

MERCURYBRIEF REPORT ON CINNABAR SHOWINGS ALONG THE YALAKOM RIVER,
NORTHWEST OF LILLOOET, B. C.

Examined by V. Hardley-Wilmet, Aug. 16-18, 1938

A number of claims, in which some cinnabar occurs, have been staked on both sides of the Yalakom river, 4 to 6 miles northwest of Mocha and about 30 miles northwest of Lillooet.

The principal claims on the east side of the river are those covered by the Golden Eagle group and owned by Messrs. A.D. McLean, P.J. Wilson and associates, and on the west side, almost opposite, claims are owned by G.L. McInnes of Vancouver and associates. There is a road from Lillooet along the east side of the Yalakom to Maxwell's Ranch and then a pack trail 4 miles to the deposits.

East Side of Yalakom River - Buff coloured volcanics consisting of rhyolites, dolomites, etc., occur as steep and precipitous bluffs ascending about 1500 feet above the river (El. 2500 to 4000 feet) and extend for several miles north and south of the Golden Eagle claims. When visited in August, 1938, prospecting work consisted of one or two trenches alongside of the face of the bluff and one cut driven into the hill. This work is confined to a horizontal zone about 50 feet thick of a lighter coloured rock about 300 feet above the river. An examination of the workings revealed cinnabar very sparsely disseminated along fractures in which the lime content is comparatively high. The cinnabar is pockety, there being a fair concentration in the most southerly working known as No. 1 pit, but elsewhere along this zone only an occasional small veinlet or splash of the mineral was noted.

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Following along this light coloured zone, similar "splashes" were observed over a horizontal distance of about 300 feet, but some of these are closely associated with a deep green calcareous rock. Above and below this zone no traces of cinnabar were found until another similar light coloured zone was found about 800 feet higher up the Mountain where a few specks of the mineral were noted. Near the top of the Mountain still another of the lighter zones occur in which it is said that some cinnabar was found. It appears therefore that there are at least three zones of 50 to 100 feet thick in which traces of cinnabar occur. These zones or bands (as observed from a high elevation on the opposite side (west) of the river) can readily be distinguished because of their lighter colour at elevations of approximately 300, 1000 and 1500 feet above the river and paralleling it, stretching for several miles along the east bank.

West Side of the Yalakov River - In comparison to the east bank, the west side of the river is densely wooded and not so precipitous. At an elevation of about 500 feet above the river and north of Shulaps Creek, prospecting work consisting of a number of small cuts has revealed a band carrying cinnabar values. Most of these cuts are barren of the mineral, but in some of them good hand specimens can be obtained. This is the original discovery in the steep and soil covered wooded slope of the Mountain. The showings indicate that the cinnabar is pockety and low grade over mining widths, though it appeared as if the prospect pits were slightly too low down the Mountain side and that better showings might possibly be found perhaps 20 to 50 feet higher up, but at present covered by overburden. The rocks are similar to those in the east

side. The extent of the cinnabar bearing zone, of which about 100 feet is revealed by 8 or 10 individual small cuts, has not been determined as it is covered by soil and trees.

The following is a description and analyses of three samples taken by the writer on the east side workings, 300 feet above the river.

	Mercury %
(a) Across 8 feet into face of hill in No. 1 trench	1.26
(b) Across 15 feet horizontally from face and along south wall of No. 2 tunnel trench, about 50 feet north of No. 1	0.05
(c) Across 4 feet along bottom of No. 2 trench where a few spots of cinnabar occurred	0.05

Conclusion

The cinnabar occurrences along the Yalakom river are within the "Mercury Zone" stretching east and west from Kamloops Lake to the Bridge River deposits in the western Shulap Mountains. Indications are that the Yalakom ore as a whole is very low grade and very "pockety", though the grade in some pockets is high but the quantity probably small. The writer, during his visit, recommended that future prospecting be confined to the light coloured zones in the hope of locating better cinnabar ore further along the strike of the zone where the present work has been done and also in the zones at the higher elevations. It is not known whether this has been done, or if any more of the mineral has been found.

Prospecting would be very much easier, and mineral indications are better, on the east side than on the west side of the Yalakom river in the immediate vicinity of the showings examined by the writer.

H. Eardley Wilson