

012319

13

PROPERTY FILE
92L034, 122, 123-07

8 copies

REPORT
ON
KLAANCH RIVER IRON
DEPOSITS

VANCOUVER ISLAND

MINING DIVISION
D. W. Cameron
MINING ENGINEER

92L-34, 122, 123

R
E
C P
O O
P R
Y T

R E P O R T

on

KLAANCH RIVER IRON DEPOSITS

Iron Crown and Rhoda Claims

Klaanch River, Vancouver Island

GENERAL:

On April 17, 1942 the writer left Alert Bay with two men to examine iron showings about seven miles up the Klaanch River, which empties into the south end of Nimpkish Lake.

Repeated fires during the last fifty years have caused much of the country in the vicinity of the iron deposits to be covered by an almost impenetrable tangle of young evergreen and salal brush. We were six days cutting trail, packing supplies, putting up camp and finding the north orebody. Old strippings, fully grown over, caused much search and considerable work to uncover again. We broke camp on May 3rd and reached Alert Bay on May 4th. It rained every day while on the trip and two days were lost because of rain.

HISTORY:

The group of eight claims - Rhoda, Iron Crown, Nimpkish, Klaanch, Magnet, Letitia, Sardine and Vulcan - were staked by Jim Haslow and the Mather Bros. in 1897. While at Nimpkish Lake I was told by Norman Smith (Surveyor) that his grandfather from 1892 on made several trips with Indians to the Klaanch River Iron showings. Old man Smith carried boxes of matches and set fires around trying to burn the forest. My Indians nicknamed him 'Old Lucifer Smith' and cussed him jocularly as they clambered through the wet brush. The claims were all crown granted but, with the exception of the Iron Crown and Rhoda, claims have reverted to the Crown - see sketch map of Klaanch River.

OWNERSHIP:

The Crown Granted claims Iron Crown and Rhoda are in good standing as regards taxes, and L. Manson, 240 Haliburton St. Nanaimo, B. C. is the recorded owner.

LOCATION AND ACCESS:

The Iron Crown and Rhoda claims are situated about seven miles up the Klaanch River, which empties into the south end of Kinkish Lake, which is about fifteen miles long. An old trail leads from the south end of Anutz Lake southeasterly through the group of claims - about four miles to the Iron Crown showings. This trail was cut out by us and is now being put in good shape by the Canadian Forest Products, Ltd.

The Klaanch river is a swift flowing river about 60' wide at the narrowest place seen. Good canoe men can pole and track proper boats upstream and shoot the river downstream - several men have been drowned in the river. The river floods and lowers rapidly and is highest in December. I think a 20' freighter canoe with a 6 h.p. kicker and two good canoe men could freight supplies up the river for a camp of six men or a diamond drill crew on the Iron Crown.

The Canadian Forest Products, Ltd., is starting the largest logging operation in Canada. A standard gauge logging railroad is nearly completed from Englewood, Beaver Cove (five miles from Alert Bay, B.C.) to the north end of Nimpkish Lake. From the south end of Nimpkish Lake a rail route has been surveyed along the east side of the Klaanch River. I was told by Mr. F. W. Buckland - resident engineer - that the railroad will pass within 500' of the river across from the Iron Crown claim

that is, within 1000' of the iron showing and across the river. Buckland also told me a spur will cross the river about 50 chains upstream from the iron showing. Mr. H. Pickett, Accountant - told me that it is planned to build a complete town of from five hundred to one thousand people at a point about twenty miles upstream from Nimpkish Lake. Plans are to log one million feet a day, after a year, for forty years. The farthest or final haul will be ninety miles. The road is expected to be finished past the Iron Crown by next winter.

On the west side of the Klaanch River they are now building a truck road to log off a limited amount of timber about 95 years old. This truck road is expected to end about 60 chains N.W. of the Iron Crown as 'Lucifer' Smith destroyed most of the timber in the vicinity of the magnetite bodies.

The logs will be dumped into Nimpkish Lake, towed to the north end of the Lake, and then loaded and hauled to salt water. From Beaver Cove the logs will be towed to Vancouver and likely Puget Sound. Later it is intended to build the railroad from the mouth of the Klaanch River along the east shore of Nimpkish Lake making a continuous rail haul to salt water.

On the enclosed map (Nimpkish West half) the approximate location of the railroad, truck road and trail is plotted.

GEOLOGY:

The eight claims were staked along a limestone-volcanic contact. The Rhoda is the most southeasterly claim

with the Iron Crown adjoining to the Northwest. On the enclosed geological map (Nimpkish, West half) I have plotted the approximate position of the Iron Crown and Rhoda claims and also the six lapsed claims.

Gunning - Summary Report Geo. Survey, Canada 1929 -
in describing the Klaanch group states -

"On the property a zone of magnetite with minor quantities of silicates, pyrite and chalcopyrite occurs as a replacement at the contact of limestone on the southwest and basic volcanics on the northeast. The contact trends northwesterly through the middle of the group and is poorly exposed but has been picked up in several places at outcrops or by open cuts and winzes for about 9,000 ft. At the S.E. end of the group the volcanics are intruded by a stock of granodiorite. The writer did not examine the Rhoda, Iron Crown or Nimpkish claims, but in a creek bed a few feet west of the Nimpkish River, on the Klaanch claim abundant magnetite containing irregular small quantities of pyrite and very little chalcopyrite is partly exposed. The magnetite occurs as disseminations in volcanics and fairly pure replacement bodies up to ten feet or more in width in crystalline limestone.

On the adjoining Sardine claim to the northwest no exposures were found.

But on the next claim, the Magnet, an old shaft and open cut expose the mineralized zone for a width of 25'. It consists of magnetite and more pyrite than was observed on the Klaanch and is at the same volcanic-limestone contact which here seems to be standing almost vertical.

On the Sardine, just northeast of the Letitia, it is reported that mineralization has been uncovered, but the old cuts could not be found.

On the next claim, the Vulcan, near the southeast boundary, there is a small outcrop of quartz and pyrite. This showing is probably four or five feet wide and contains a little chalcopyrite and magnetite. A sample of the richer pyritic material was collected - Au. Tr. - Ag. Tr. - Cu. 045%.

The deposit is apparently of importance only as a potential source of magnetite. The change from heavy magnetite mineralization at the S.E. end, near the granodiorite, to siliceous, pyritic material on the N.W. farther away from the granodiorite is interesting and noteworthy."

The enclosed map (scale 30'-1") shows about all outcrops in the vicinity of the orebodies seen by the writer. Syenite outcrops to the north along the river bank to within about 75' of the magnetite body and along the river bank to the S.E. greenstone outcrops for over 500' S.E. The greenstone appears to be intermediate to basic volcanics and near the magnetite bodies is much fractured and altered, containing epidote and pyrite. The greenstone occurring in the magnetite bodies is dike-like in form but in texture, etc., looks to be identical with the surrounding greenstone and is thought to be inclusions of the country rock in the ore. The covered limestone - greenstone contact judging by float is about 50' or 75' S.W. of the south orebody. The magnetite bodies exposed are enclosed in greenstone.

North Magnetite Body:

The north magnetite body outcrops on the south bank of the river with bluffs of magnetite from 15' to 25' high with drift covering the gentler slopes, and the highest outcrop about 100' above the river. A dike or inclusion of greenstone about 5' wide dipping about 25° S.W. cuts across the magnetite body. Due to overburden the dip of this body could not be ascertained, but I am inclined to think the body dips S.W. possibly less than 45°. Six samples (#7 to 12 inclusive) were taken as shown on map and assayed by G.S. Eldridge and Co., Vancouver.

Sample #7	-	Fe	62.7%	-	Phos.-Trace	
"	8	-	Fe	63.5%		
"	9	-	Fe	62.0%		
"	10	-	Fe	60.8%	-	Phos.-Trace Sulfur 0.50%
"	11	-	Fe	59.6%	-	Phos.-Trace Sulfur 0.28%
"	12	-	Fe	63.9%		
Composite Samples Nos. 7-8-9-12						Sulfur 0.06%

Some pyrite was noted in the magnetite, the pyrite being more noticeable near the contacts with the greenstone. Float found in the small creek led to the uncovering of the outcrop from which sample #12 was taken. The magnetite body, if continuous between these outcrops, is about 300' long and from 15' to 90' wide (see map scale 30' = 1" and cross-section). If the body dips vertically it is, I think, safe to estimate that from 50,000 tons to 60,000 tons of ore can be easily and cheaply mined by open cut methods, and likely grading about 60% Fe.

South Magnetite Body:

The south body lies about 400' S.W. of and apparently paralleling the north body at an elevation of 175' to over 200' above the river. The outcrops shown on the map are all

that were seen. The outcrops after being uncovered were rusty & showed considerable decomposed silicates and some pyrite. Six samples (#1 to #6 inc.) were taken as shown on the map.

Sample #1 - Fe. 65.9%	}	Composite - Sulfur 0.03%
" 2 - Fe. 64.7%		
" 3 - Fe. 66.3%	}	Phos.Trace - " 0.03%
" 4 - Fe. 62.1%		
" 5 - Fe. 63.9%	}	Composite - " 0.12
" 6 - Fe. 61.9%		

The above results from the south body caused considerable surprise as samples #4, #5 and #6 were expected to average about 45% Fe with samples #1, #2 and #3 running somewhat higher. Two small irregular acid dikes cut the magnetite at Sample #1 and inclusions of greenstone occur as shown near Sample #3. The other places uncovered should be about the same grade as the samples. The uncovered outcrops indicate a magnetite body 300' long by possibly 90' wide striking southeasterly with an unknown amount of included greenstone as shown near Sample #3.

Magnetometer Map by E. Lindeman:

Our results were plotted on the enclosed magnetometer map made by Lindeman 1908, with interesting results. Difference in elevation of readings, magnetite float on hillsides, dikes and included greenstone would be expected to make magnetic surveys difficult to interpret in mountainous country. However, Lindeman's map taken in conjunction with plotted outcrops and assays indicates that the south body is 50% longer, or is two bodies on strike. Lindeman's map also indicates a central body or bodies of magnetite lying under drift.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

This examination has, I think, indicated, and indicated only, that two magnetite bodies exist on the Iron Crown claim, grading about 60% Fe with negligible phosphorus and a sulfur content ranging from 0.03% to 0.5% and likely averaging about 0.085% sulfur. The north body has an indicated area of about 13,000 square feet and the south body about the same area. Both bodies contain included waste rock, but likely not enough to cause serious difficulty in mining. Lindeman's magnetometer map indicates that the south magnetite body is possibly 50% larger and that a third drift-covered magnetite body lies between the north and south bodies. The above indications will have to be proved by stripping and diamond drilling. From the north magnetite body it is thought that from 50,000 to 60,000 tons can be won quickly and cheaply mined by open cut. A powered jig-back tram would dump the ore into a bin on a siding from the logging railroad across the river.

I think the Iron Crown and Rhoda claims should be optioned and some claims staked northwesterly along the greenstone-limestone contact. The Canadian Forest Products Ltd., should, I think, be approached about transporting the iron ore. Mr. F. W. Kirkland is Manager at Englewood, B. C.

A small crew stripping for a time would likely yield some information, but the showings would undoubtedly have to be diamond drilled.

May 15, 1942.
Vancouver, B.C.

D. W. CAMERON

