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Property File

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REPORT OF EXAMINATION
OF THE

BEATON & KEISIG-CAMERON GROUPS

of Mining Claims.

Head of China Creek

Alberni Mining Division, B. C.

To
Reno Gold Mines Ltd.
Yorkshire Building,
Vancouver, B. C.

By
Charles C. Starr,
Vancouver, B. C.
August 8, 1941.

THE BEATON & KEISIG-CAMERON GROUPS.

LOCATION: These groups are situated on the divide at the headwaters of China Creek and the east fork of the Nitinat River, in the Alberni Mining Division, British Columbia.

They are reached from Port Alberni by a road, in part following an old railway grade, up China Creek for 14 miles. Thence, for three miles, a trail follows the railroad grade and an old wagon road which are not now passable except on foot, but might cheaply be made into a good road. From the end of the old road a rough, steep, foot-trail leads about two miles to the cabin on the Beaton property. It would be quite expensive to build a road in this section on account of steep slopes and much rock.

PROPERTY: The Beaton Group consists of seven claims held by location by Mr. Angus Beaton of Port Alberni, B. C. They are the B. & K. Nos. 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, the I Am Alone, and the Panorama.

The Keisig-Cameron Group adjoins the Beaton group on the south and consists of eight claims held by location by Messrs. Ed. Keisig and Cameron, of Alberni. These claims are the K. & C. Nos. 1 to 8.

GENERAL: There is a fair amount of timber suitable for mining use along the lower (eastern) tier of claims, but on the western two-thirds of the property the timber is scarce and stunted.

Waterpower for development purposes, and possibly sufficient for a small mill, could be obtained by diverting water, now flowing to the Nitinat River, into Summit Lake by means of a small dam, then piping water from the Lake to a generating plant below.

The topography is very rugged, elevations varying from 2000 feet in the basin at the head of China Creek to 5000 feet along the ridge at the west edge of the claims. Summit Lake is at an elevation of 3475 feet, and some veins are exposed near it. The East, or Main, vein extends from China Creek basin to nearly 5000 feet elevation along the ridge at the west side of the claims, near the south end of the Beaton group, thence descends to 3400 feet near the south end of the Keisig-Cameron group.

The general trend of the ridges and valleys is north and south and the eastern slopes are generally steep and in places inaccessible.

There is a considerable snowfall in the higher parts and snowslides prevent access to most parts of both the East and West veins for half the year.

There is practically no equipment, except a cabin suitable for not more than three men.

DEVELOPMENT: No underground work has been done on either group. A large number of shallow open cuts and trenches have been dug on various veins in the fractured zone immediately north and south of Summit Lake.

On the East, or Main vein, two small open cuts have been made on the B. & K. #5 claim, and two on the K. & C. #7. On the West vein there are five shallow open cuts on the B. & K. #5 claim within a distance of 140 feet, and two more cuts on the K. & C. #2 claim which are presumably on the southern extension of the same vein.

GEOLOGY: The chief rock formation of the property is a fine grained greenish volcanic, probably an augite-andesite belonging to the Vancouver Series, and of Triassic Age. This rock is usually much altered and fractured.

In the vicinity of Summit Lake, and extending southerly, there are thin beds of argillites associated with the volcanics in a zone of strong fracturing and crushing along which there has been some mineralization.

A small outcropping of diorite was observed a few hundred feet east of the East vein on the B. & K. #1 claim, and the presence of the same rock is reported both to the north and south. It is undoubtedly a high point of the underlying batholith.

Scattered over the property there are a number of light colored porphyritic dikes consisting chiefly of feldspar; they are probably andesite. They may strike in various directions, but have a predominantly north-south course. They often fill fault fissures along which there has been secondary movement allowing mineralizing solutions to rise along the walls and, in favorable places, to form veins.

There has been widespread faulting but there is little indication as to the extent of movement. The zone extending north and south through Summit Lake is faulted and crushed, and in it are numerous quartz stringers and zones of silicified, weakly mineralized and jumbled volcanics, argillites and dikes. It is doubtful of any of the mineralized zones here have much continuity.

The East vein is primarily a fault plane in which a dike was intruded; it may be traced for more than two miles along the shoulder of the mountain.

VEINS: Summit Lake Zone This zone has a general north-south strike and an apparent width of about two hundred feet; it has been opened by a number of shallow cuts and trenches on both sides of the lake.

South of the lake there is a small northwest-southeast fault dipping 45° northeast, along which there is a small creek. Three small open cuts in the footwall of the

fault show narrow quartz veins, two of which join. These have been traced southward for about a hundred feet where they appear to pinch out.

The veins consist of quartz from one to ten inches wide, showing strong comb structure and accompanied by a small percentage of pyrite with occasional grains of zinc blende and galena. There is narrow shearing along the walls of the quartz, and generally a weak mineralization of the wall rock.

The veins strike a few degrees east of north and dip nearly vertical. In the hangingwall of the fault a few stringers, only, were observed.

The average of the assays from this section are:-

Taylor - 0.16 Oz. gold over a width of 2.3 feet;

Starr - 0.22 Oz. gold over a width of 1.2 feet.

North of the lake there are eight cuts and trenches which show narrow erratic quartz stringers containing less sulphides, but accompanied by more silicification and mineralization of the wall-rock. Strikes and dips are quite erratic, although there is a general north-south tendency.

The average of the two samplings is 0.11 Oz. gold over 2.7 feet.

This zone could be developed by a crosscut about 300 feet long from the edge of a small meadow 250 feet below the lake and a few hundred feet north of it.

Two small open cuts on this zone on the Keisig-Cameron group were not visited.

The East, or Main, Vein

This vein is easily traced from a point a few hundred feet southwest of the Golden Eagle tunnel to the middle of the K. & C. #7 claim, a distance of $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles, and it probably extends much further. As mentioned before, it is a fault along which a dike has been intruded; mineralization has taken place either along one or both walls of the dike.

It strikes north and south and dips 75° east; the dike is from three to six feet in width, and the mineralization varies from a few inches to more than three feet.

The mineralization consists of quartz and silicified dike or wall rock (volcanics) with sparsely disseminated pyrite and rarely a little galena and zinc blende lying chiefly along the sheared dike contacts.

The outcrop occupies the bottom of a deep, steep sided, erosion trench and is, except at a few points covered with boulders and debris or is too steep to climb. Most of the outcrop is swept by snowslides in the winter.

Samples were taken wherever exposures allowed, except at two or three points where there was no observable mineralization. The average of five samples, over a distance of 150 feet, on the K. & C. #7 claim is 0.03 Oz. gold over a width of 2.2 feet; four of these samples were taken in the bottom of shallow open cuts.

The average of two samples, about 200 feet apart, near the north end of the K. & C. #2 claim is 0.15 Oz. gold over a width of 2.5 feet; one of the samples was quite good, though narrow.

Near the north end of B. & K. #5 Taylor took two samples of the mineralized streak on the hangingwall side, which averaged 0.46 Oz. gold over 1.3 feet, and two samples on the footwall side which averaged 0.07 Oz. gold over 1.1 feet.

At the same place three samples by Starr of the hangingwall and footwall streaks combined averaged 0.20 Oz. gold over a width of 2.4 feet. The average of all samples here is 0.24 Oz. gold over 2.4 feet, omitting the valueless dike, 5.1 feet wide, between the mineralized streaks. The above samples were taken in a shallow open cut and stripping.

The average of all samples on the East vein is 0.16 Oz. gold over 2.3 feet.

West Vein This vein outcrops about 400 feet west of the East vein, and several hundred feet higher, on the north end of the B. & K. #5 claim. It strikes north and south and dips 70° west. It is opened by five small cuts in a distance of 140 feet. To the north of these cuts it has not been definitely located; to the south it splits into two small veins which strike S 10° E and S 10° W. One of these, it is doubtful which, has been opened by two small cuts on the north end of K. & C. #2 claim.

The vein is quartz from 0.4 to 1.0 feet wide, showing comb structure, and banded with pyrite and a little zinc blende. There are a few inches of altered and weakly mineralized rock alongside the quartz. The vein walls are volcanic rocks.

Taylor's average assay is 1.09 Oz. gold over 1.2 feet; Starr's average is 0.96 Oz. gold across 1.1 feet.

This vein could only be developed by a crosscut tunnel or a shaft, and there is no safe location for either of these without driving an excessive distance.

OTHER NEARBY PROPERTIES: The Black Panther group, now being developed by the Pioneer Gold Mines Ltd. is situated about a mile, airline, nearly due west of Summit Lake. It is reported to be developing favorably.

The Golden Eagle is an old Crown Granted group, believed to consist of ten claims, which has not been worked for nearly forty years. It is extremely important to the Beaton and Keisig-Cameron groups, since both these groups, as staked, appear to seriously overlap onto the Golden Eagle ground.

The claim map herewith shows the Golden Eagle group as enlarged from a small-scale map believed to have been copied from a Government survey; also the Beaton and Keisig-Cameron groups platted from the location lines as nearly as possible without a survey.

The tie between the Golden Eagle and the other two groups is admittedly unsatisfactory, since only one uncertainly identified corner of the Golden Eagle Survey has been found. As platted, the relative positions of the groups depend on one indefinitely identified corner, a very approximate distance to the Golden Eagle tunnel, and a couple of rough compass bearings.

It is the writers opinion that, as shown on the map, the Golden Eagle covers and owns all of the West vein and most of the East vein, and that the Beaton Group holds only the veins in the vicinity of, and south of, Summit Lake. The actual boundaries of the groups can only be determined by survey.

It is reported that in the late '90s the Golden Eagle developed a vein up to seven feet in width and of unstated value by three short tunnels, and that they then dropped down 500 feet and started a low-level tunnel from a safe point in the China Creek basin. This tunnel is still open and is shown on the accompanying map. A very brief inspection was made of this tunnel and two barren appearing veins were noted. The correlation between these veins and the veins on the surface is not known.

Even if this group does not cover most of the East and West veins, it is important to the Beaton group since it affords the best locations from which to develop the Beaton underground from a safe and easily accessible point.

CONCLUSION: The preliminary development of the Beaton and Keisig-Cameron groups would be expensive on account of transportation difficulties in the last two or three miles, and the necessity of keeping out of the way of snowslides.

The Summit Lake zone appears to have erratic, scattered, and generally low grade mineralization. It could be explored through a 300 foot crosscut which, however, I do not think is justified by the present showings.

The East vein could be developed by a crosscut of two or three hundred feet length, starting near the south end of the I Am Alone claim. A drift from such a crosscut would have backs of about 100 feet for a long distance southward, gradually increasing to about 500 feet.

The West vein is so situated that it cannot be opened except by a shaft or a long crosscut.

It would be entirely feasible to diamond drill the Summit Lake zone, the East vein, and with more difficulty, the West vein. The East vein especially is quite well situated for drilling so far as dip of vein, location, and water supply is concerned, and the vein should core well.

The value of the ore found to date on either of the two groups, when taken in conjunction with the widths, is not good enough to make a profitable mine, and I see no reason to

expect any radical improvement in either width or values in depth. This fact, even without the uncertainty as to whether or not the Beaton claims hold the East and West veins, is sufficient to make the property unattractive.

Even with the addition of the Golden Eagle Group the property would not appear promising enough to justify much expense for exploration.

In view of the above facts and conclusions, I recommend that the option on the property be dropped.

Respectfully submitted,

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August 8, 1941.

