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TERRITORY OF ALASKA
DEPARTMENT OF MINES

1938 JAN 10 39

MINING AND PROSPECTING IN THE GOODPASTER REGION *

by H.P. Loeding

The Goodpaster Region was not visited in 1938, but some information was obtained from C.W.Tibbetts, Carl Tweiten and William Eisenmenger.

During the past summer there were only a few quartz prospectors in the area where the American Smelying Co. had optioned a large number of claims. The options were turned back to Mr. Tibbetts, and at present the Blue Lead is being worked by four men in partnership with him. With the exception of some prospecting done by Wm. Eisenmenger on the Gray Lead Claim, this is about the only quartz work being done at present. John Hajdukovich prospected on Central Creek last summer, using a light drill and a bulldozer, and it is reported that sufficient prospects were found to start hydraulic mining next summer. Tibbs Creek was crosscut in two places near the landing field in the fall of 1936, with a 4 inch Kirk Hillman drill, but no good prospects were found. Placer prospects were reported several years ago on Michigan Creek, a large left limit tributary th the South Fork, about two miles above Big Swede Creek.

In addition to the quartz veins at the heads of Johnson, Boulder and King Creeks, quartz prospects have been found to the south and southwest, at the heads of the South Fork, Volkmar and Healy Rivers.

The country rock in the Goodpaster region is schist into which are intruded large areas of granitic rocks. Much of the country rock around the granite has been changed to gneiss with large feldspar "augen". In general the veins in the granite are mineralized while those in the gneiss are glassy and barren. The mineralized quartz is mostly fine grained. When gold is present it usually is finely divided and can be seen only after crushing and panning. The Blue Lead and the Grizzly Bear veins are exceptions in that the gold is coarser and easily visible in rich specimens. Considerable Jamesonite and some pyrite occurs in the veins. Float containing molybdenite has been found near the head of the South Fork. The gold and the Jamesonite may represent two distinct periods of mineralization, as many of the veins carrying large amonts of Jamesonite are very low in gold, and vice

* see Irving Reed's report on the Goodpaster lode mining

versa. No microscopic work has been done, however, to ~~determine~~ substantiate this.

The Blue Lead and the Grizzly Bear veins have been mined by the four partners of C.W.Tibbetts. The values are spotted but both veins run about $20 per ton as milled. The Blue Lead is about 2½ feet wide and dips from 0 to 20 degrees to the south. The steeper part is now being mined. The Grizzly Bear is 1½ to 2 feet wide and dips steeply to the south. Most of the gold, which is coarser than in the other veins in the district, occurs near the hanging wall.

The Gray Lead claim owned by Wm. Eisenmenger, contains a vein which is the most promising of any found to date. It is about two feet wide,,dips steeply to the west, and has shown some very high assays. The gold is rather fine, and usually is visible only on crushing and panning the ore. About 300 feet of the vein has been traced by means of pits dug along the top of a saddle.

The general feeling of extreme optomism of a few years ago regarding the Goodpaster region has changed to one of deep pessimism. Neither attitude is justified. There are a number of good quartz prospects and some of them will be developed in time, but probably not into anything big. The camp suffered from high pressure promotion, and insufficient surface prospecting was done both before and after the American Smelting Co. optioned the claims. For various reasons the American Smelting Co. got very little prospecting done for the money spent.

The following data concerning mining and equipment was obtained from C.W.Tibbetts of Fairbanks:— About 350 tons of ore were mined from the Grizzly Bear Vein during the winter of 1937, from which $7000 was recovered on milling. The ore is free milling, concentrates from the tailings containing $20 per ton. In the summer of 1938 operations were swithhed to the Blue Lead vein where about 300 feet of tunnel had been run the previous summer, and about 125 tons of ore have been mined up to ~~the end of~~ Oct., 1938, which yielded $2500 on milling. Tailing concentrates assayed $120.60 per ton. Mining will be continued on the Blue Lead this winter and the ore will be milled next summer. Freight, consisting

mostly of diesel oil, will be brought in this winter by cat and sleds.

Equipment consists of two 20 ton Straub mills, four plates, one 6' by 18' concentrating table, one two stage compressor, two jackhammers with bits and sharpening equipment, one forge, one TD 40 International tractor with bulldozer, one wannagan, two cabins and several tents.

There is a landing field on Tibbs Creek about four miles from the Blue Lead mine and a field suitable for winter landing on Summit Creek, about two miles away. Freight can be brought from both fields by tractor and sleds.

Henry R. Joerting

Associate Mining Engineer.

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JUNEAU, ALASKA

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