

921/9 E

NOTES ON ROCKS EAST OF KAMLOOPS NEAR CEMENT QUARRYRE: LIMESTONE

While searching for Kingsvale east of Kamloops, I ventured into Canada Cement LaFarge's quarry north of the South Thompson River.

The quarry site appears to be situated in an area where the limestone is massively bedded and on the nose of an anticline plunging about 20 degrees to the south.

It would seem that they are hampered with impurities; an Fe carbonate is present; the rock is faulted with much hydrous Fe-oxides in fault zones. There are also a number of 6 inch to 4 wide zoned, altered basaltic and lamprophyric dikes striking east west and dipping 70 degrees north. Because of the Fe carbonates, the quarry looks more like a gossan zone on first glance than a limestone deposit.

Composition of the limestone varies in silica content; silica as quartz is present as a very fine silty aggregate and can make up 50 percent of the rock; sections of the limestone contain graphite.

Away from the quarry to the east, the limestone is grey, finely crystalline and is laced with fine dendritic veins of Fe carbonate. Silica rich horizons stand out as erosional highs giving a ribbed appearance to the limestone. The silica rich bands vary in frequency and widths are from inches to 4 to 5 feet true width.

Higher stratigraphically to the east, silica occurs as irregular shaped, angular, fractured, grey chert from 1 inch to 12 inches longest diameter again standing out as erosional features. The frequency of Fe-carbonate veins increase in this area.

Near the top of the limestone to the east the limestone is finely to coarsely bedded and had admixed silica. Beds are ^{L₅} sandstone to limestone conglomerate. The contact striking 20 degrees azimuth and dipping 40 degrees east, appears to be gradational into a poorly sorted closely packed reddish conglomerate with a brick red shale interstitial material. The basal conglomerate grades into a less friable, one foot to 4 foot bedded water lain bed with rounded lapilli-like fragments, angular fragments, closely packed, ½ inch to 1½ feet long diameter. The fragments are mostly volcanic, porphyritic syenite, basalt, andesite, some vesicular fragments.

Near the base, there is a vesicular basalt dike, 6 inches wide, 0 70 degrees, 56 degrees north.


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cc. Nick Carter

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Dimac (continued)

Some work is necessary in the quarry area to prevent fall and spring run-off from causing contamination of Maxwell Creek. Our attempts to have this work done have met with little success to date. Art O'Bryan inspected the property Sept. 15.

Placer Mines

Placer Leases 1064 and 8684 owned by Calvin Huey of Princeton were visited on September 7. These leases are on the Similkameen River and the surface rights are held by Newmont Mines Ltd. Newmont have reluctantly agreed to permit mining under certain conditions. The complications and disruptions caused seem to reinforce the argument of some that places leases should not be permitted on privately owned surface.

Placer Lease 1970 on Lockie Creek is partly covered by the Otter Lake Provincial Park. Recently the lease owner completed all our requirements to conduct a placer mining operation but in so doing he has run afoul of the Parks Branch. There may be fault on the part of both the lease owner and Parks but the miner has waited six years for Parks to establish their jurisdiction and only through this confrontation has any action been taken. Very likely the miner will come out a loser because he is overpowered by the arrogance of the opposition.

Placer Lease 7595 on Eakin Creek was visited by Art O'Bryan at mid-month. The lease owner has tried to avoid responsibility for reclamation by selling the property. Water Management Branch are pursuing both the former and current owners and will try and lay charges of some kind under their Act.

Miscellaneous

Canada Cement Lafarge

The Harper Ranch quarry was inspected on September 29. Limestone production is being reduced due to slowdowns in construction but there is some evidence of short term improvement with local construction, such as the new bridge over the North Thompson, expected to start soon.

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