TERRITORY OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF MINES

EXAMINATION OF PROSPECT TRENCHES ON READY BULLION LODE PROPERTY

by

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SUMMARY

Some bulldozed prospect trenches on the Ready Bullion gold lode property, Ester Dome area, were examined by the writer during October 1950. The property has been a low-grade producer in the past, and is described in USGS Bulletin 849-B. In general, the trenches were not deep enough for correct sampling, but samples were taken where possible. There are no indications of gold ore that can be profitably mined at present, and future prospecting for gold here is not recommended until conditions are more favorable for gold mining. There is a small possibility of a commercially important antimony deposit. If the owner decides to do more work on this possibility, he should proceed with skepticism.

INTRODUCTION

On the 3rd of October 1950, Mr. John Hajdukovich requested the writer to make an examination of the Ready Bullion gold lode property, which is located in the Ester Dome area. Mr. Hajdukovich is the controlling owner of the property. Accordingly, the examination was made on the following day and on two other days later in the month.

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Ready Bullion lode property is located about 1½ miles west of Ester above the left limit of Ester Creek between Moose and Ready Bullion Creeks. The mill is located on the main road close to the creek at an elevation of approximately 800 feet. The old underground workings are up the hillside above the mill at an elevation of 1060 to 1200 feet, but have been caved in for many years. The property is described in USGS Bulletin 849-B, pages 123 to 127 and Plate 8.

The mine was in production from 1926 until sometime prior to 1940. It was controlled by Nick Borovich and G. B. Stevens as the Eva Creek Quartz Mining Company, but since the death of Borovich, John Hajdukovich has had the controlling interest.

MINERAL DEPOSITS

According to James M. Hill in USGS Bulletin 849-B, the geology as observed underground is a system of steeply-dipping, low-grade, gold quartz veins trending north-south in strike and up to 20 feet in width. These veins cut through the country rock, which is dark mica schist, with a nearly horizontal attitude. The system is faulted by a series of faults which tend to strike east-west. There were many movements,

both premineral and postmineral, in the main vein which caused deposition of several varieties of quartz and the occurrence of much clay gouge. Mineralization through some of the schist caused widespread low grade stringers.

Hill also mentions the occurrence of some stibnite and a "fibrous mineral that appears to be an antimony-lead sulphide" in conjunction with some of the richer ore.

Ore mined from this property is reported to have averaged from $6.00 to $13.00 per ton, and of the numerous samples taken from all parts of the mine, only four had a value of over $20.00. Nearly two-thirds of the reported samples had a value of $5.00 or less. These values are at the old price of gold, of course, and if multiplied by 1.9 will be approximately correct for the present price.

Since the underground workings are inaccessible, the only development work, or openings, available for examination were a number of prospect trenches which were excavated by bulldozer during the past summer. These were examined, the minerals sampled where found, and the trenches, veins, and sample locations surveyed and mapped. The map is included with this report.

The sample numbers run from 1507 to 1515, inclusive, and are noted on the map with arrows indicating as closely as possible the exact spot where each sample was taken. The assaying was done by Donald J. Cook, Territorial Assayer at College, and reported on Department of Mines forms addressed to the writer and dated 11 October and 31 October 1950.

The following is a tabulation of the assay results:

Sample No.	Type of Sample	Ounces per Ton		Value per Ton	Width	Other Minerals
		Gold	Silver			
1507	Channel	Trace	0.24	$0.22	15"	
1508	Grab	Trace	0.24	0.22	--	
1509	Channel	Trace	0.22	0.20	12"	
1510	Channel	Trace	0.34	0.31	18"	
1511	Channel	Trace	0.34	0.31	12"	
1512	Grab	0.22	1.44	9.00	--	28.57% Antimony
1513	Grab	Nil	Nil	None	--	
1514	Grab	0.02	0.34	1.01	--	
1515	Channel	0.16	0.56	6.10	12"	

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TERRITORY OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF MINES

SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT ON THE READY BULLION LODE PROSPECT, FAIRBANKS DISTRICT.

K+ 58-37

by

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The Ready Bullion lode prospect is about one-and-one-half miles from the town of Ester on the ridge between Ready Bullion Creek and Moose Creek. The claims include a property that was formerly known as the Hudson Mine, and the prospect has also been referred to as the Eva Quartz Mine. The property has been described in REPORT ON COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TERRITORY OF ALASKA AND THE UNITED STATES IN MAKING MINING INVESTIGATIONS AND IN THE INSPECTION OF MINES FOR THE BIENNIUM ENDING MARCH 31, 1931, by B. D. Stewart, in U.S.G.S. Bulletin 849-B, LODE DEPOSITS OF THE FAIRBANKS DISTRICT, ALASKA, by James M. Hill, 1931, and in a Territorial Department of Mines Report entitled EXAMINATION OF PROSPECT TRENCHES ON READY BULLION LODE PROPERTY by James A. Williams, Associate Mining Engineer, January, 1951.

The property is still controlled by John Hadjukovich. In 1956 some additional bulldozing was done on the prospect. This work was done under the direction of William Vuicich; it consisted mostly of enlarging and deepening some of the trenches described by James A. Williams in 1951. New exposures of mineralized veins were made in the area where Williams took his samples numbered 1507 to 1512 (see map accompanying 1951 TDM report by J. A. Williams).

Four samples were taken during the 1956 examination; they were assayed at the Territorial Department of Mines Assay Office at College by Donald Stein, Assayer-Engineer, and the results are shown in Table I. Sample 33 was taken from the north side of the east-west trench north of the point where Williams' sample 1512

TABLE I

SAMPLES TAKEN AT THE READY BULLION LODE PROSPECT, 1956

Sample No.	Length Inches	Ounces per Ton Gold	Ounces per Ton Silver	Dollars per Ton
33	26	0.01	Nil	$0.35
34	4	14.10	2.60	495.84
35	3	0.22	Nil	7.70
36	4	0.12	0.16	4.34

was taken. The mass of quartz sampled appeared to strike North and dip 30° East; this mass may have been isolated from the vein by faulting, and its width may have been exaggerated by the faulting. Sample 34 was taken from the center of the trench due south of Sample 33; the vein at this point appeared to strike North and dip to the East. Sample 35 was taken from the south wall of the trench southwest of Sample 34; at this point the vein appeared to strike North and dip 30° East. Although strikes and dips appeared to be the same at the places sampled, the vein exposures were not in a straight line, and it appeared that the vein had been broken and displaced by a fault zone. Sample 36 was taken southeast of the place where Williams' samples 1507 to 1511 were taken; this vein strikes N 75° W and has a vertical dip.

Sample 34 is abnormally high in comparison to all other samples listed in the earlier reports. Additional samples of this vein segment should be taken to find if the high assay can be duplicated. If there is a high-grade ore-shoot at that part of the vein, it probably is a very small one.

In only two places were the trenches deep enough to actually expose veins in place, and in those two places it is not certain that the veins were exposed sufficiently to a depth where they had not been affected by the movement of the overburden.

Samples 1507 through 1511 were taken from the best exposed veins at intervals of six feet. One of these was a grab sample taken of the richest-appearing material in the vein in an effort to determine in which part of the vein the highest values might be. The value of it was approximately the same as for the channel samples, all very low grade--20¢ to 31¢ per ton. This vein has a general strike, where exposed, of N20°W and a very slight dip to the east. It has an average thickness of about 15" and consists of a number of small parallel stringers of dark-stained quartz separated by layers of a soft black mica schist which probably also contains graphite. Since the vein's attitude is nearly flat, and pick and shovel work was necessary to dig down in the bottom of the trench to expose it through its width, it is possible that more sections of the vein were not reached, and hence it may be wider than indicated. However, since the values obtained are so low, the vein would probably be of no consequence in any width.

Sample No. 1515 was taken from a vein exposed for a very short distance in the side of the upper trench. It is a 12" vein striking E-W and dipping 30° to the south. The exposure was only sufficient for one channel sample to be taken, and the general geology is the same as for the lower vein already discussed. Sample 1515 assayed $6.10 per ton.

The other samples obtained were nothing more than grab samples of float, since the trenches were not cut completely down through the overburden to bedrock at those points.

Sample 1514 was of a collection of mixed white and dark quartz float in the area indicated on the map, and it assayed $1.01.

The most interesting sample was No. 1512. It was taken from an area of soft dark blue schist which resembled a graphite schist but no definite formation could be found. This sample assayed $9.00 per ton in gold and silver and was also found to be 28.57% antimony. It is probably the antimony-lead sulphide mentioned by Hill in Bulletin 849-B, but the lead content is very small. Whether this material might change to a deposit of stibnite of commercial importance at a greater depth is a matter that can only be decided by further exploration.

MAPPING

In surveying and mapping the area under consideration, no claim map was available and claim corner posts or monuments could not be found. As a result, the area could not be precisely located with respect to former surveys. It is believed, however, from the appearance of the ground and old dumps, etc., that the vein from which the five samples were taken is quite close to the location of the original upper portal of the mine. This portal was located on the Hosanna Claim.

EQUIPMENT

The mill building is still in fair condition and contains most of the original equipment including two Nissen stamps, amalgamation plate, aprons, crusher, and possibly a boiler and steam engine. Bartholomae Oil Corporation installed later, and still owns, a Diesel power plant, ball mill, classifier, and concentrating table.

A small, two-story bunk house appears to be in usable condition.

CONCLUSIONS

None of the samples taken indicate ore of economic value for gold and silver content. The sampling and mining reported by Hill also do not indicate the presence of gold ore on the Ready Bullion property that could be mined at a profit under the present economic conditions. Further prospecting for gold in the area examined is not recommended until a time when gold mining will be more profitable.

There exists a small possibility of an antimony deposit that might be of commercial importance. Since this possibility is based on only one sample, it should not be given much credit. If the owner is interested in expending further time and money on this possibility, he should trench deeper in the vicinity of sample point 1512 in an effort to find a definite formation or vein. Sampling should be closely correlated with the prospecting, and if an improvement in the deposit is not soon noted, the project should be abandoned.

It should be kept in mind that the mining of antimony would call for additional concentrating equipment in the mill, unless the deposit turned out to be high grade stibnite. Further, the gold values that may occur with the antimony must be disregarded because it is not practical to separate gold from antimony on a small scale with simple milling machinery.