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SPANISH CREEK PLACER CLAIMS,

SPANISH CREEK, CARIBOO DISTRICT,

QUESNEL MINING DIVISION, B.C.

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This group consists of fourteen 70-acre placer leases, situated on Spanish Creek, Black Bear Creek, and the north fork of the Quesnel River. Four of the leases held, extend from the mouth of Spanish Creek up-stream, taking in the bed of the creek; four lie on the north bank of the north fork; three below the mouth of Spanish Creek; one above. The remaining leases are on Black Bear Creek. All leases are adjoining. The junction of Spanish Creek and the north fork of the Quesnel River is eight miles from the town of Quesnel Dam, B. C., with which it is connected by a motor road.

Spanish Creek is a fair-sized stream, five miles long, flowing from Spanish Lake into the north fork of the Quesnel River. About 3,000 feet from its mouth, Spanish Creek is joined by Black Bear Creek, which comes in from the East. Just below this junction, Spanish Creek flows through a canyon-cut through black slate, dropping about 240 feet in 800 feet; Below the canyon it flows over gravel to its mouth, down a grade of 4 or 5 per cent.

HISTORY:

The following history of the property was supplied by Mr. C. McDonald (part owner) and checked in places by Government Reports.

Spanish Creek was first worked by placer miners in the Sixties, who pretty well cleaned up the bed of the stream. Later, about 1895, McGregor and partners (Moore Mining Co.), worked the ground lying at the foot of the canyon, on the right-hand side of the stream by a 1500-foot drift tunnel parallel to the present creek bed and about 50 feet east of it. In 1904, John Hobson, then manager of the Bullion Mine, bought out McGregor and other miners on the creek for \$124,000 cash (C. McDonald), and equipped the property for hydraulic mining. A pit was started on the left hand side of Spanish Creek, near its mouth, and piping carried on for a short time. Mr. Hobson, who was acting as agent for the Guggenheim's, had all leases, etc. made out in his own name. When this was found out, work was stopped and the property went into litigation. Shortly after this, Mr. Hobson died, and the property went to the Hobson Estate. In 1912, Mr. John Hopp secured a lay from the Hobson Estate and started an hydraulic pit on the right hand side of Spanish Creek, opposite the Hobson Workings. Mr. Hopp made two clean-ups, but left the country without paying off the men.

HISTORY (CONT'D).

The property became vacant and was taken up by the present holders.

In 1923, the Emis Gold Mining Company was organized for the purpose of acquiring and operating eight of these fourteen claims, namely, four on Spanish Creek and four on the north fork of the Quesnel River. Terms, \$5,000.00 cash and \$80,000.00 in ninety days. Nearly all the equipment for operating an hydraulic mine was on the property when the Emis people took over. This was owned by the Hobson Estate, who sold it to the Emis Mining Company. Mr. Emis, Manager of the Company, a placer miner of considerable experience, after repairing flumes, etc. operated for two weeks in November, 1923, until freeze up, and during the summer of 1924. Work was commenced on Spanish Creek, about half-way between its mouth and the canyon referred to above. Two monitors worked on a 150' ridge of gravel. Mr. Emis did not expect to reach bed rock with this pit, but intended to take off the overburden and later, clean the bedrock with a drag line scraper. About 800,000 yards of material were removed at a very low cost. The Emis Company could not make the final payment, and after repeated extensions of time, the property went back to its former owners, McDonald and partners.

EQUIPMENT, BUILDINGS, ETC. ON PROPERTY.

4,100 feet of 36" to 16" hydraulic pipe (20 years old).

1,200 feet of flume (20 years old).

Donkey Engine for pit work, boulders, etc.

Saw Mill, 5,000 feet of rough lumber per day.

Black Smith Outfit.

600' Iron Riffle Bars.

Pen Stock.

Dam on Spanish Lake.

Small Bank House, Cook House, Stables, Dishes, Stove, etc.

The above equipment is on the property owned by the owners of the claims, and in fairly good condition. There is sufficient standing timber for all mining purposes.

WATER SUPPLY AND PRESSURE HEAD:

The water plant is exceptionally good. The water from Spanish Lake is regulated by a dam at its outlet. It flows down Spanish Creek, a distance of five miles and is directed into a 1200' flume at the head of the canyon. From the penstock at the end of the flume, it is carried by pipes to the monitors in the pit with a head of from 150' to 180'. There is sufficient water to run two monitors with eight inch nozzles practically all summer. Climatic conditions would permit an average of seven months operation during the year.

GEOLOGY:

The canyon on Spanish Creek is a gouge cut through bed rock consisting of black slate, striking roughly east-west, dipping at a steep angle to the north. Below the canyon, the creek flows over gravel that is not very deep to bed rock. These are ordinary glacial and post-glacial gravels. The post-glacial gravels being sorted by stream action. No slum or cemented gravel occurs and there are very few large boulders, for the following reasons: The creek, below the canyon, seems to flow along the rim of a deep channel which lies to the right of the present creek bed, and under the Emis pit.

- (a) The McGregor Tunnel is lower than the present creek bed.
- (b) Two pits have been put down at least 20 feet. These are now full of water, but would hardly be sunk into bed rock.
- (c) A tunnel has been driven from the left bank of the north fork just above the water level in a distance of 50 feet and sinking started the shaft was only put down two feet, but bed rock was not reached.
- (d) Mr. J. D. Galloway (Provincial Mineralogist) in his report for the B. C. Government, 1924, suggests that this channel exists from the above reasons and also from sections which

he examined, which were made by Mr. Hobson, at a time when  
*The McGregor workings could be examined.*

GEOLOGY (CONT'D.).

From elevations taken by Hobson and Emis, Mr. Galloway is of the opinion that the grade of a flume to reach bed rock in the Emis pit would have to be less than 1%, which is prohibitive.

No attempt will be made in this report to estimate the yardage available. There is, however, sufficient gravel to warrant an examination.

VALUES:

Very little accurate information is available regarding the average gold content of the ground. John Hobson, in a report he made estimates that there are 70,000,000 cubic yards of gravel lying above Spanish Creek with an average gold content of 23 cents per yard. This figure was obtained by a limited amount of testing and cannot be accepted as being very accurate (Galloway 1924). Mr. McDonald informed the writer that Mr. Hobson payed a royalty on \$29,000.00 for a 31-day run from his hydraulic pit. This figure would be on record in Victoria and should be checked.

The MacGregor workings were reported in the B. C. Government Report for 1902 to yield 2 oz. of gold per set. (4½' X 6' X 6' - 5.4 cu. yards) various estimates from two to seventeen ozs. have been given. This would show the occurrence of a fairly rich streak along bed rock with the possibility of a richer streak in the bottom or lowest part of the channel.

VALUES (CONT'D.).

This would not, however, be rich enough to pay for the removal of 50 to 100 feet of overburden, unless it carried some values.

The Ennis Company while removing this overburden, obtained \$2,000.00 from 800,000 cu. yards. Their sluice boxes were some distance from the ground, being attached, and as bed rock was not reached, all gravel had to pass over a rough surface containing boulders, before reaching the riffles. Most of the gold must have been removed from the gravel before it reached the boxes, so that this work could not be considered as a test, but does show that the overburden contains values. How much, it would be impossible to say.

GENERAL REMARKS:

The essentials in any hydraulic gold mine are:-

- (1) Sufficient gold in gravel to pay for its recovery at a profit.
- (2) Ample water supply under a good pressure head.
- (3) Suitable dump to handle tailings.

(1) Work done to date on this property has not been performed in a manner to properly test the ground, so that estimation of its gold content can only be considered as guesses. Results obtained however, are sufficiently encouraging to warrant the thorough testing of the property with a reasonable chance of success.



TERMS:

The fourteen leases comprising the group were offered for Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) each; \$5,000.00 cash. the balance in ninety days.

Any part of the group could be taken up and better terms could probably be arranged if the owners realized that a strong Company was going to do the work. Thirty days would be allowed for an examination.

CONCLUSIONS:

(1) The property has been operated unsuccessfully, especially by the last company who worked it, but has never been worked in a manner to properly test it.

(2) The dump for the present workings is unsatisfactory, but some method of handling tailings could almost certainly be found.

(3) The property is well equipped with a good water supply which can be kept up at a low cost.

(4) There is a large tonnage available containing few boulders or cemented gravel. Its gold content is unknown.

(5) The equipment now on the property, although old, is an asset as is also, the motor road which runs to the P.G.E. Railway at Williams Lake, a distance of seventy miles.

GENERAL REMARKS:

(2) The property has an excellent water supply, with sufficient head for hydraulicking at a low cost. With the dam at the outlet of Spanish Lake in good condition, it is quite possible that three monitors could be operated throughout the greater part of the season.

(3) The dump is very unsatisfactory. The north fork of the Quessel River is quite large enough to carry away all tailings delivered into it. If, however, bed rock is lower than the bed of the river, this would naturally present several difficulties. If the bed rock conditions were favorable, the method of operation would be to clean up a patch of bed-rock near the river, put sluice-boxes down and gradually work back from the river with hydraulics, washing everything through boxes, and keeping the bed rock clean. If however, a deep channel exists under a part of the gravel, to be worked, this would not be possible and some other method would have to be employed. The difficulty could, ~~however~~, probably be overcome either by the use of an elevator or by bringing in a long sluice from the north fork. This would of course, mean a higher operating cost.

This report deals with the four leases on Spanish Creek only; those on Black Bear Creek would have to be worked by some other water system. The four on the north fork have been staked on the high heavily timbered river bank and no work has been done on them.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

This property should be tested by an experienced placer miner. A few test pits put down, and considerable panning done. At the same time, the ground could be roughly surveyed and an estimate of the tonnage made. This preliminary examination could be carried out for \$1,000.00. If satisfactory, the ground should be drilled with a Keystone Drill.

Respectfully submitted,

EXPLORATION DEPARTMENT,

Per

*Lindsay Foss*

Field Engineer.

*Aug 18<sup>th</sup> 1925*