

MR Skagway 109

By PDS

Notes on Placer Operations in Porcupine

District, Skagway Precinct

-1926-

Porcupine Mining Company:

K1109-38

Consolidation has been effected of all placer ground on McKinley and Cahoon creeks and on Porcupine Creek below the mouth of McKinley Creek, and the resulting area is now under the ownership of the Porcupine Mining Company. This company is also said to have acquired the mining equipment formerly in use in placer operations on Glacier Creek. Mr. Thos. Vogel of Haines is local manager of the company.

Representatives of the company have announced that it is planned to expend \$100,000 in the preparatory work and additional equipment necessary for the resumption of mining operations on lower Porcupine Creek. This preparatory work is to include the construction of a high line flume, 4 ft. by 3 ft. in cross-section, that will carry water from McKinley Creek to a point above the scene of proposed placer operations on Porcupine Creek. The total length of this flume is to be 8,000 feet. Its grade is to be 0.8 per cent. The construction of this flume involves the erection across the gorge of McKinley Creek of a bridge which, in addition to carrying the flume, will serve also as a viaduct capable of supporting traffic incident to the transportation of supplies, for which a tractor will be used. The bridge is of

the cantilever type with an "A" truss of timber construction having a span of 240 feet. The height of the bridge floor above the water of McKinley Creek is 165 feet.

Water will be delivered by the high-line flume to a penstock box, from which pressure pipe lines will deliver it to giants under heads varying from 350 feet to 375 feet. Owing to the depth of gravel and the light gradient in lower Porcupine Creek hydraulic elevators are to be installed. In former placer operations on Porcupine Creek all the waters of the stream were diverted by a dam, situated about a mile from the mouth, into a flume, 24 ft. by 6 ft. in cross-section, which arrangement permitted hydraulicking the gravels of the stream channel. Repeated floods that carried away sections of the diverting flume caused the abandonment of operations by this method. The present operators believe that considerable sections of the paystreak in the lower reaches of Porcupine Creek were left by former operators under the large diverting flume and in the ground that was left intact to protect the flume. It is now proposed to first work out an ancient channel of lower Porcupine Creek that roughly parallels the present channel and then, by diverting the stream into the old channel, render available for hydraulicking the present channel including the areas under and bordering the old diverting flume. Work was prosecuted on the program of preliminary work above outlined during the open season of 1926, with about 30 men employed. Two camps were operated, the lower, situated at "Porcupine City," near the mouth of Porcupine Creek,

and the upper, which was established at the old placer camp on the rim of the gorge above lower McKinley Creek. The lower camp served as a base for supplies. The sawmill which is also located at the lower camp, was put in commission, and lumber was manufactured for several buildings, in addition to a portion of that to be used in the construction of the high-line flume. The upper camp provided accommodations for the crews that were engaged in the erection of the bridge across McKinley Creek gorge, and in logging and sawmill operations that were conducted on the mountainside above McKinley Creek at a point about a half mile above its mouth. At this place a portable sawmill outfit was erected and lumber for the upper sections of the flume was cut. Excellent timber for logging was available on the mountainside immediately above the sawmill site.

The portable sawmill was operated by water power, to provide which an old flume and pipe line $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles in length and leading from upper McKinley Creek was overhauled and put in commission. From the lower terminus of this line 460 feet of 10-inch and 150 feet of 6-inch steel pressure pipe was laid, which delivered water under a head of 240 feet to the Pelton wheel operating the portable sawmill.

The bridge across McKinley Creek gorge was completed and used for transportation of supplies to the upper camp before the end of the season.

Considerable work was also done on the road and trail that connects the lower and upper camps that enabled the use of horse-drawn

skids in dragging lumber from the lower sawmill to the bridge-site at McKinley Creek. In addition to coarse gold, fine gold is said to be present in unusual quantities in the material to be mined on lower Porcupine Creek. It is proposed to make special efforts to recover the fine gold. Experiments will be made to determine the value in this connection of a 4-cell Faust jig, one of which is on the ground.

It is also said that in former operations one of the difficulties encountered in sluicing was due to the presence of "metallics" in quantities as great as 40 pounds per cubic yard that clogged the riffles and thus permitted the escape of fine gold. It is believed that a considerable percentage of the metallics is in the form of pyrites.

Gold Nuggett Mining Company:

Lx 109-37

The placer ground on Porcupine Creek above the mouth of McKinley Creek is now held by Chester Snow and brother under lease from the Gold Nuggett Mining Company. The area so controlled embraces thirteen claims.

Operations on this ground which have extended over a period of 10 years have been on a small scale and have been attended by many difficulties, including lack of sufficient capital. The property was not visited.

Mr. Snow states that a ditch line 4 miles in length has been built that conducts water from Big Grizzly Creek to the placer ground.

Work done during 1926 consisted of "booming" operations on the 4th claim located about 1 mile above the mouth of McKinley Creek. The dam in use for this work is provided with 12 gates, delivering water under a head of 6 feet.

The depth of gravel is said to vary between 8 and 12 feet.

The production made was not stated. The total expenditures on the property to date were given as \$60,000.

There were 6 men employed during the season of 1926.