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Merritt, B.C.,  
August 10th, 1959.

Dr. Hartley Sargent,  
Chief, Mineralogical Branch,  
Department of Mines,  
Victoria, B.C.

Dear Dr. Sargent:

I examined the "Big Ben" property on Aug. 6, 7 and 8. On the 6th Mr. Williams, the owner, and Mr. R.R. Steiner, who directed the more recent work, showed me the various workings and exposures. On the 7th and 8th Markham and I plane-tabled the area. I enclose a map given me by Mr. Steiner which shows the general layout.

The rocks are agglomerates, tuffs and sandstones of the Dewdney Creek group striking fairly uniformly S50° E and dipping about 70° S.W. They are disturbed by strike faults, which mostly are bedding plane faults, and in one instance a fairly strong fault striking N 75° E and dipping 80° S.E. was observed with one of the bedding faults. A sill of basic diorite or gabbro occurs at the falls on Cameron creek; Steiner said the same rock occurs on the Big Ben Creek falls but he was unable to point it out and, although some sharp boulders are there, I was not able to find it in place.

The mineralization occurs as sulphide fracture fillings in and near the bedding plane faults. The sulphides vary in proportion from place to place; they are pyrite, arsenopyrite, sphalerite, pyrrhotite, chalcopyrite. Samples were taken at the better showings and a list will be sent to you later. The better showings are up to about 4 ft. in width, but these are few. They are tension fracture fillings and, in consequence, are lousy.

They are found in and near the faults. Sulphides also are found distributed through the sediments and in one instance there was enough sphalerite showing in a ten foot thick agglomerate bed to make it worth sampling.

The rocks show little alteration; the sulphides either are in limited quantity or in lenses of too small size to constitute ore bodies. I do not think the present showings are likely to make a mine.

On the other hand, it must be admitted that some of the showings are good enough to justify more surface work around them. There is always the possibility that they might be frequent enough along one or other of the stronger faults to make low grade ore. Too, the 1927 Annual Report notes that many of the showings appear to widen with depth. It is because of this statement, according to Mr. Williams, that he and his now deceased partners held the property for thirty odd years. There is, therefore, both practical and moral grounds for allowing more surface work despite the now existing park.

Surface work from the Big Ben Creek showings west could be done with little or no damage to the park. The trees are fire-killed and of no value of any kind, except possibly for pulpwood. Bulldozer trenching here could answer the more immediate questions and, I am sure, satisfy Mr. Williams.

I hope this outline will serve for the moment.

Yours truly,

"N.D. McKechnie"  
Mineral Engineer.

August 20th, 1959.

Mr. H.D. McKechnie,  
c/o General Delivery,  
Hope, B.C.

Dear Mr. McKechnie:

In regard to the "Big Ben" property, somewhat limited search has not enabled me to turn up the 1927 note in the Annual Report to which you refer. In case I should not see you in the near future I should be glad of specific reference or at least reference to the property name.

Yours truly,

H. Sargent,  
Chief, Mineralogical Branch.

HS:md

Mr. P.J. Mulcahy,

Deputy Minister of Mines,

BUILDINGS.

August 20th

59.

Re: "Big Ben" property, Hope-Princeton  
Highway.

Attached please find a copy of a letter dated August 10th from Mr. McKechnie to myself which serves as an interim report based on an examination that he made August 6-8 on the "Big Ben" property. The report is accompanied by a map obtained from Mr. Steiner.

H. Sargent,  
Chief, Mineralogical Branch.

HS:md  
Encl: Report and Map  
"Big Ben" property

92N/2W  
92N/3E-70

ROBERT R. STEINER, B.A., M.E.N.C., M.C.I.M.M.  
PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER (ALBERTA)

HEAD OFFICE: ~~2599~~ W 37TH AVE., VANCOUVER 13, B.C.  
2697

*Lat & Long  
49° 120° S.W.*

September 17, 1959.

Mr. N.D. McKechnie,  
Department of Mines,  
Mineralogical Branch,  
Victoria, B.C.

Dear Sir:

Would it now be possible for you to send me a copy of your report on the Big Ben, (Manning Park), property? I need it now to present my case to the Chief Gold Commissioner, with regard to getting my claims, which adjoin the Big Ben group, allowed. It will also be used to show why the Big Ben group is worthy of exploration.

I have been advised that I should not submit my own report before you submit yours, in the event that we might differ in our opinions. This does not imply that my report may differ substantially from yours, but just that we should have the same story to tell. And this is, basically, that there is mineralization present that should be explored by other means than just walking over the ground.

The most recent edict from the Parks Board is that they want my partner, Ben Williams, to relinquish his rights and privileges to his claims peacefully, with no suggestion that he will be compensated. In view of the fact that there is some economic mineralization present, this latest edict is rather silly, when compared to rights outlined in the Mining Act.

Time is of essence. My claims run out October 17th. And I would like to record assessment work done on them last winter. Ben and I would also like to group our claims, since my claims appear to be an extension of the mineralization of the Big Ben group. And most important, we have lined up financing to develop the property; but this financing will not be available as long as the dispute with the Parks Board is not settled.

Would you be kind enough to reply as soon as possible?

Yours sincerely,

*Robert Steiner*

Robert Steiner, P.Eng. (Alta).

September 22, 1959.

Mr. Robert Steiner,  
2697 - West 37th Ave.,  
Vancouver 13, B.C.

Dear Sir:

This will acknowledge your letter of September 17th.

My report on the "Big Ben" group, in Manning Park, is in preparation; probably it will be completed before October 17th, but this of course will in part depend on the demands of other work. Request for an advance copy must be made through Dr. Sargent, Chief, Mineralogical Branch.

For your immediate information, I quote the following excerpts from a preliminary report dated August 10th. Any of the statements may be revised in the final report.

"The rocks are agglomerates, tuffs and sandstones of the Dewdney Creek group striking fairly uniformly south 50 degrees east and dipping about 70 degrees south west. They are disturbed by strike faults, which mostly are bedding plane faults, and in one instance a fairly strong fault striking north 75 degrees east and dipping 80 degrees south east was observed with one of the bedding plane faults. A sill of basic diorite or gabbro occurs at the falls on Cameron Creek....."

"The mineralization occurs as sulfide fracture fillings in and near the bedding plane faults. The sulfides vary in proportion from place to place; they are pyrite, arsenopyrite, sphalerite, pyrrhotite, chalcopyrite..... The better showings are up to about 4 feet in width, but these are few. They are tension fracture fillings and, in consequence, are lensey. They are found in and near the faults. Sulfides also are found distributed through the sediments and in one instance there was enough sphalerite showing in a ten-foot-thick agglomerate bed to make it worth sampling.

"The rocks show little alteration; the sulfides either are in limited quantity or in lenses of too small size to constitute orebodies. I do not think the present showings are likely to make a mine.

" On the other hand, it must be admitted that some of the showings are good enough to justify more surface work around them. There is always the possibility that they might be frequent enough along one or other of the stronger faults to make low grade ore.....

"Surface work from the Big Ben Creek showings (south) could be done with little or no damage to the park. The trees are fire-killed and of no value of any kind, except possibly for pulpwood. Bulldozer trenching here could answer the more immediate questions and, I am sure, satisfy Mr. Williams".

Yours truly,

N. D. McKechnie,  
Mineral Engineer.

NDMcK/tr