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REPORT  
ON  
DELLA MINE  
VANCOUVER ISLAND, B. C.

PROPERTY FILE  
92F068

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LOCATION

The Della Mine is located around Della Lake on Della Mountain, in Strathcona Park, Vancouver Island, B. C., approximately (12) miles distant in a North Westerly direction from the head of Great Central Lake, and at an elevation of about 3000 feet above sea level.

NUMBER OF CLAIMS

The Della Mine consists of a group of (14) fourteen mining claims, (6) six of which are Crown Granted and known as Della Fraction, Bessie, Marie, Della, Mamie and Minnie comprising the original group formerly owned and operated by Joe Drinkwater. The remaining (8) eight claims are held under miners licences.

ACCESS- ABILITY

The Della Mine is accessible from the head of Great Central Lake by a logging railroad now under construction by the Bloedel, Stewart and Welsh Logging Co. Ltd., up the Drinkwater River Valley to within (2) two miles of the present mining Camp site and mine. The Provincial and Dominion Governments in conjunction with the Good Roads League have passed a vote for sufficient funds to complete the road, from the end of the railroad to the mine which at present is traversed by a good trail.

FORMATION

The oldest rocks of the district are mosozic volcanics and imbedded sediments of the Vancouver Group with minor amounts of older limestone and argillite. The Vancouver formation has been intruded and uplifted by stocks of grandiorite. The grandiorite is presumably a member of the Coast Range intrusives and the mineral deposits have in all possibility been formed by solutions emanating from its magma. Both formations are cut by later small ingenous dykes.

The vein material is an open, vuggy, crystalline quartz with varying amounts of pyrite, galena, sphalarite and arsenopyrite. Although fine gold was recovered by panning oxidized pieces of ore, no free gold was discovered.

SHOWINGS

The main mineral showings are on the Della claims, although one vein has been traced by surface outcrops for over 3000 feet on the surface and over 2000 feet down a steep precipitous mountain side indication to some extent the depth of the surface showing. Samples taken at different points along this perpendicular outcrop gave the following ounces in gold:- 3.32, 3.22, 5.20, 1.50 and 1.86, or \$116.20, \$112.70, \$182.00, \$52.50 and \$65.10 respectively. A short distance from this outcropping is another outcrop (3') wide which has been traced up this precipitous mountain side for over 200 feet. This outcrop is known as the McLean Vein. Besides the afore mentioned, other veins have been discovered which also carry high values in gold.

WORK DONE

Work on the Della Mine has been confined chiefly to the Della vein. This vein shows a surface outcrop of over 3000 feet, but only some 400 feet has been prospected by (6) open sills or shafts and sampling done along this distance showed the ore to be about the same grade as the ore obtained when the old (10) foot shaft was bailed out and sunk a further (15) feet. The cast (1 $\frac{1}{2}$ ) foot of sinking in this shaft produced (1) one ton of cobbled ore. This ore with other cobbled ore was shipped to the Tacoma Smelter and gave the equivalent of \$150.00 per ton at the present price of gold \$34.50 per ounce.

This shaft was sunk on a rather poor looking section of the outcrop, but was located as having less water to handle than other better looking places. Following the Della vein North from the (400) feet that has been prospected, it can be traced under Della Lake for a considerable distance and picked up again on the other side where it is opened in places until it comes to the steep precipitous mountain side dropping down into Drinkwater River Canyon. On this side of the Lake the veins carry the same values but the outcrops so far exposed were too narrow to be of commercial value.

The trail going up from Drinkwater River to the plateau follows closely along the outcrop of another vein which parallels the Della vein. Samples taken from this vein in many places over an elevation of (1500) feet assays an average of (1) one ounce of gold over this elevation. From this there would not seem to be any question about the vein and values going down.

#### ASSAYS

Over one hundred samples taken from off this property in the summer of 1938, assayed over an average of (1) ounce of gold. Assays attached to this report are copies of some of the assays obtained, the originals may be seen at the Companies office, Vancouver, B. C.

#### GOVERNMENT REPORTS

Although little work has been done on this property since 1916, considerable work was accomplished prior to that date by the earlier operators which is shown on the accompanying plan of the workings. A summary taken from the B.C. Provincial Minister of Mines reports is appended.

It is estimated there is at present over one hundred tons of ore now lying on the dump from which (4) samples assayed gave an average of 1.02 ounces of gold, the highest being 5.38 ounces. This would appear to represent a fair average of the vein gold values. No doubt careful picking and cobbing of ore of much higher grade from the above could be obtained but the tonnage would be reduced accordingly.

#### POWER

A water-power has been obtained right on the claims sufficient to supply all the requirements necessary to operate the property at all times.

#### TIMBER

There is abundance of timber available on the property for all mining purposes and a small saw-mill operated by water-power could easily be installed.

#### ADVANTAGES POSSESSED BY THE DELLA MINES

1. Definite indications of high grade gold values.
2. A vein uncovered and traced for a considerable distance, as well as other paralleling veins with outcroppings at

irregular intervals.

3. Abundant available cheaply developed water power.
4. Plenty of timber for all requirements on the property.
5. A railroad under construction to within a short distance of the property.
6. A large and successful mining company (Premier Mines Ltd.) operating on the adjacent property.
7. All reports on the Della Mines have been consistantly favourable.
8. All reports from prospectors and otherwise of the Upper Bear River and Della Lake areas gives every indication that this area may easily develop into one of the largest mining areas existant on the Island.

COPY OF PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT REPORTS ON DELLA GROUP

1906:

These claims are situated on the small lakes in the Big Interior Basin and are owned by Drinkwater and Engvik. On the claims is a small quartz vein from two to three feet wide, mineralized chiefly with arenical iron. Assays of the straight ore gave the following results:

Gold . . . . .	5.12 oz. per ton
Silver . . . . .	5.02 oz. per ton
Copper . . . . .	1%

The vein has not yet been worked to any extent but an attempt is being made to extract the values by roasting the ore and grinding it in an arastra which has been erected and is being run by a small water wheel constructed on the ground. The arastra had just been completed at the time of my visit.

1915:  
1917:

This Group of Mineral Claims, the Della and Glacier claims, situated about half a mile south-easterly from Big l. Group, along the west shore of Della Lake near Big Interior Mountain. These claims were located about 1900 by Joe Drinkwater and Alvin Engvik of Vancouver, because of a discovery of vein of gold bearing quartz, who later built an arastra and operated it by a water wheel for some time, in an attempt to save the free gold that could be panned from samples of quartz taken from the outcroppings. Below the surface the quartz carried too much iron pyrites and too little free gold for successful treatment by this method and the arastra was abandoned. The title of the claims was held by the locators after closing down the arastra, by the performance of the necessary annual assessment work.

1915

A well-defined fissure vein averaging about four feet wide occurs near the centre of the Della Claim, cutting across a low bridge made up of much altered pyroxenite rock. The axis of this ridge is at right angles to the course of Della Lake and the strike of the fissure is North (mag) with its dip 68 degrees to the West. The fissure is filled with rusty iron stained quartz mineralized with iron pyrites, arsenopyrite and occasional crystals of galena. The quartz usually carried some values in free gold.

The fissure can be only traced along its strike for a length of fifty feet being cut off toward the south by a glacier creek, toward the north by a ravine, but in both directions beyond the creek and ravine, narrower fissures occur in a similar country rock filled with quartz resembling that mentioned and may possibly represent extensions of the first mentioned fissure or may probably belong to a series occurring in the pyroxenite rock. The lines of the strike of the last mentioned fissure are more westerly and dip at flatter angles than those of the first mentioned. The total distance that fissuring can be traced by several outcroppings of rusty iron stained quartz is about 400 feet. Shafts have been sunk and open cuts made on nearly all of the outcroppings but as the shafts were all full of water they could not be examined, neither could much data be obtained from the open work because most of these were filled with debris.

The main work is done on the fissure first mentioned and consists of an open cut 33 feet long, 8 feet deep and about 5 feet wide, with a shaft sunk at the northerly end of the cut of unknown depth because it was full of water. A sample taken from the dump at the south entrance to the open cut that appeared to represent about an average of the pile, this assayed Gold 1.68 ounces, Silver 2.8 ounces. Practically all of the ore seen by the writer on this property carried so much iron pyritis and other sulphides as to place it among smelting or concentrating ores rather in the free milling class, but none of the quartz on the Della Claim appeared to carry any copper.

1919

The Big L. and Della Group of mineral claims are the only location in the Great Central Lake section, which belong to the Alberni Mining Division. The claims in these two groups are near the summit of Big Interior Mountain but on the side which forms the water shed of Great Central and Buttle Lakes, where described in 1915. No further work has been done.

File No.  
22734-42

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CERTIFICATE OF ASSAY  
G. S. ELDRIDGE AND COMPANY

Provincial Assayers, Analytical and Consulting  
Chemists, Metallurgical and Cement Inspectors

WE HEREBY CERTIFY that the following are the results of assays made by us upon samples of "Ore" herein described and received from "Messrs. Good Hope Mines Ltd." July 25, 1938.

Marked	GOLD		SILVER	
	Ounces per ton	Value per ton	Ounces per ton	Value per ton
Foot of cable Old Dump 1915 - #2	1.12	35.70	0.44	0.20
Dump shaft #3 1915 workings	.86	30.10	0.74	0.35
Dump #3 Shaft #3 Where free gold was taken	3.42	119.70	1.30	0.59
Taken from dump of fissure vein shaft over dyke #2	.42	14.70	0.28	0.13

Gold calculated at \$35.00 per ounce  
Silver calculated at .45¢ per ounce

Sgd. G.S. Eldridge  
Provincial Assayer.

File No. 22734-42

Certificate of Assay  
G. S. Eldridge and Company

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Chemists, Metallurgical and Cement Inspectors.

WE HEREBY CERTIFY that the following are the results of assays made by us upon samples of "Ore" herein described and received from Messrs. Good Hope Mines Ltd. July 25, 1938.

Marked	GOLD		SILVER	
	Ounces per ton	Value per ton	Ounces per ton	Value per ton
"DELLA GROUP"				
Hanging wall, open to weather, shaft #1	5.44	190.40	2.0	0.99
Taken between hang- ings & foot wall shaft #1	1.92	67.20	0.58	0.26
Dump shaft #2, average sample 100 tons #2 dump	6.60	231.00	4.3	1.94

Marked	GOLD		SILVER	
	Ounces per ton	Value per ton	Ounces per ton	Value per ton
Dump shaft #2, taken off surface 1915 working #2	7.04	246.40	2.8	1.26
Foot of cableline in dump. Taken out 1915	.50	17.50	.26	.12

Gold calculated at \$35.00 per ounce  
 Silver calculated .45¢ per ounce.

Sgd. G. S. Eldridge  
 Provincial Assayer.

File No. 24967

Certificate of Assay  
 G. S. Eldridge and Company

WE HEREBY CERTIFY that the following are the results of assays made by us upon samples of "Ore" herein described and received from "Messrs. Good Hope Mines Ltd. October 3, 1938.

Marked	GOLD		SILVER	
	Ounces per ton	Value per ton	Ounces per ton	Value per ton
	3.32	116.20	1.4	

Gold calculated at \$35.00 per ounce.  
 Silver calculated at \_\_\_\_\_ per ounce

Sgd. G. S. Eldridge.  
 Provincial Assayer

THE FOLLOWING ARE A FEW OF THE VALUES FROM SAMPLES TAKEN ON "DELLA GROUP"

MINERAL CLAIMS  
 Situated at Della Lake, B.C.,  
 V. I.

<u>Ounces per ton</u>	<u>Values per ton</u>
1.84	64.00
2.14	74.90
3.22	112.70
5.20	182.00
1.50	52.50
1.86	65.10



Compiled from information supplied by  
Mr. Jos. MacDonald  
and report by  
Fred J. Hemsworth.

For further reports on Big Interior  
Group with photos and sketches of  
Big Interior Basin see Minister of  
Mines reports year 1906, pages 194  
to 197. Also year 1916 pages 314  
to 319. Also year 1907 page 208.