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PE 85-10

PRELIMINARY REPORT OF JAP PROPERTY, UPPER WILLOW CREEK, - 85-95-
WILLOW CREEK DISTRICT, ALASKA
August 10, 1938

Location and Accessibility:

The Jap property is located at the head of upper Willow Creek, adjoins the Gold Bullion on the south and the Brooklyn and Independence properties on the southwest. A branch road from the Wasilla road was constructed last year and extends onto the property.

Owners:

The holder of this group of seven unpatented claims are Mrs. Isa Yago of Japan, one-fourth interest, and H. S. Kawabe and E. Swetmann of Seward, Alaska hold together three-fourths interest.

History:

The discoverer and date of discovery of the group is not known. Reports were to the effect that the discovery dates back to during the operations of the gold Bullion mine from 1909 to 1915. The property has retained its name since discovery. The present 1-stamp mill was installed prior to 1915.* Two tunnels were started prior to this date. In 1916-1917 the property was under lease and continued work was done in the tunnels. Assessment work with intermittent mill operation followed. Some ore was milled in an arrastre located below on upper Willow Creek. The production, however, has been small. In 1936 the property was leased with a 5-year option to buy for the total sum of $20,000 to Morris Anderson. Some development has been done in the tunnels and the 1-stamp mill was run intermittently during the seasons. This season Anderson sold his lease for a cash price of $8,700 to the Alaska Pacific Consolidated Mining Company.

Geology and Showings:

The formation within the claim boundaries consists of quartz diorite, which is the formation containing the productive veins in this district. Two parallel flat-lying veins, outcropping 300 feet apart can be traced across the claim group. These veins strike N. 10 to 20° W. and have low dips to the west. The underground workings are confined to an area in the vicinity of the Gold Dust fault where the higher gold values were found in the veins. This fault strikes N. 15° W. and dips 65° E. The faulted zone ranges from 50 to 60 feet in width, and its relation to the veins is not known. Apparently the zone intersects the veins in dip, and it is a common belief that high grade ore will be found on this intersection. There is no proof to verify this belief other than the general occurrence of ore in this district near fault and vein intersections.

*U. S. G. S. Bull. 642, "Mineral Resources of Alaska, 1915," p. 199.

Tunnel No. 1 is located at elevation 4040 feet on the west side of the Gold Dust fault. A quartz vein is exposed above the tunnel for a distance of 200 feet and ranges from 6 to 30 inches in width. In the tunnel the vein is exposed 125 feet, the length of the tunnel. At the portal the vein consists of 30 inches of banded quartz which gradually narrows near the center portion and starts to widen again near the face. The quartz is only slightly mineralized and a blue gouge, made up of foreign material and wall rock, occurs on the hanging wall. Sample No. 504 was taken from various pieces of quartz found on the dump. Results of 0.05 oz. gold and a trace of silver were obtained.

No. 2 tunnel was driven along the footwall of the Gold Dust fault at an elevation of 3925 feet. A 6-inch quartz vein occurs on the footwall and was followed for 35 feet, the length of the tunnel. The quartz in this vein shows free gold. Due to slide rock this vein does not show on the surface.

No. 3 tunnel is located above No. 2 on the east side of the fault at an elevation of 40-45 feet. This tunnel follows the upper vein over its entire length of 200 feet. The vein zone is 6 feet in width which strikes N. 10° W. and dips from 20 to 30° W. The quartz in this vein varies from 6 inches to 2 feet in width. At a point 110 feet from the portal a winze was sunk on the vein for a total distance of 75 feet measured along the dip of the vein. The latest work done has been the extension of this winze from 50 to 75 feet by Anderson, who reports 12 inches of banded quartz in the bottom that assays $100 per ton. This winze was filled with water at the time of the writer's visit. A short crosscut shows the vein for 20 feet near the face in the footwall. Sample No. 505 was taken across the vein 65 inches at the intersection of the crosscut with the winze and results of a trace in both gold and silver were obtained.

No. 4 tunnel, located 300 feet northeast of No. 3, is caved. Its length was reported as 48 feet and is on the vein. At the portal cut the vein is exposed a few feet and the quartz ranges from 6 to 8 inches in width.

No. 5 tunnel is located 700 feet east of No. 3 at an elevation of 4050 feet. This tunnel is not shown on the sketch. The vein on which this tunnel was driven is believed to be the lower vein. It has a strike of N. 10° E. and dips 33° W. A greater movement shows along this vein than the others, and the vein material consists mainly of altered diorite and ranges from 2 to 3 feet in width. Small irregular quartz lenses occur along the tunnel length of 175 feet. Dark bands occur in some of the quartz with which the highest gold bands are associated.

Mineralization:

The metallic minerals noted in the veins consist mainly of pyrite, both in the quartz and the altered diorite. Minor amounts of chalcopyrite and some free gold was noted. The gangue minerals consist of a bluish to milky white to vitreous quartz, calcite, ankerite, mica, chlorite and altered diorite minerals.

The camp is located at the head of upper Willow below the tunnels and consists of a combination bunk and cook house, and a mill shed. The amount of machinery on the property consists of a portable compressor at No. 5 tunnel, a Justinian Caire Company 1-stamp mill run by an Economy gas engine. Mining has been done mainly by hand. A jackhammer is used with the compressor.

Timber and water power are lacking in this vicinity.