matter ranges in width from a few inches to 4 feet. The narrower sections up to 1 foot tend to be tabular, but the wider sections are irregularly lenticular and usually occupy the full width of the shear zone. In general the quartz is narrow when the shear is narrow and vice-versa. Splits in the vein-quartz are common and where the vein is

lenticular, all stages in vein formation may be seen. These stages range from a vein consisting of a single split, through a vein of several splits, to a vein that includes many fragments of wall rock, to one in which all the wall rock has been digested and the vein consists mainly of quartz. In general the vein appears to have been formed mainly by replacement within a shear-zone rather than by simple fissure filling.

The mineralization consists of quartz with relatively abundant sulphides. These include pyrite, chalcopyrite and galena. The pyrite is the most abundant sulphide but chalcopyrite and galena occur in appreciable amounts. The sulphides are only rarely banded within the quartz, they most commonly occur as scattered clusters of mineral which appear to have replaced angular inclusions of wall-rock.

The development on the vein to date (April 19th, 1942) consists of one short adit, several open cuts and a combined open cut and adit 114 feet long, this aggregates a horizontal development along the vein of approximately 400 feet, and a vertical development of approximately 200 feet. This development, as best seen in the longer adit, suggests that the best ore has been localized by a change in strike of the shear-zone that would result in the development of an unfavourable section of compression alternating with a more

favourable section of tension. From the mouth of the open-cut to a point 5 feet in from the portal-cap, the vein strikes north 73 degrees east, from here to a point 40 feet in, the vein strikes north 58 degrees east, from here to 50 feet in it strikes north 45 degrees east and from here to near the face it strikes north 65 degrees east. The ore appears to be best in the section that ranges in strike from north 58 to 45 degrees east, it is less well developed in both the portal and face sections which strike north 65 to 73 degrees east. The angular difference between the strike of the main shear-zone and the strike of the shear planes within the zone indicates that the north wall of the shear-zone moved west. Such movement would tend to compress the portions of the shear with a more easterly strike and tend to open those sections with a more northerly strike. Vein-matter would form in the sections of the shear which were more open, or if closed where the compression was less, and the rock more physically amenable to replacement. Because of the relatively small amount of development work not enough data is available to predict either the length or frequency of such favourably oriented vein-sections.

J. S. Stevenson,
British Columbia Dept. of Mines,
May 4th, 1942.

By Walter Guppy

IN THE SUMMER of 1865, a party of the Vancouver Island Exploring Expedition (VIEE) traversed inland up the river flowing into the head of Bedwell Sound, which was known as Bear River at the time – now Bedwell River.

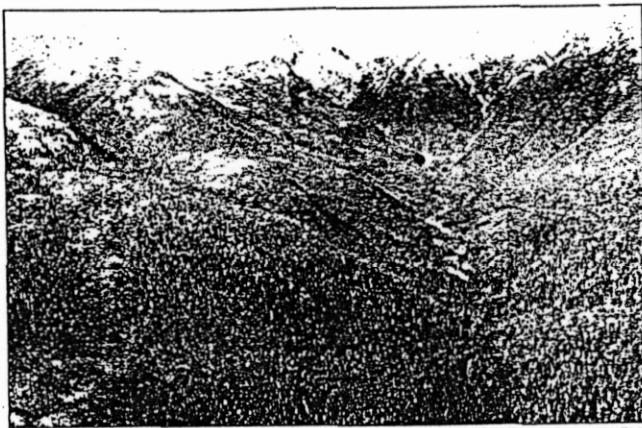
The VIEE had been organized the previous year, under the sponsorship of Governor Arthur Kennedy, to explore and prospect for gold and other minerals in the southern part of Vancouver Island. The Fraser River gold rush had petered out, alternative administrative and supply points had become established on the mainland to serve the Cariboo and something – such as the discovery of significant quantities of gold on Vancouver Island – was needed to stimulate economic activity and restore Victoria's position as the principal centre for the Crown colonies of the Pacific Northwest.

Some success toward this end was achieved by a VIEE party in 1864 with the discovery of gold at Leech River, but Victoria was teeming with hungry gold seekers. This field was soon over crowded, so, in 1865, another party, led by John Buttle, was dispatched to explore from inlets farther up the west coast and, on the trek up Bedwell River, gold was found. An excerpt from the *Daily British Colonist* report on this discovery, dated Aug. 11, 1865, reads as follows:

The news received yesterday from the Government exploring expedition cannot, under present circumstances, prove other than gratifying. To find gold in paying quantities on our west coast corroborates the statement so often expressed about the auriferous character of that portion of the country and gives renewed hope of the gold bearing nature of the Island generally.

It appears that the exploring expedition on reaching Bear River divided itself into two parties – one ascending the right fork and the other left. The first party under Buttle, the commander of the expedition, proceeded up the river until they came to the head-waters, a distance of about 20 miles from the mouth. Although prospecting the whole way, in some instances reaching bed-rock, they saw nothing of an encouraging character.

The other party, under Hancock, that had ascended the left fork, returned the day after with more successful news. When about eight miles up the river, they struck a prospect of from four to five cents a pan on the surface and commenced to sink to bed-rock. The rock, however, gave no better results than were obtained from the surface down: but diggings of four or five cents to



The rugged valley of Ursus Creek, which the Buttle expedition ascended in 1864.

The scent of gold

the pan, with a depth of wash-dirt of several feet, can indeed afford to have a non-paying bed-rock.

The *Daily British Colonist* report continues with other details about the nature of the area and speculates that a considerable section of the river is gold-bearing and has the potential to provide profitable employment for "numerous miners."

As soon as news of gold being discovered at "Bear" River reached Victoria, more than 100 hungry gold seekers journeyed to the scene of the reported discovery in two chartered steamers. They returned to Victoria in disgust to agitate for compensation for being led astray by a misleading government report. The *Daily British Colonist* reported, in part, as follows:

The return yesterday of the Bear River miners is one of those disheartening circumstances about which the less said perhaps the better. From every misfortune it has been remarked there is something to be learned, and so from the grievous disappointment which overtook the enterprising miners at Clayoquot there will be some who will say that the community as well as the government will derive an increased worldly wisdom. The worst feature of the case is, however, that the lesson costs too much. When a number of men rich in rig-

A remote valley, mixed reports of gold — and what did cause the Chinese to flee?

or but poor in pocket are led into a wild-goose chase after fancied gold fields, it is not only the 'very hard cash' the industry and the time of the miners that are frivolously wasted, but it is what is even more valuable — the spirit of the population.

The lengthy diatribe continues in this vein and contains a sentence that supports the statement in the earlier report that Buttle ascended the right fork of the river

and it was Hancock's party that found the gold. It states: "The commander of the exploring party had never seen the locality prospected by his subordinates."

Entirely unaware of the brouhaha he had caused, Buttle had proceeded with his party up the coast to Nootka. News of the debacle was brought to him by the supply schooner *Surprise* on Aug. 24, 1865. Considerably perplexed by this turn of events, Buttle sent Hancock and Forgie – the party's placer miner – back to the scene of the discovery with Capt. Francis of the supply vessel, who stated after making an examination of the site that he "had no doubt that they obtained the gold from the number of pans reported, but they greatly overestimated the average of the dirt."

A man named R.W. Torrens was dispatched to Bedwell River on the steamer *Otter* to further investigate the veracity of Buttle's report. Torrens interviewed a few

disgruntled placer miners still on the scene and on the basis of these interviews and his own cursory examination of boulders in the lower reaches of the river, concluded that not only was there no gold in the river but the entire area was geologically unfavourable for gold-bearing deposits.

This was not the end of the story of gold at Bedwell River. About 10 years later reports reached Victoria of Chinese placer miners operating there. A Mr. Cameron – possibly David Cameron, former chief justice for the Crown colony of Vancouver Island – was sent to investigate. References to this investigation were entered in the log book of the Steamer *Maude* by Capt. H.R. Jones of that vessel, as follows.

June 17, 1887 – Steamer waiting rest of Friday and part of Saturday for Cameron and miner Charley Riley's return.

June 18, 1887 – Mr. Cameron returned and from the account he gave I strongly suspect the Chinamen are trying to keep a good thing to themselves. There are 50 of them (Cameron conjectures) erecting dams, sluices and water wheels in four places from five to 12 miles up from the mouth of the river.

Further reference to Chinese placer miners at Bedwell River is found in the 1898 annual report of the minister of mines for British Columbia. It states:

In the early '60s, Bear River had a placer excitement, and about 12 years ago some 15 Chinamen were at work on the upper reaches of the river, washing for gold: these, however, suddenly left – driven away, it is said, by superstitious fears engendered by the sudden death of one of their number. The workings of these early miners are still visible and it is reported that they found considerable gold, but the numerous large boulders prevented the work from being profitable.

And so, how much gold was recovered from the bed of Bedwell River remains a mystery and it is not known if the Chinese actually left as a result of "superstitious fears" or, as would seem more probable, on account of a dearth of gold and incredibly difficult conditions. No doubt they had good reason to be secretive about their activities and would not have left any accurate records of gold production from their workings.

In any case, John Buttle's report of gold in Bedwell river was confirmed – and many years later lode gold deposits were discovered and mined there.

Walter Guppy lives in Tofino and is himself a prospector.

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PROPERTY FILE

By Walter Guppy

A PLACER MINER with the Vancouver Island Exploring Expedition party led by John Buttle in 1865 discovered gold in the bed of the river flowing into the head of Bedwell Sound. The *Victoria Daily British Colonist* of Aug. 11, 1865, gives a glowing report on the discovery. It reads in part:

The news received from the government exploring expedition cannot, under present circumstances, prove other than gratifying. To find gold in paying quantities on our west coast corroborates statements so often expressed about the auriferous character of that portion of the country and gives renewed hope of the gold bearing nature of the Island generally.

The report continues at length in the same vein, giving a detailed account of the discovery and speculating on its potential to support "a highly profitable operation employing several miners."

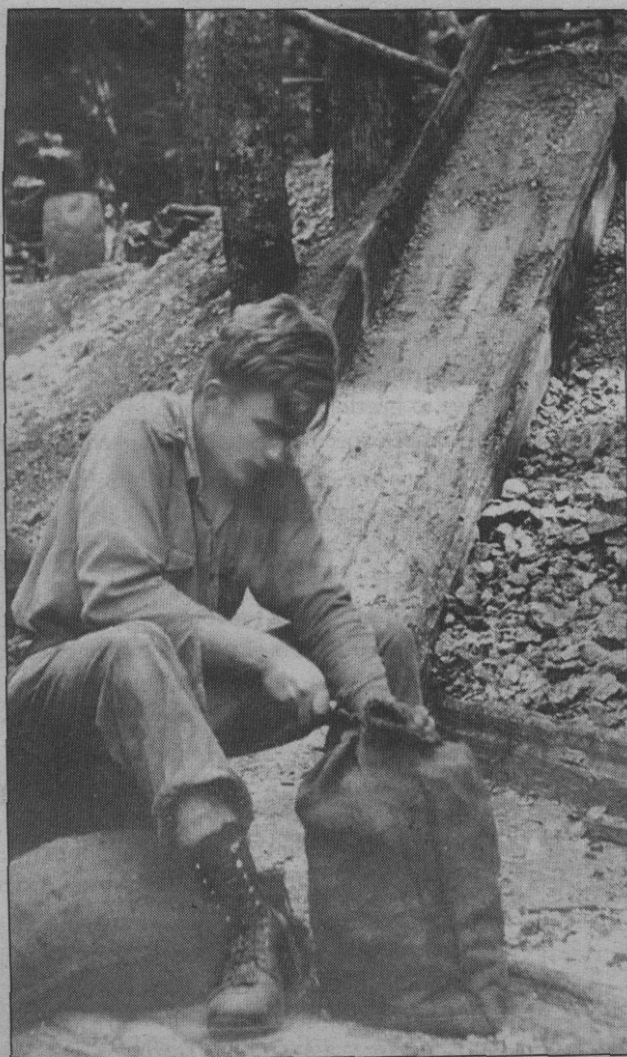
However, it proved to be a fiasco. Later *Daily British Colonist* reports indicate that about a hundred stampederes that travelled to the scene of the discovery in two chartered steamers failed to find significant quantities of gold. They returned, disgruntled, to *Victoria* to demand compensation from the government for time and money lost on account of the publication of misleading information.

There are no further reports of activity at Bear River — as it was called at the time — until 1898 when numerous gold and base metal discoveries around Clayoquot Sound were reported in the annual report of the minister of mines for British Columbia. This report mentions earlier operations by Chinese placer miners that apparently found the gold that Buttle reported on but others failed to find. It states:

In the early '60s, Bear River had a placer excitement, and about 12 years ago some 15 Chinamen were at work in the upper reaches of the river, washing for gold; these, however, suddenly left in a body, having been driven away, it is said, by superstitious fears engendered by the sudden death of one their number.

Whether it was "superstitious fears" or a dearth of gold and difficult conditions that caused the Chinese to discontinue their operations here is a matter for conjecture. However, the report states that they found "considerable gold" and it appears that it was sufficient to keep them occupied in this remote area for a couple of decades.

The 1898 report also mentions that a



WALTER GUPPY COLLECTION

Gold up the Bedwell

trail had been built for eight miles up the valley by prospectors with government assistance and states that a hotel had been built at the head of Bedwell Sound at a point known as Port Hughes.

Most of the prospecting activity at Bedwell River around the turn of the century was centred on copper-magnetite iron deposits at Penny Creek a couple of miles above tidewater. Considerable work was carried out on the Seattle, New York and Castle prospects but shafts and adits failed to encounter targeted ore-bodies and, as financial backing dried up, the boom petered out.

A miner sacks gold ore for the smelter from the Prosper Mine in 1947, at left.

Few traces remain of the Buccaneer Mill, pictured at right in 1940

The next boom at Bedwell River started in 1913, again involving copper. The Ptarmigan-Big Interior prospect, discovered by Joe Drinkwater of Alberni on the summit north-east of Bedwell Valley, was acquired by British interests that formed a company named Ptarmigan Mines Ltd., with head offices in London, to develop it to production.

It was proposed to construct a road up Bedwell Valley to connect with an aerial tramline to the top of the mountain at an elevation of 5,000 feet.

Seven miles of wagon road had been completed and materials for the tramline landed at the head of Bedwell Sound when war broke out in 1914 and the entire crew employed on the project left to enlist, leaving all the supplies and materials assembled on the site abandoned to the ravages of nature and the depredations of humans and animals. A later survey conducted with a view of reopening the project concluded that the \$40,000 that had been spent on it was a dead loss.

A puzzling feature of this Ptarmigan Mines development is the fact that the boundaries of Strathcona Park were extended in 1913 to take in the upper Bedwell Valley where the development was taking place. This was contrary to the original Strathcona Park Act of 1911. This act was amended in 1918 to accommodate mining but, by that time, copper prices had slumped and interest in developing a copper mine at Bedwell River waned.

Following the Zeballos gold rush of the late 1930s, which stimulated another surge of prospecting activity all along the coast, discoveries were made at Bedwell River that resulted in a boom of considerable



ALBERNI VALLEY MUSEUM PN 3004

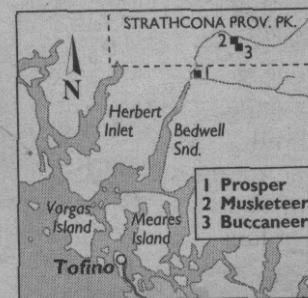
proportions developing there late in the summer of 1938. This was only a year before the outbreak of the Second World War caused a decline in gold mining ventures but not an end to mining at Bedwell River. The Musketeer and Buccaneer prospects, discovered by Sam Craig and Patrick McCrory respectively, were acquired by major mining companies and developed to production.

A road, over a distance of some eight miles from tidewater to the mines, was constructed by the mining companies with government assistance at a total cost of \$53,000. By December 1942, when restrictions on labor and materials caused the mines to close, more than 5,000 ounces of gold had been produced by the two mines.

In the post-war period, up until 1972, there was intermittent production from mines at Bedwell River. The Musketeer mill was rehabilitated and some shipments of selected ore made to Tacoma Smelter, bringing the total production from mines there, including about 200 ounces from the Prosper Mine outside of the park, to something over 7,000 troy ounces (217,700 grams).

The Strathcona Park area has now been closed to mining and various other factors have inhibited exploration of the area outside the park. However, trends and conditions change and nothing devised by legislation is inscribed in stone. Some day there may be another mining boom at Bedwell River.

Walter Guppy lives in Tofino, retired after a career as electrical contractor and prospector. He has published Clayoquot Soundings and is working on a history of mining on Vancouver Island.



GCNL 32 TAMARA RESOURCES INC. (TAM-V) 16 FEB 87
 NEW DIRECTOR, WORK RESUMING - Robert L. Card, a
 ON GOLD PROJECT, FUNDS SOUGHT director of Tamara
 Resources Inc.,

Tamara Resources Inc TAM
 Shares issued: 3,078,834 Apr 10 close: \$0.78
 News Release

Apr 14, 87 Stockwatch
 Mr. Robert Card reports: 92F053

The company reports on assay results from its Prosper gold mine.

The company recently completed a raise at the Prosper gold mine to be used for development and exploration purposes. This raise generally followed the vein for approximately 100 feet of vertical distance and 135 five feet of slope distance in the raise. Assays ranged to as high as 9.871 ounces gold/ton of vein material sampled. Reproduced below is a table giving the assay results, vein widths and the distance from the start of the raise.

SAMPLE NO.	AG OZ/T	AU OZ/T	VEIN WIDTH	DISTANCE (FEET)
51	0.06	0.032	12"	2.0
52	0.11	0.018	18"	12.0
55	0.02	0.002	12"	17.0
58	0.26	0.058	3"	20.0
61	0.25	0.296	4"	27.0
65	0.13	0.068	18"	62.0
67	0.11	0.062	24"	69.0
70	0.15	0.140	16"	78.5
72	0.50	0.344	12"	86.5
74	n/a	0.373	12"	91.0
77	n/a	0.264	12"	97.0
78	n/a	0.378	12"	102.0
79	n/a	0.022	16"	114.5
82	n/a	0.774	16"	120.0
85	n/a	9.871	12"	125.0

announces the appointment of Joe Markevich as a director. Directors have granted director and employee incentive options to buy a total of 96,000 shares at 55¢ each, good through 11Feb89. 92F053

Tamara's vice president, Wayne Ash, P.Eng., was on the Prosper mine property, near Tofino on Vancouver Island, B.C., on 11Feb87 with a work crew to prepare to open the camp and start underground operations by 15Feb87. The mine has grades averaging 2.18 ounces per ton in gold and indicated and possible reserves having a potential value of \$1,600,000 at present prices.

Management are negotiating a private placement of up to \$500,000.

Apr 15, 87 TAMARA RESOURCES INC. (TAM-V) GCNL 74

SAMPLE	OZ. SILVER/T	OZ. GOLD/T	VEIN WIDTH	DISTANCE
51	0.06	0.032	12 inches	+ 2 feet
52	0.11	0.018	18	12
55	0.02	0.002	12	17
58	0.26	0.058	3	20
61	0.25	0.296	4	27
65	0.13	0.068	18	62
67	0.11	0.062	24	69
70	0.15	0.140	16	78.5
72	0.50	0.344	12	86.5
74	N/A	0.373	12	91
77	N/A	0.264	12	97
78	N/A	0.378	12	102
79	N/A	0.022	16	114.5
82	N/A	0.774	16	120
85	N/A	9.871	12	125

The wallrock on both the footwall and the hangingwall were also sampled and produced assay values ranging from 10 ppb gold to as high as 21 to 30 ppb gold and 0.1 ppm silver to as high as 2.2 ppm silver indicating that the footwall and the hangingwall both carry some values.

The company is very optimistic that with the recent increase in the price of gold the Prosper property becomes that much more profitable as a producing situation.

The company has entered negotiations with a private investor to provide up to \$500,000 to put the Prosper mine into production. The terms of the agreement will be announced when negotiations have been finalized.

CHANNEL SAMPLE CUT 9.871 - Robert L. Card, director of OZ. GOLD/T ACROSS 1 FOOT Tamara Resources Inc.,

92F053 reports assay results from their Prosper gold mine about 2.5 miles from the head of Bedwell Sound some 25 miles NNE of Tofino on Vancouver Island, B.C., at an elevation of about 200 feet. Tamara recently completed a raise to be used for exploration and development. This raise generally followed the vein for about 100 feet of vertical distance and 135 feet of slope distance in the raise. Assays ranged up to 9.871 ounces gold/ton of vein material sampled. The assay results shown in the table are of channel samples taken across the width of the vein at the distances shown from the start of the raise.

Samples were taken from the wall rock on both the footwall and the hangingwall and produced assay values ranging from the 10 ppb gold to as high as 30 ppb gold and 0.1 ppm silver as high as 2.2 ppm silver indicating that the footwall and the hangingwall both carry some values.

Tamara is negotiating with a private investor to provide up to \$500,000 to put the Prosper mine into production.

Tamara Options The Prosper Mine On Vancouver Island

by Sam Stone

92F053(5)

The Prosper Mine is located 29 kilometres north northeast of Tofino on Vancouver Island and consists of five mineral claims on the Bedwell River.

The property was located before the turn of the century and between 1898 and 1900 the "Ben" claims were developed by shafts and drifts to mine a copper-magnetite deposit. At least two gold bearing quartz veins were found and trenched. At this time a short adit was driven to explore the Prosper vein.

In 1938 another group began development of the Prosper vein and exploration discovered at least two other veins several hundred feet to the south which were subsequently trenched. In 1942 an adit was begun about 40 metres above the old portal. Samples were sent to Bralorne Mines Buccaneer Mine, several miles up-river, when the samples assayed out at 7.0 ounces of gold per ton Bralorne promptly optioned the property on a 15% royalty on net profits.

Bralorne advanced the drift 120 feet in from the portal, over 90 feet of this tunnel assayed 2.2 ounces of gold per ton. In common with many mines on the west coast of the Island at this stage of the Second World War, the Prosper Mine was shut down. Only 100 tons of ore grading 2.18 ounces of gold was shipped to the Buccaneer before the mine closure. Today it is estimated that the small 500 ton dump by the upper portal still contains over \$100,000 worth of gold.

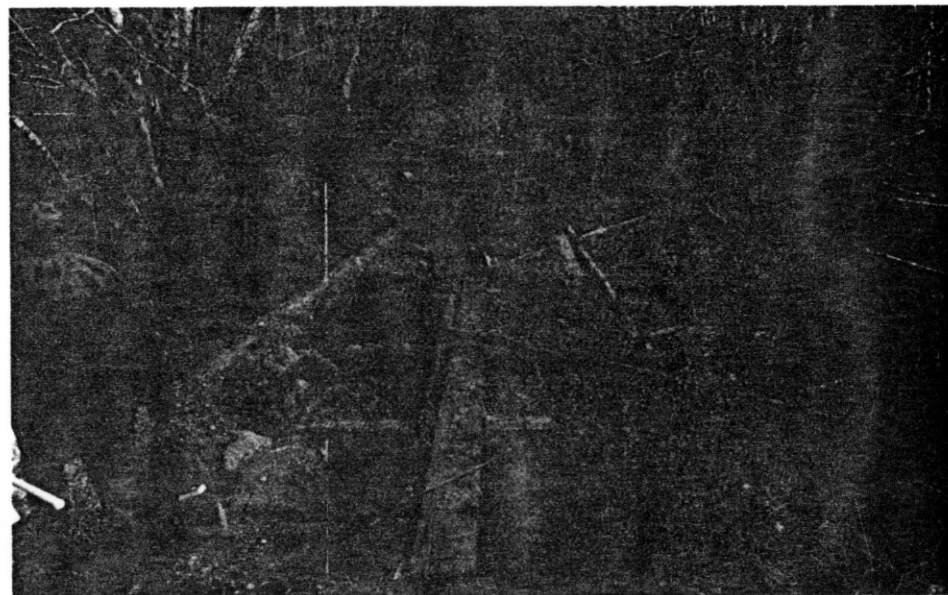
The mine was revived again in 1947 and the old lower adit was developed and the face advanced 420 feet. Halfway along the drift a 40 foot section of near ore grade material was encountered and a 32 foot raise was driven. A five ton hand-cobbed sample assaying 2.68 ounce of gold per ton was sent to the smelter. Even so, with a fixed price of \$35.00 for gold, there was no investor interest in developing the mine.

Mineralization on the property is contained primarily in three structures, the Prosper vein, the Isob vein and the copper-magnetite zone, first mined by the original locators.

The ore potential is not restricted to the Prosper alone, the Isob, 200 feet north and parallel has been exposed at various points for over 300 feet along strike and



At the entrance of the old adit



Derelict logging bridge

samples of vein float have contained coarse gold particles. Two other veins parallel to the Prosper will also be explored.

At the present time there is gold valued at more than \$1.5 million in the Prosper vein which grades an average of 2.18 ounces of gold per ton. Tamara will be able to mine this reserve by completing only 400 feet of underground work including 300 feet of raises and 100 feet of sub-drifting. At the same time a diamond drilling program will be carried out to

delineate further reserves.

With the previous development work, mining this reserve would be straightforward and cost effective. Tamara will be able to gain a good profit just from these known reserves. Additional reserves will substantially enhance the profitability of the operation.

For further information contact: Robert Card, 809-837 West Hastings Street, Vancouver, B.C. V6C 2V9. Phone 604-687-7828. ■

GCNL #40 26 FEB 1986

NO.40(1986)
FEBRUARY 26, 1986

TAMARA RESOURCES INC. (TAM-V)

92F/5 92F053

OLD PROPERTY WITH HIGH GRADE GOLD - Wayne Ash, P. Eng., vice president, announces that Tamara Resources Inc. has
VEIN ACQUIRED ON VANCOUVER ISLAND acquired the former Prosper claim group on the Bedwell River, 30 miles NNE of
Tofino on the west coast of Vancouver Island. It has been worked at various times
as a high grade gold property. There are developed levels on the property. Tamara's consultant estimates more than
\$1,000,000 worth of gold at present prices is on the property.

One sample taken in the past across 3 feet of the vein gave 4.812 ounces of gold per ton, 6.22 oz.silver/t and
1.46% copper. Another, across 2 feet, gave 2.472 oz.gold/t, 0.84 oz.silver/t and 0.29% copper. An 84-foot length of
one vein that has been developed, averaging 1.85 feet wide, was sampled at an average gold content of 2.18 oz/ton.
Most of this vein is still in place. Within 10 days, Tamara's officers and geologists will examine the workings and
develop a program to add to reserves. Tamara's consulting geologist is George Krueckl, P.Eng.