

MINING ACTIVITIES

FIRST DIVISION - New interest is being shown in the Riverside Mine in the Hyder District which may result in its reopening. This mine is a past producer of over \$600,000 worth of gold, silver, lead, and tungsten, and its underground workings are rather extensive.

A decision has not yet been announced by Judge Folta on the Flynn vs. Vevelstad case over the possession of the Yakobi Island nickel claims.

Diamond drilling continues at the Funter Bay nickel property.

According to a document filed in the Juneau U. S. Commissioner's office, two Toronto mining men, W. A. "Bill" Richardson and Robert Campbell, have taken an option to purchase sixteen manganese claims held by Henry "Tiger" Olsen near Taku Harbor. The purchase price is \$25,000 and ten percent of the stock in a company to be formed, and the time allowed to complete the purchase payments is five years. Development plans for the property are not known.

SECOND DIVISION - A number of newspaper items have reported that a group has optioned the old Empire lode tin property on Cape Mountain and will conduct a drilling program there this season. In addition to tin, they hope to find economic quantities of highly strategic columbium and tantalum minerals, traces of which have been found in the area. This will increase to five the number of companies actively exploring for or producing tin on the Seward Peninsula.

A rather late item is the news that the holdings and equipment of Helcolicon Mines, Inc. were purchased by Graham Lammers at a U. S. Marshal's sale in Fairbanks. The property is a gold dredging proposition on Klery Creek, which is in the Kobuk River drainage near Kiana. Lammers was the former owner and operator of the property before Helcolicon.

THIRD DIVISION - The MacLaren River copper discovery, which has been given considerable publicity during the past month, is the same one that has been mentioned in several issues of this Bulletin commencing last September.

A new coal mine is in production near Homer. It is known as the Kibby and Eden Mine, and the first delivery was made in Anchorage by truck a short time ago, underselling Jonesville coal by \$2.00 per ton. The mine is owned by Carl Kibby and Dick Eden of Homer, and is an open pit operation.

FOURTH DIVISION - The DeCoursey Mining Company was producing 18 to 20 flasks per day at its Red Devil quicksilver mine in January, but cut production to about half of that in February. The Red Devil property is on the Kuskokwim River near Sleetmute.

It has been reported that a new type of continuous miner, which can be used in recovering coal from the pitching seams of the Healy River Field, has been developed by one of the mine owners. A scale model was constructed and operated satisfactorily, leading to the manufacture of a full-scale model soon to be finished.

TIN SMELTER CLOSING

Presumably because of the present over-supply of tin in the United States stockpile, it has been announced that the Government tin smelter at Texas City will probably be closed later this year. This will be a blow to Alaska's tin producers, who will then have to ship their tin concentrates to smelters at Singapore or England.

YUKON ACTIVITY

"A broad program including extensive drilling and other exploration is being lined up by the Canalask Nickel Mines to test its several large claim groups acquired last season in the Shakwak Valley District northwest of Whitehorse", reports the Northern Miner. This company spent over \$100,000 in an aerial survey last year and preliminary ground work of staking claims over the anomalous areas, which is permissible under Canadian mining law. Twenty thousand feet of drilling is planned for the coming season, and geological parties will investigate other promising areas as outlined by the aerial work. About \$250,000 will be spent this year by the company, which is a combination of Quebec Metallurgical Industries, Ontario Nickel Mines, and the G. H. Johnson interests. The property is at the southern end of the mineralized belt in the Quill Creek section, and appears to be on the strike of the Hudson Bay M. and S. Company, Teck-Hughes, and Prospectors Airways copper-nickel showings.

PROSPECTING EDUCATION

Interest has definitely increased in the University of Alaska's Mining short course given at the University, and the mining extension courses which are taught throughout the Territory. The short course is a nine-week course given in three sections, mining and milling, mineralogy, and geology, and is taught by specialists in each field. The extension courses are four-week courses covering the same subjects but more briefly, and without the advantages of the laboratories and equipment available at College. Other subjects covered are prospecting methods, mining law, and the formation of ore deposits. There are no educational prerequisites for the courses, and costs or fees are very small. Mining extension courses are given in most of the larger towns every year and in small communities less often. Courses this year are being given in Nome, Kotzebue, Unalakleet, Anchorage, Juneau, Ketchikan, Valdez, Ladd AFB, Fort Richardson, Kodiak, and perhaps a few other places. Persons wishing to have a course taught in their community need only to show that a sufficient number of people there will take the course if given. Further information should be obtained from Dean Earl H. Beistline, School of Mines, University of Alaska, College, Alaska.

Prospectors who are sufficiently "well heeled" to spend the winter in Seattle can take one of the prospecting classes offered by the University of Washington each quarter. The subjects are about the same as those mentioned above and are reported to be well presented. The next course starts on March 29, but enrollments will be accepted up to April 5. Correspondence concerning the University of Washington course should be addressed to D. A. Pifer, Director, School of Mineral Engineering, University of Washington, Seattle 5, Washington.

NOTES FOR PROSPECTORS

The Atomic Energy Commission has published a new booklet on the use of Geiger and scintillation counters. Its title is Prospecting with a Counter and the price is 25 cents. In addition to explaining the functions of the two different

counters, it also deals with the many practical problems that a prospector looking for radioactives encounters in the field. Care and maintenance of the counters is discussed, and the use of the counter for actually assaying a radioactive sample for its uranium equivalent. For 25 cents, any person planning on prospecting for radioactives can hardly afford to be without it. It can be obtained from the Office of Technical Services, Department of Commerce, Washington 25, D. C.

Of primary concern to the Department of Mines is that its assaying services be considered reliable by all who send in samples. Occasionally, a prospector will not be satisfied that his assay returns are correct, and he will complain about it to others and even go so far as to spend money sending his samples to stateside commercial firms. We respectfully request that anyone not satisfied with a TDM assayer's work either tell him about it so that he has a chance to fully understand what is wanted and can recheck his work, or else write to the Juneau office on the matter. Our assayers are all competent and conscientious and understanding of the prospector's problems, and they would much prefer having a person question their work directly than complain about it to others. Ground-up portions (called "pulp") of all samples sent in for assay are kept for a minimum of six months. If a prospector wishes, he may have the pulp of any particular sample sent back to him to send to another assayer for a check on the first assayer's work. Sample splitting to send to different assayers can be done, but it is not encouraged for it must be finely crushed and correctly split, or the results will very likely not check.

BLAZING ALASKA'S TRAILS

For those who have not yet heard of it, the above heading is the title of a book by Dr. Alfred H. Brooks that has been only recently printed and put on sale. It was prepared from a manuscript written by Dr. Brooks in the early 1920's which was never published. A press release from the University of Alaska states as follows:

"Dr. Brooks, a famous Alaskan explorer, scientist, and historian, was well qualified to write the book by virtue of having headed the USGS in Alaska for 25 years. This book adds a great deal of radiance to his already great reputation.

"Blazing Alaska's Trails is a complete record that covers all phases of Alaskan life up to 1920. Included in the book are ten chapters on Alaskan history, six on mining and the mining industry, one each on the flora, fauna, geology, geography, climate, native inhabitants, early transportation, fisheries, agriculture, education and government in Alaska. The material is presented in a very readable and enjoyable manner.

"Publication of the book was undertaken jointly by the Arctic Institute of North America and the University of Alaska after the original manuscript was given by Mrs. Brooks.

"Copies of this 517-page book are now available from the School of Mines, University of Alaska, College, Alaska; the House of Adler, Fairbanks, Alaska; the Baranof Bookstore, Juneau, Alaska; the Alaska Sportsman, Ketchikan, Alaska; the Arctic Institute of North America, Washington 25, D. C.; and other bookstores both in Alaska and in the United States. The book sells for \$4.50 per copy."

JOBS

Partly because of changing conditions, and partly because of the increasing circulation of this Bulletin, the Department of Mines is receiving an ever-larger number of requests for jobs and positions, both in the mines and in the Department. The TDM is a Territorial service organization with a very limited staff of technical personnel. We are not an employment agency for the mines in Alaska, and we suggest that interested persons direct their employment inquiries to the Alaska Territorial Employment Service, Juneau, Alaska.

MISCELLANEOUS

An interesting item was seen in the Time Magazine lately concerning the underwater work of geologists in diving suits. They are mapping geological structures off the California Coast in this manner in certain localities where seismic work is not permitted by local law.

Another item of interest from Time is an account of a new technique being developed by Hans Lundberg, noted geophysicist, in aerial prospecting for oil with scintillometer equipment. So far, it has had about a 50 percent record of success.

The University of Alaska School of Mines prospectors' mineral identification kits mentioned in an earlier Bulletin, are now about two-thirds sold. The price is \$27.50. It is reported that the School of Mines is anxious to have recommendations from purchasers for changes or improvements in the kits.

E. J. Longyear Company, makers of core drilling equipment, have announced a time-saving method of lifting diamond drill cores through the rods by cable, rather than having to remove and then replace the rods to obtain the core.

Another concern reportedly looking for large pyrite deposits near tidewater is the Freeport Sulphur Company, 122 East Second Street, New York City.

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