

1927

Visited Sept. 8/78

93E11  
93E035

881534

TGS

Captain Swanell:- ✓

This group of three claims, owned by George Seel, of Wistaria, is situated on the northern slopes of Swing Peak mountain on the south side of the Tahtsa river. It is readily reached by motor-boat from Ootsa Lake Post-office, which is distant 40 miles by motor-road from Bruns Lake, the nearest railway-station on the Canadian National Railway. Seel Landing on the Tahtsa river at the foot of Swing Peak mountain (about a mile below Sweeney Landing) is distant about 63 miles from Ootsa Lake Post-office. A trail some 3-1/2 miles in length leads from Seel Landing to the Property.

1978 Camp at 4260'

(Kasalka GP)

At an elevation of 4,930 feet there is exposed by open-cuts and natural agencies a shear-zone replacement fissure in the ~~existing~~ enclosing <sup>intermediate to acid</sup> porphyritic volcanic rocks on the steeply sloping mountain-side. Where fully exposed by open-cut the width of the fissure is 9 feet 6 inches. Mineralization is mainly confined to a width of 10 inches on the foot-wall and consists essentially of galena and zinc-blende, together with small amounts of chalcopyrite and grey copper. The fissure strikes S. 30° E. (mag.), with steep, almost vertical, dip to the south-west. The fissure does not entirely coincide with the bedding-planes of the enclosing country-rock, which strike S. 40° E. (mag.) and dip north-east. The mineral has a tendency in places to follow along the bedding-planes, apparently forming small branch veins. It might be noted that this feature is exhibited by other shear-zones in the Sibola section. This shear-zone is exposed for a length of about 300 feet along its strike. Some very beautiful specimens of blood-red zinc-blende were observed. A sample of picked ore from the open-cut assayed: Gold, trace; silver 70 oz. to the ton; lead, 58 per cent,; zinc, 5 per cent.

About 200 feet east of the above-described fissure, at a lower elevation, is exposed by natural agencies another shear-zone showing some nice clean galena and a little zinc-blende. This strikes S. 15° E. (mag.) and dips north-east. These two fissures are likely to intersect higher up the mountain and quite possibly on the property other shear-zones exist which should be looked for. A sample of the last-mentioned shear-zone, of selected ore, assayed: Gold, trace; silver, 162 oz. to the ton; lead, 40 per cent,; zinc, 8 per cent.

They do!

While very little development has been done on this property, appearances promise well. The surrounding geology is favourable and good silver values are a gratifying feature. The topography lends itself to economic exploration by drifts on the vein from the surface and the property clearly merits further development. It seems a reasonable expectation that such development will disclose bodies of ore which can be hand-sorted to good shipping grade. Before any underground work is started it is, however, recommended, as being a sound maxim applying to prospect generally, that the surface be thoroughly prospected first and that open-cuts be made at intervals in the fissures already discovered.

Noteworthy is the fact that the owner last year with commendable energy packed on his back several hundred pounds of ore from his property down to the Tahtsa river, conveyed it in his motor-boat to Ootsa Lake Post-office, and shipped it to the smelter in Trail.

Good road by 'Cap.' McNeil

The property suffers from a certain geographic disability, in common with others in this section, but if developments warranted it navigation on the Tahtsa river could be greatly improved by clearing out obstructions and log-jams in the river-channel and so facilitating shipments via Burns Lake. This property is commended to the attention of examining engineers.

1928

Swanell:-

This property, situated on Swing Peak mountain, Tahtsa river, was described in the 1927 Annual Report. A company has been incorporated to operate this property-namely, the Tahtsa Mining Company, Limited; the registered office is 510 Hastings Street West, Vancouver. During the year the company constructed camp buildings at the Tahtsa river and also close to the showings, this work being carried out under the direction of C.L. Copp.

Detailed accounts of the topographic and geologic features of this section, likewise of the routes into it, are given in the Annual Report for 1924 and 1927. The Resident Engineer did not visit this section during 1928, but following are reports by Stephen H. Hoskins, Gold Commissioner, Smithers, who visited the section to investigate certain conditions, and W. B. Steele, Deputy Mining Recorder, Manson Creek.

With reference to the attempts of G.W. Otterson and W. M. Ogilvie to get machinery into Manson creek from Fort St. James, mention of which is made in the 1927 Annual Report, page 157, both lots of machinery finally reached their respective destinations last winter. The machinery formerly belonging to G. W. Otterson was sold by the Sheriff in 1927, and bought where it lay by R.C. McCorkell, who hauled it in to Manson Creek. This is the machinery which is mentioned in both the following reports:-

Report of Stephen H. Hoskins, Gold Commissioner, Smithers.- "On the night of August 7th I left Smithers, arriving at Fort St. James, on Stuart lake, on the morning of the 8th instant, where I procured my guide and outfit.

"Leaving Fort St. James on the morning of the 9th, we proceeded by pack-trail and wagon-road, arriving at Manson Creek lat in the afternoon of the 13th and at Slate creek at a later hour of the same day, where we met W. B. Steele, the Deputy Mining Recorder for the district, who extended to us every courtesy.

"On Slate creek there are a number of placer leases which were formerly owned and worked by the Kildare Mines, Limited, but which are now being systematically tested with a Union drill by Wm. Ogilvie, who represents Eastern capital, and a crew of men, with apparently very encouraging results.

"On Germansen creek I found that nine creek placer leases had been staked, the owners of which are intending to install a drill next spring, and thoroughly test the ground by that means, before launching out on any extensive plan of installing

machinery. A great deal of the ground on this creek now under lease was mined many years ago by the early pioneers, but it has been felt that with our modern methods and machinery it will still produce satisfactory returns.

"On Manson creek it was found that George Otterson and associates had placed on the ground a drag-line scraper, but this was not at work, nor had it been assembled, but a small crew of men were then on their way into the country with a portable sawmill for the purpose of sawing out lumber and building a camp. Since my return I have learned that the men and sawmill arrived, and that the work of building a camp in preparation for next year's operations is proceeding satisfactory.

"On Vital creek, a distance of some 75 miles from Manson creek, it was learned that Lee Tong and his Chinese associates held placer claims (dry-diggings) and met with the misfortune of their tunnel caving in, which set them back the whole season. There was therefore no return for their work this year.

"In my opinion the whole of the country commonly known as the Manson Creek placer-mining section will from now on be assuming more and more of its former glory, the crude means of transportation being its greatest drawback.

"The so-called wagon-road from Fort St. James, which provided an entirely land haul, requires to be improved by construction of rough bridges, some sid-hill cuts, and the removal of some stones and boulders at the upper end. A passable wagon-road at this stage is all that should be required, which would permit supplies and machinery to be taken into the placer-mining fields with more economy."

Report of W. B. Steele, Deputy Mining Recorder, Manson Creek.--"Peters and Ewing, of Prince George, came in and staked about thirty mineral claims, eight claims on Lost Creek mountain. They have 10 tons or more of ore on the dump, said to assay about 55 per cent. lead and 126 oz. silver to the ton. They are coming in early next year to do assessment.

"W. M. Ogilvie is well pleased with his drilling on Slate creek. He has built 3 miles of good wagon-road and got bed-rock at intervals over 3 miles of creek. He intended to work all winter, but was unsuccessful in getting in provisions in time. He went out on November 4th with horses and wagon, intending to come right back if possible.

"R. D. McCorkell's crew arrived in August and have done a lot of good work. They built 3-1/2 miles of wagon-road and hauled all of the machinery down to the mouth of Slate creek. They took 2 tons at a load on bare ground with tractor and sleigh. They have built a house 30 by 20 feet and have cut timber for the drag-line scraper - 264 pieces. The boom is 70 feet long, 2 feet square at the butt, and 18 inches square at the small end.

"There is a store at the mouth of Germansen creek run by a man and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. O. J. Crites. Their prices are the same as at Takla Landing. The weather is very mild here, only one night 3° below and 1 foot of snow so far (December 5th).

Swanell:-

Good progress has been made during the year at this property by the Tahtsa Mining Company, Limited, with a small force of men (about nine) under the direction of C. L. Copp, managing director. A river camp has been constructed on a back-water of the Tahtsa river a few miles below the Emerald landing, also a mine camp at elevation 4,245 feet in timber. The two camps are connected by a good pack-trail about 3-1/2 miles in length.

At elevation 4,895 feet a tunnel had been run a distance of 154 feet to September 27th to develop at a vertical depth of 100 feet the original discovery of mineral on the surface. For the first 84 feet the tunnel crosscuts the formation, encounters the vein at this point, and follows it for the remaining distance. It is stated that a seam of mineral about 3 inches in width was continuous on the hanging-wall for a distance of about 60 feet. A sample of this mineral taken from the floor of the tunnel assayed: Gold, trace; silver 23 oz. to the ton; lead, nil; zind, trace. The assay disclosed the presence of a large amount of arsenic. <sup>yellow-green stain?</sup> The mineral is grey-black in colour and may be arsenopyrite. The face shows a shear-zone 6-1/2 feet in width, slightly mineralized throughout with small amounts of galena and zinc-blende. In another 40 feet this tunnel will be immediately below the surface showing. This shear-zone outcrops on the surface at a point 165 feet vertically below the tunnel and is well mineralized at this point, where a width of 10 inches of mixed galena and zinc-blende shows. A sample of this assayed: Gold, 0.01 oz. to the ton; silver, 95 oz. to the ton; lead, 19.5 per cent.; zinc, 10.6 per cent.; copper, trace. It is stated that another parallel shear-zone was discovered during the year at a point about 750 feet east of that under development, which is very similar to the latter. Refer also to the Annual Reports for the years 1927 and 1928.

1945

Captain:-

The Captain group consists of six located claims on the northeastern slopes of Swing Peak, covering showings previously held by George Seel and then known as the Swanell group. The claims were located by C. McNeill, of Ootsa Landing, and G.A. Young, of Vancouver. A well-graded trail about 5 miles in length starts from Copp's cabin on a slough on the south side of Tahtsa River, about 2 miles up-stream from the mouth of Kasalka (Blue) Creek, and leads to an old burnt-out camp near timber-line.

*Adit* ✓  
The important previous work is an adit, 700 feet above the burnt-out camp, about 400 feet long, driven by Tahtsa Mining Company, Limited, and started in 1929. The surface showing was described in the Minister of Mines' Annual Reports for 1927 and 1929.

This showing is a shear-zone that strikes about north and dips steeply to the east. There is mineralization along the foot-wall of the shear-zone, mainly across narrow widths but reaching a maximum of 10 inches. The mineralization consists of galena, sphalerite, arsenopyrite, pyrite, and tetrahedrite. Picked samples carried high values in silver and lead and little or no gold.

The adit cuts the shear-zone at 84 feet from the portal and follows along it in a southerly direction for 290 feet to the face. The shear is well marked by several inches of gouge. No vein material was seen, except for the last 110 feet to the face, despite the fact that earlier reports noted the presence of a narrow vein. For the last 110 feet the shear-zone is occupied by short lengths of vein from 2 to 4 inches wide. The vein material consists of quartz and rhodochrosite gangue containing galena, sphalerite, pyrite, and tetrahedrite.

Five samples were taken with the following tabulated results:-

<u>Distance from Face to Adit</u>	<u>Width</u>	<u>Gold</u>	<u>Silver</u>	<u>Lead</u>	<u>Zinc</u>
	<u>Inches</u>	<u>Oz./Ton</u>	<u>Oz./Ton</u>	<u>Per Cent.</u>	<u>Per Cent.</u>
110 feet	3	Trace	0.9	0.2	Trace
80 feet	4	0.03	138.7	28.0	0.1
65 feet	2	Trace	24.0	26.9	0.9
30 feet	4	Trace	0.2	0.3	0.1
At face	2	Trace	11.7	8.1	2.3

Another shear-zone lying about 500 feet to the west of the one explored by the adit is traced by four open-cuts through the talus. The shear-zone strikes south 15 degrees east and dips almost vertically. The two walls of the zone are parallel ~~and separated~~ from 3 to 5 feet apart. Mineralization consisting mainly of galena and arsenopyrite appears in narrow widths along the west wall. In the uppermost open-cut 4 inches, mainly of galena, assayed: Gold, 0.05 oz. per ton; silver, 73.8 oz. per ton; and lead, 57.6 per cent. Another picked sample containing about 50 per cent. arsenopyrite assayed: Gold, 0.06 oz. per ton; silver, 1.4 oz. per ton; and lead 1.9 per cent.