

Tertiary
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936/2E

CANYON RESOURCES LTD.

The type of placer occurrence is a buried channel of undoubted pre-glacial age, cut diagonally by the Fraser River and exposed on its north bank, at the lower end of the Cottonwood Canyon, about 600 yards below a south-westerly-flowing tributary locally named Killam Creek. The exposure is of particular informative value as the bed-rock, 25 feet above the Fraser River, both rims, and a thickness of 80 feet of channel-filling are clearly revealed. At 105 feet above the river the distance between rims is approximately 1,140 feet. The apparent continuation of this channel, down-stream, is exposed at the Canyon Resources property on the opposite bank of the Fraser River about 1,240 feet in a down-stream direction, although the bed-rock of this channel is not here exposed.

Values are confined almost entirely to a thickness of 6 feet of gravel immediately overlying bed-rock, and to cracks and crevices in the latter. The gold is stated to be fairly coarse with occasional nuggets. Recovery involves drift-mining methods, save that the bed-rock gravel is cemented, and no timber is required.

The earliest record of work on this property dates from about 1900 when a small amount of drifting and testing was carried out by the late Senator Reid. In 1907, a man named William, a practical placer-miner, acquired the property, which then became known as the "Killam Gravel Mine," and he and his partner carried on small-scale drifting operations for about 10 years. They drifted about 650 feet up-stream in the exposed cemented gravel immediately overlying bed-rock. Mining was done in the winter and the cemented gravel stacked at the portal of the drift, thereby exposing it to the disintegrating action of general weathering and frost, so that it could be washed the following spring. It is reported that gold recovered by these operations amounted to about 1,000 ozs.

Much of the gold recovered was coarse, it is stated, some nuggets having adhering particles of quartz. Overlying this gravel-stratum is a thickness of 7 feet of fine gravel, immediately overlain by a seam of lignite a few inches wide, on which rests 12 feet of mainly clay. Overlying the latter is another small lignite seam, and above this 6 feet of fine gravel. Resting on this is another seam of lignite about 1 foot thick, which has been largely replaced by aragonite, and which contains numerous fine specimens of authigenetic pyrite. This stratum marks the end of the revealed Tertiary history as it is directly overlain by 35 feet of post-glacial gravel which extends to the surface, near which the gravel is coarsest.

The Canyon Resources property is on the right bank of the Fraser River, and immediately down-stream from the boat-landing at the end of the road to the Tertiary Mine, and access to it is gained by the latter road. The property lies idle at present, and no information is available as to its early history. In 1932 S.R. Craft and Associates carried out some prospecting, but subsequently discontinued operations. This property lies approximately 15 miles up-stream from Quesnel.

The only known exposure at the property consists of a large buried channel, the exact proportions of which are somewhat obscured by vegetation, but both rim-rocks outcrop. This channel has been cut diagonally by the Fraser River like to Tertiary Mine channel on the opposite bank, and there is every indication that it is the down-stream continuation of the latter. The bed-rock is, however, below river-level, but just how much cannot now be ascertained, as underground workings are flooded. In the central part of the exposure 8 feet above river-level, on July 6th, an incline had been run south 10 degrees east on a 15-degree slope in tightly-compacted gravel. Water was within 17 feet of the mouth of the working, but, it is stated the incline is 45 feet long and, from the end of it a winze is sunk a short distance, to a paystreak, but whether the latter is on bed-rock is not known. The fact that bed-rock lies below river-level, and, that the grade of bed-rock is unfavourable for drift-mining methods, has doubtless discouraged development of this property. The incline on this property lies south 23 degrees east of the portal of the main rim-rock adit of the Tertiary Mine, and the calculated horizontal distance between these two workings is 1,240 feet, so that as the average bed-rock grade of the Tertiary Mine channel is 2.17 per cent, within the distance mentioned down-stream it might be expected to be somewhat below the Fraser River.