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Tamara Options The Prosper Mine On Vancouver Island

by Sam Stone

The Prosper Mine is located 29 kilometres north northeast of Tofino on Vancouver Island and consists of five mineral claims on the Bedwell River.

The property was located before the turn of the century and between 1898 and 1900 the "Ben" claims were developed by shafts and drifts to mine a copper-magnetite deposit. At least two gold bearing quartz veins were found and trenched. At this time a short adit was driven to explore the Prosper vein.

In 1938 another group began development of the Prosper vein and exploration discovered at least two other veins several hundred feet to the south which were subsequently trenched. In 1942 an adit was begun about 40 metres above the old portal. Samples were sent to Bralorne Mines Buccaneer Mine, several miles up-river, when the samples assayed out at 7.0 ounces of gold per ton Bralorne promptly optioned the property on a 15% royalty on net profits.

Bralorne advanced the drift 120 feet in from the portal, over 90 feet of this tunnel assayed 2.2 ounces of gold per ton. In common with many mines on the west coast of the Island at this stage of the Second World War, the Prosper Mine was shut down. Only 100 tons of ore grading 2.18 ounces of gold was shipped to the Buccaneer before the mine closure. Today it is estimated that the small 500 ton dump by the upper portal still contains over \$100,000 worth of gold.

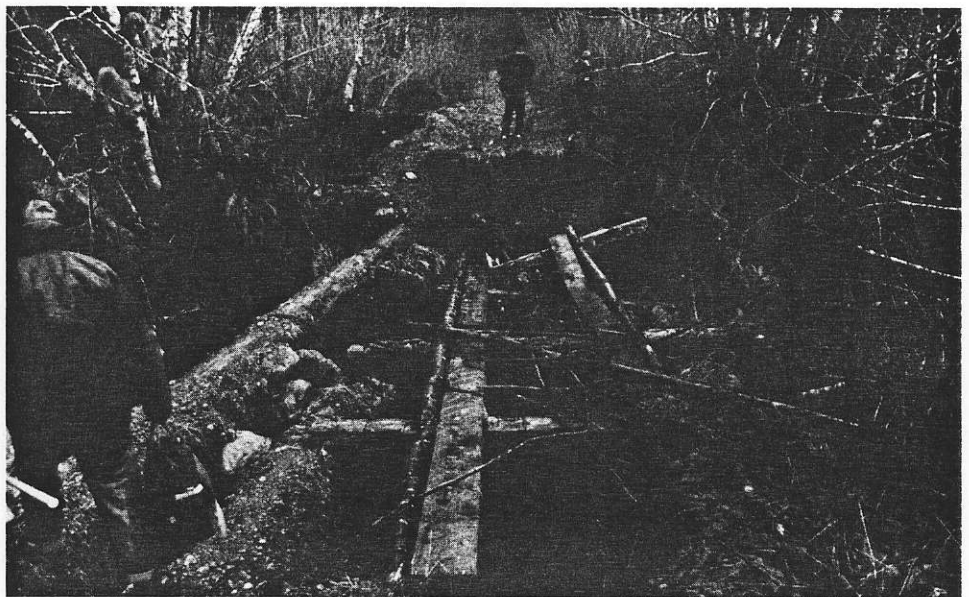
The mine was revived again in 1947 and the old lower adit was developed and the face advanced 420 feet. Halfway along the drift a 40 foot section of near ore grade material was encountered and a 32 foot raise was driven. A five ton hand-cobbed sample assaying 2.68 ounce of gold per ton was sent to the smelter. Even so, with a fixed price of \$35.00 for gold, there was no investor interest in developing the mine.

Mineralization on the property is contained primarily in three structures, the Prosper vein, the Isob vein and the copper-magnetite zone, first mined by the original locators.

The ore potential is not restricted to the Prosper alone, the Isob, 200 feet north and parallel has been exposed at various points for over 300 feet along strike and



At the entrance of the old adit



Derelict logging bridge

samples of vein float have contained coarse gold particles. Two other veins parallel to the Prosper will also be explored.

At the present time there is gold valued at more than \$1.5 million in the Prosper vein which grades an average of 2.18 ounces of gold per ton. Tamara will be able to mine this reserve by completing only 400 feet of underground work including 300 feet of raises and 100 feet of sub-drifting. At the same time a diamond drilling program will be carried out to

delineate further reserves.

With the previous development work, mining this reserve would be straightforward and cost effective. Tamara will be able to gain a good profit just from these known reserves. Additional reserves will substantially enhance the profitability of the operation.

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