

ALASKA CONSOLIDATED GOLD CORPORATION

Frank Knowles, Trustee.

Lee Steele of Seattle, Wash. and Dome Creek in the Forty Mile District, has for a number of years been more or less mining on Dome Creek and has been purchasing and optioning placer ground in the Forty Mile District. Considerable publicity has been given the extensive plans and holdings of Steele for dredging.

His backing in this had changed from time to time and source, and backer last year and in part at least this year being C. D. Lewis of Seattle Wash. At this time Steele organized the ALASKA CONSOLIDATED GOLD CORP. which embraced his many holdings. The hydraulic operation on Dome Creek, formerly operated as the Dome Gold Corpn. of which R. Coates of Aberdeen, Wash. was President, was included in this new corporation. I am now informed that while some of these holdings are still under this new corporation, most of it is now under the name of Frank Knowles, Trustee, the name under which the Dome Creek operation is now conducted. Just what the situation may be I have not learned, in fact I have not attempted to do so.

The Alaska Consolidated Gold Corpn. has its office at 631 Lumber Exchange Bldg. Seattle Wash. which I am told is also the office of Frank Knowles. Trustee. Knowles is stated to be a partner of Steele. Whatever the plan or holdings may be the following information obtained mainly from Paul Glasgow of Chicken P.O. and who is employed by Steele or his company as handy man, lists in a general way some of the property.

The EIGHTEEN MILE GROUP, about 18 miles of the Forty Mile River bed, starting about 4 miles above Steel P.O., also 2 miles above this continuing up river which was located recently.

A 30 mile length of Mosquito Fork, a tributary of Forty Mile River, from about ½ mile below the mouth of Chicken Creek up to Ketchumstuck, an Indian village.

Ingle Bar, on Mosquito Fork opposite the mouth of Ingle Creek.

Three miles of Chicken Creek and its right limit benches, lacking a few claims which could not be obtained and which are now causing some trouble, also a wide meadow on the right limit of this creek at its mouth, etc.

Some ground on Napoleon Creek and the Forty Mile River around its mouth.

The placers on Dome Creek, mainly the benches along the right limit which were operated in a small way this season as Frank Knowles, Trustee.

These holdings include now extinct companies known as the Ingle Gold Co., the Forty Mile Power and Dredging Co. etc.

In 1926 Ray Humphries was engaged to drill and prospect Ingle Bar, Chicken Creek and elsewhere. Some drilling, now doubt enough to convince Humphries that he could not report favorable on the scheme as a whole, was done. Ingle Creek in itself is only of small area and did not drill up anywhere to expectation, in fact it is isolated and too small to consider for dredging even if drilling results had proven considerable better than they did.

The Forty Mile River below Franklin was dredged some years ago and while a little over \$250,000 is reported to have been taken out in the four seasons of operation, the venture was far from a success. The Forty Mile River contains loose wash gravel with many large boulders, the depth of ground varying, but usually that in the river bed, the river being confined within its banks, ranges up to

10 feet or so in depth, in places there is no gravel, the bedrock being swept clean. The gravels of the Forty Mile River and many of its tributaries are gold bearing but the river is swift especially during high water periods, so that in many places the gravels are almost constantly shifting. Freezing in the winter in many places goes to bedrock, and when the spring break up and thaw sets in the ice breaks loose lifting much or practically all of the gravel with it carrying it on downstream. In this way the gravel and its gold content is rafted along and no doubt this account for the source of at least most of the gold in the river bed. In some instances this gold may have come into the river in other ways. It would there be almost impossible to obtain even an approximate idea of the value of these river placers, not only because of the shifting gravel and possible payable areas, which later upon dredging may have wandered elsewhere but the wash is very coarse and loose and would not permit determination by drilling, or could shafts be sunk in the river itself unless frozen to bedrock during the winter which would not be an average or permissible condition.

The many wide broad flats occurring at many of the bends of the river are cut by the present river so that banks from a few feet to 25 feet or so may be exposed. Some of these may contain gold and gold which is definitely placed. However the wash in these would also be very heavy, each one is isolated from the other with the only connection being via the immediate river bed and canyon.

The river placers of the Forty Mile River, Mosquito Fork, and similar streams do not possess features that can be considered favorable for dredging even though an average gold content was known to exist there in a continuous channel or run. All of the physical features of these placers are adverse to profitable dredging unless an unusual amount of gold can be determined to be contained in them. It appears out of reason to expect this and a plan for dredging these placer will receive little if any consideration for people who are at all familiar with dredging. Out of this vast extent of river bottom there may however be some places which possess some features which would justify the determination of their merit if any!

Conditions on Chicken Creek do afford dredging possibilities if I have been correctly informed. The Corporation has purchased or has under option most of the claims on Chicken Creek from Discovery at its head down to No. 14 below at its mouth, a distance of 3 miles. It also has the benches along the right limit of this creek, and the width flat near its mouth between the junction of Chicken Creek and Mosquito Fork. The Chicken Creek placers have been mined at many places in former days. Some drilling and shaft prospecting has been done by the Steele interests. The creek placer occupies a valley 1500 to 2000 feet wide at its lower end and ranges up to a maximum depth of about 30 feet. Of this the depth of muck varies up to 15 feet in places, averaging between 5 to 8 feet, while the gravel varies from about 4 to 15 feet in depth. The gravel is of small to medium size. Bedrock is of soft coal formation of clay, sandstone, shale, etc., mainly, while in the upper reaches it is mainly a slate. The gold distribution is stated to be spotty. The maximum width of pay is stated to be at the lower end near the mouth of the creek where it is about 1500 feet. In the upper part of the creek the valley narrows down to 250 to 500 feet and the width of pay is less. The ground is practically all frozen. Years ago this placer was 52¢ per cu. yd. and better. If this be correct and a sufficient yardage available, this could should be profitable for dredging. However to assure a water supply for stripping and thawing, it would probably have to be pumped

from the river. Some good lignite coal occurs at Chicken and its use for power generation is under advisement.

Ingle Bar located at the mouth of Ingle Creek and mainly on the opposite side of Mosquito Fork has long been hailed as a wonderful dredging area and as containing high values. In former days an open cut was mined at the lower end of this Bar with satisfactory results. In itself it is not of sufficient area for a dredging operation, and I am reliably informed the ground that could be considered as profitable for dredging at this locality. This Bar contains roughly about 60 acres, and is 12 to 16 feet in depth. The wash is quite heavy but no large boulders in quantity were seen that would be of very serious handicap to dredging. The bedrock is however not particularly favorable being a hard slate. All of the bar is however stated to be of unfrozen material. There is very little muck overburden. Outside of a small area at the mouth of Ingle Creek, this creek itself does not contain dredgeable placer. I was locally informed that the ground considered dredgeable in this vicinity carried \$1.00 and better up to \$2.00 per cu. yd. in gold as prospected. This conflicts with what I consider more reliable information received elsewhere and apparently can not be a correct average gold content for the entire area.

From Ingle Bar to the mouth of Chicken Creek, a distance of 5 miles, the valley of Mosquito Fork ranges from 200 to 600 feet in width, in many places the river being confined practically within rock walls, but at some of the points and bends there are flats up to 500 feet and more in width. The river is a swift flowing stream and its bed exposes many very large boulders. The river, Mosquito Fork has not been prospected as yet and would be a difficult thing to prospect and obtain a correct idea of its gold content. The banks of these flats along Mosquito Fork stand from 3 to 20 feet above the normal level of the stream. The stream itself ranges from 75 to 150 feet and more in width in this locality.

The above notes are given to show in a general way the holdings and plans for dredging by this company and the conditions that must be met. Unfortunately I was not able to obtain some data directly from Mr. Steele or some executive, as my information was obtained mainly from sources around Chicken P.O. and during a hurried trip over that section of the holdings.

I am, therefore, not in a position to make further comments on the proposition, or can I recommend or condemn it in its entirety. As stated some of the holding hold possibilities but these must still be definitely isolated and difficult accessibility of this locality must be given serious and careful consideration.

The holdings and the hydraulic mining operations at Dome Creek are reported as Frank Knowles, Trustee, on the placer mining card files and my Territorial report for 1929, and previous years.

The Chicken area of the Forty Mile district was visited by me on July 15 & 16, 1929.

N. L. Wimmler