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DATA

ON  
LODE GOLD DEPOSITS,

McDames Creek Area, of  
Stikine Mining Division,  
British Columbia.

INTRODUCTION:

McDame Creek, in the Stikine Mining Division, was a famous placer camp. Lode prospects on Quartz Creek (Quartz Camp), and the vicinity of McDame Lake have been known for years, but the most extensive exploration in the area was in 1930-37, following the discovery by John Vollaug of a large continuous vein on the top of Table Mountain. Consolidated conducted a season's prospecting and diamond drilling on Vollaug's property and on the Crawford Prospects near McDame Lake. At the close of the season, they relinquished their options and withdrew from the area.

The best published reports on the area are by J.T.Mandy in the B.C.Minister of Mines' reports for the years 1931, 1935, and 1937. The geology of the area is described in G.S.C. Memoir 194, "Eagle-McDame Area, Cassiar District, B.C. by G.Hanson and D.A.McNaughton, 1936".

The following information is compiled from published sources and from discussion with Gerald Davis.

LOCATION:

The area is in the Cassiar District on the Liard River drainage. McDame Creek flows easterly into the Dease River, 60 miles N.E. of Dease Lake. The area is reached by steamer to Wrangell, thence by river boat to Telegraph Creek, thence by road to Dease Lake, thence by small boat down Dease Lake and Dease River to McDame Post. McDame post is at the mouth of McDame Creek. A wagon road follows up the creek 8 miles to Centreville. Beyond this a good pack trail continues up to Quartz Camp. The Provincial Government is contemplating continuing the road up to Quartz Camp in 1945.

The Alaska Highway provides a new means of access into the area. From Watson Lake Airport, McDame Lake is only 60 airmiles distant. Also, one can travel from Watson Lake and Lower Post by small river boat up the Dease to McDame, - a distance of 65 miles.

If conditions warranted, a road could be built without difficulty from the Alaska Highway to McDame.

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The inaccessibility of the area has been a major factor in retarding active exploration in the area. Freight to McDame Post via Wrangell was about \$110.00 per ton.

The elevation of McDame Post is about 2300 feet and that of Quartz Camp about 3500 feet. The area is on the north-east flank of the Cassiar Mountains; maximum relief is about 3500 feet; the climate is typical of northeastern British Columbia.

GEOLOGY:

The quartz veins lie about 6-8 miles northeast of the northeast contact of the Cassiar Batholith. The oldest rocks on the flank of the intrusive are a series of Paleozoic sedimentary rocks (quartzite, limestone and argillite). Jurassic andesitic volcanics and associated porphyrites and tuffs extends northwest in a synclinal trough in the Paleozoic rocks. Most of the veins are in the volcanics and associated porphyritic intrusives.

Some of the veins are barren; others are unmineralized except for occasional specks of free gold. Other high grade veins show pyrite and minor sphalerite where free gold is associated with the sulfides. The richer ore occurs sometimes on the walls of the vein.

In the vicinity of Quartz camp, vein quartz occurs over a width of 500 feet, making up 50-70 per cent of the rock across that width. To the east and west of this big quartz exposure, the veins continue, but narrower and of higher grade.

The Vollaugh vein lies near and on the contact of the sediments with the porphyrites in a thrust fault striking eastward dipping north where the older sediments on the hanging-wall are in juxtaposition with the younger volcanics. At the western end of the exposure the Vollaugh vein is offset by a cross fault. There is a possibility that the vein may be offset into the Agnes Mineral Claim.

PROPERTIES:

The approximate location of the principal holdings in the area is shown on the accompanying sketch. The claims of Gerald Davis are offered for option by St. Eugene on terms outlined in the attached letter. Davis purchased or staked these claims as key claims in the area. Under terms of the option, he agrees to stake adjoining open ground and attempt to secure options on the other properties for the company. Davis' holdings are the Agnes Mineral Claim, the Norah Group (Norah and Annex Mineral Claims) and a half interest in one claim in the T.A. Perry Group of three claims.

D. Wing of Wrangell operated a placer property on Quartz Creek up to the start of the war. Wing holds 3 lode claims covering the placer workings and the large quartz outcrops on Quartz Creek. To the west, J.C. Simpson and Glenn Hope of Telegraph

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Creek have groups on high grade veins extending westerly from the wide outcrop. The eastern extension is into the T.A. Perry Group. This group is described in the B.C. Minister of Mines 1935, B 16 as the Snow Creek Property. The Norah and Agnes are part of the old Crawford holdings.

The Vollaug property has been restaked as the Hurricane and Spitfire Groups. The Hurricane Group of 4 claims is under option to Bob Wilms. The Spitfire Group is owned half by the Vollaug Estate and half by Glen Hope.

T.A. PERRY GROUP (see sketches:

The veins on this group line up directly with the big quartz outcrop on Quartz Creek. There is a whole series of veins in a zone 1,000 feet wide. The principal exposure is on an 18 inch vein for a 250 foot length. A sample by G. Davis assayed \$188.00 per ton in gold. 600 feet to the west, the vein is exposed in Snowy Creek. The mineralization is fairly heavy and the vein vuggy. There are two other veins 5 feet wide outcropping for a short distance but with no work done on them. One of these shows pyrite and free gold on the walls.

Mandy, (1935 B.16) describes the veins as occurring within two zones of carbonatized andesites 160 feet and 150 feet wide, separated by a 200 width of dense andesite and dacite.

Within the upper zone are 6 quartz veins 6 inches to 4 feet in width and within the lower zone 9 veins 12" - 18" wide. Two samples by Mandy showed only a trace of gold.

NORAH AND ANNEX:

These claims cover part of the former holdings of F. Crawford on the south side of McDame Lake (see sketch), and are described by Mandy, 1935, p. B 17 and 1937 p. B 34. The vein is exposed on two adjacent knolls. On the easterly knoll, Davis in 1944 mined half ton of 8 oz. ore from a 1" - 6" high grade streak on the hanging wall of a 2' quartz vein. On the westerly knoll he mined and milled 10 tons from which he recovered 25 oz. in free gold, plus 4.7 oz gold from concentrates. The vein here is 24" - 30" wide, and exposed for 40 feet. At the shaft where the 10 tons were mined, about 1' of the width was of high grade. To the west, the high grade streak widens to occupy the whole of the vein. At the end of the exposure the vein is pinched to 1 inch. Mandy's two samples were low grade. Davis in milling this 10 tons took only about half of the 30" width of vein. The balance was of white quartz with occasional blobs of gold. At least 2 parallel veins occur nearby.

AGNES MINERAL CLAIM (see sketch)

This claim also is part of the former Crawford Group (Mandy 1937 p. B.37).

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In 1939 a 10 ton mill was installed on the property, (see B.C. Minister of Mines Report 1939 p. A64), by the McDames Lake Mining Company. In the first 3 weeks of operation recovery was 60 oz. gold from 50 tons of ore. Bolton, the operator, reported that a total of \$8,000.00 was recovered from an open cut near the boundary of the Agnes and J.Kelly's claim; an additional \$2,000.00 was left in the ore bin. Unfortunately, a snow slide carried away and buried all the machinery and mill. The vein is exposed for 150 feet, 10 feet wide, with some grey copper and pyrite. It dips south at 70° into Table Mountain. The quartz is tough, finely crystalline, with blue streaks. There is a tunnel in 30 feet. Davis has done no further work on the ground. The vein where exposed is in volcanics. To the east of Erickson Creek the vein runs into slates. Here the slates are plated with gold. Mandy (1935) mentioned an echelon lenses of barren quartz extending to the east.

In 1937 the Consolidated put down 2 drill holes to test the extensions of the vein. The results are not known.

VOLLAUG GROUP: A summary on this property was prepared in 1944. The detailed report by Mandy (1937 p. B24) covers all the information available except the results of the Consolidated drilling. If the company plans on an active exploratory program, these results should be obtained.

Apparently the eastern end of the old Vollaug property is now staked as the Spitfire Group owned half by Glen Hope and half by the Vollaug Estate. The Estate is said to be planning to sell their half for \$300.00.

MCDAMES CREEK PLACER:

There is a good possibility of a placer project of considerable size in the pre-glacial high channel of the McDame Creek. A summary was submitted in 1944. Mandy describes the deposits in detail in the 1931 B.C. Minister of Mines' Report p A 54.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION:

The area merits a careful examination. The results of milling of small tonnages by Bolton and Davis indicate good values in places where the published results were not encouraging. Mandy indicates in numerous places the presence of freegold, but the few places sampled by him yielded low results.

The Consolidated should have considerable valuable information on the area.

The large quartz outcrops below Wing's placer are said to average about \$2.00 per ton in gold. This might mean a large tonnage free milling operation.

RIDGEWAY R. WILSON & ASSOCIATES  
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Davis is proceeding to obtain options on other properties in the area and will stake any open ground adjoining his claims. He plans on returning to McDame in the Spring. If the Provincial Government continues the road up McDame Creek this summer, then Davis will have to give some of his time to this work.

If the company plans on proceeding with the option, they should have an engineer and assistant on the ground by July 1st, prepared to spend about 3 weeks in the area.

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