

9/19/29

MR Ft. Yukon 41-1

NOTE BY N. L. WIMMLER ON REPORTED GOLD TELLURIDE  
FLOAT ON UPPER YUKON RIVER ABOVE CIRCLE  
[See specimen in cabinet]

2411-3

Considerable mystery is attached to this discovery. Five years ago on coming down the Yukon River in a rowboat I noticed some adits driven into the rock cliff on the north bank of the Yukon River about 25 miles above Circle. The formation here is a slate principally. This year in making the same trip I again passed this place and, never having been able to ascertain just what was being done there, I made inquiry at Circle. All I could learn at that time was that Albert Hughes and Jack Sansone were doing some quartz prospecting there.

Later on in the day in talking to C. F. Alexander, manager for the N. C. Company at Circle, I was shown a specimen of telluride ore. At first I could receive no further information concerning it, but he later informed me that several men were up the river trying to find where this deposit occurred. In piecing things together the story goes as follows:

Some years ago either one of these men or some one known to them came down the Yukon River and made a landing somewhere in this locality. He found about 20 pounds of this rich float on the beach. Its identity was not discovered until some years later, when finding out the richness of this float he went back up river and selected a spot which he thought was the point where he discovered the float years previous. Apparently this place is where all of this underground work has been done. There are several adits driven into the formation and disclosed nothing of interest or indicated any mineralization. The work was abandoned. Some faulting had taken place and they figured they had not gone beyond the fault and reached the solid formation. Efforts were again renewed and are now being carried on. They are wandering aimlessly about searching for mineralization. I can see nothing that would indicate mineralization at this particular place, and in discussing this feature with Dr. Mertie of the Geological Survey, who also has examined the workings, I found that he is of the same opinion and at a loss as to why all this work is being done, but secrecy and mystery surrounds the operation.

I finally obtained a piece of this mineral and sent same to Paul Hopkins at Fairbanks for analysis. His report is attached. Mr. Alexander has been sent a copy. He does not admit or does he discredit that the above mentioned locality is the place where this mineral was found or where search for it is being made. It resembles the telluride ore at Cripple Creek, Colorado. Whether this is a plant or whether this could have been rafted down by ice from some point on the upper Yukon and landed on the beach at this point, there are several things to be considered.

N. L. WIMMLER

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UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT of COMMERCE  
Bureau of Mines  
Fairbanks, Alaska  
Aug. 3, 1929

Mr. Norman L. Winkler  
Fairbanks, Alaska

Dear Mr. Winkler:

The light gray to silver white mineral in the sample recently submitted by you is a telluride of gold and silver, probably sylvanite.

A small portion of the sample, weighing 650 mg. and containing considerable quartz, yielded 35.3 mg. gold and 4.2 mg. silver. This would be equivalent to  $5\frac{1}{2}$  percent gold and 0.65 percent silver. Expressed as ounces per ton, the results would be: gold, 1580 oz. silver, 190 oz.

The ratio of gold to silver is more than 8 to 1. This is nearer to the ratio in calaverite than to that in sylvanite. However, the color and crystal form agree very closely with those given for sylvanite and do not agree with those given for calaverite.

Very truly yours,

/s/ PAUL HOPKINS

Paul Hopkins,  
Associate Anal. Chemist.

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