

Bidgood Preparing Extensive Program At Maple Bay Copper

Bidgood Kirkland Gold Mines is ready for a busy season of surface and underground exploration work at the property of **Maple Bay Copper Mines** in which it has a major interest.

The Maple Bay property is on the northwest coast of British Columbia, in the Portland Canal district, 37 miles south of Stewart and 550 miles north of Vancouver.

Bidgood proposes to spend up to \$300,000 this year on work on the Maple Bay claims, where copper deposits have been known since 1896.

In order to facilitate the financing — which it plans to undertake by itself — Bidgood will ask its shareholders to approve a capital reorganization of the company. Proposal is to exchange stock on the basis of five old shares for one share in the new company which it is planned to call **Bid-Cop Mines**. The reorganized company will have an authorized capital of 5,000,000 shares (1,000,000 will be issued to Bidgood shareholders) and will enter into a financing agreement under which 200,000 shares will be underwritten at 75¢ and options will be granted on four blocks of 200,000 shares at prices ranging 75¢-\$1.50 a share.

Subject to approval of shareholders of Bidgood and Geneva Lake Mines, the reorganized company will purchase Geneva Lake's holding of 380,750 shares of Maple Bay Copper for 1,000,000 new pooled shares. Under this arrangement it will also acquire Geneva Lake's interest in outstanding options on Maple Bay Copper stock.

Maple Bay Copper has an authorized capital of 3,500,000 shares of which around 1,200,000 shares are issued of which 434,583 are held by Bidgood, 380,750 by Geneva Lake and 350,000 by the Maple Bay Copper Syndicate. The new Bidgood company hopes to end up with a 90% interest in Maple Bay when financing is completed.

Maple Bay stock will be taken down

as required to finance work, says an official.

Frank L. Smith, who was mine manager of Bidgood's former gold producing property at Kirkland Lake, Ont., has been appointed Maple Bay mine manager. He left for the property this week. F. J. Hemsworth will continue as consulting engineer and R. E. Renshaw as resident geologist.

This season's work program will consist of construction of a wharf, beach camp, mine camp, construction of a new road and reconditioning of an old one, rehabilitation of a bunkhouse, mapping and sampling some of the underground workings, sorting and shipping high grade ore from development work to a smelter at Tacoma, Wash., and continuing the program of surface drilling.

The company's engineers feel that probably two years of intensive underground development will be required before sufficient ore is blocked out to justify the erection of a concentrator.

Discovered in 1896

There are a series of strong parallel quartz veins at the property, mineralized with chalcopyrite, says Mr. Hemsworth. There are nine main veins known as the Outsider, Eagle-May, United, Comstock, Lizzie, Blubell, Anaconda, Thistle and Princess. Work has gone on intermittently since 1896 and ore shipments have been made.

A total of 135,600 tons of ore was mined from the Outsider vein (at the far northwest corner of the property) between 1907-1928, most of it by Granby Consolidated during the 1920's. Grade ran between 1.3-2.3% copper. The stuff shipped was a siliceous fluxing ore, running over 70% silica.

Granby's original tonnage estimate for the Outsider vein was 500,000 tons averaging 2.5% copper over an average width of 4.0 ft. Maple Bay officials estimate that some 400,000 tons of similar grade remain. The vein was opened on seven levels between elevation of 800-1,295 ft. Mapping and sampling of the underground workings will be done prior to more development.

On the Eagle-May vein various tonnage estimates have been made, based on drilling carried out a good many years ago. Latest estimate was by J. T. Mandy, consulting engineer, and was of 478,000 tons indicated and inferred averaging 3.03% copper over an average width of 9.5 ft. Larger tonnages have been estimated for lower grades of 1.7% and 1.4% copper, respectively. Underground work is to be undertaken.

High Grade Oreshoot

Underground work also is to be started this year on the Anaconda and Thistle veins. In the 1955 program, when work included some diamond drilling, a small but high grade oreshoot was indicated on the Anaconda claim, to the south of the Eagle-May structure. Four drill holes put down on the Anaconda averaged 6.1% copper across a true width of 4.8 ft for a length of 700 ft. Holes went to depth of 80-130 ft. Surface sampling carried out previously along the vein averaged 6.3% copper across 4.1 ft. for a length of 500 ft. Average of the drill and surface samples is 6.2% copper across 4.5 ft. for length of 600 ft. To depth of 150 ft. the oreshoot is calculated to contain 35,000 tons of 6% copper, says Mr. Hemsworth.

The proposed plan is to crosscut from the 1,875-ft. elevation. The Thistle vein, northwest of the Anaconda, would be intersected at a distance of about 500 ft. and depth below the surface outcrop of 175 ft. An additional distance of about 900 ft., or total crosscut of 1,400 ft., would intersect the Anaconda vein at a depth of 525 ft. If it persists to this level it would contain over 100,000 tons of high grade ore, says Mr. Hemsworth.

During 1955 drilling also was done on the Princess vein, to the south of the Anaconda structure, but it was a limited program and hence, inconclusive. It is planned to continue drilling here, especially on the southern section where a strong showing has been opened by surface stripping. Other veins are to be tested also.

The Princess vein is the longest. It has been traced for a length of 6,900 ft. Good copper values have been had where it has been trenched and sampled.

The Tacoma smelter has offered a favorable smelting rate on crude ore from Maple Bay, due to its high silica content.

Property now consists of 22 Crown-granted claims, 24 located claims and 16 fractional claims. Holdings were added to by staking during 1955. Bidgood and Geneva Lake had interests in claims in the area but these have since been turned over to Maple Bay Copper.

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Copper

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