SPECIALS

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News of the Mines

AROUND PRINCE RUPERT

Coast is Most Active Section of Skeena River Division—Western Copper, Rowe, Trixie and I.X.L. Properties Reported on

The Skeena mining division is a rectangular strip of the British Columbia coast, extending from the entrance to Portland Inlet, just north of Port Simpson, to Millbank Sound, including all the coast islands, except the Queen Charlotte group, and the mainland as far east as the crest of the Coast Range, continues the annual report of Dr. H. F. James, resident mineral engineer. For the purpose of these reports it is divided into four sections: The Coast section; the Canadian National Railway section; Kitsumgallum Lake section, embracing the Kitsumgallum Valley from the railway at Terrace to Lava Lake in the divide between the Naas and the Skeena Rivers; and finally the Lakelse Valley section, which takes in the extension of the Kitsumgallum Valley depression which lies on the south side of the railway.

Of the four sections of the division, the coast is the most active at present and possibly is the most important, but it cannot be said any of the sections are particularly active or important at the present time. There are no steadily producing mines in the division, even on a small scale, since the mine of the Belmont-Surf Inlet Mines, Limited, become worked out a year or so ago, but two or three properties are coming along slowly and may eventually bring the district back into the producing ranks. Much money is being spent on railway, tram, and camp buildings on the old Western Copper property at the head of Khutze Inlet, but the property is still but slightly developed or proven. The small amount of work which has been done within the last year on the Trixie group, Porcher Island, and the Black Wolf, Kitsumgallum Lake, has been fairly encouraging. Small shipments of gold ore have been made from both these properties during the year. It is possible that one of them may become a steady producer in a small way, although both are very much in the prospect stages of development.

COAST STATION

The Western Copper property consists of a large block of claims near the head of Khutze Inlet. In 1926 they were purchased from Martin, Shannon & Mathers, of Vancouver, by the Revenue Mining Company. After doing some preliminary work the Revenue Mining Company turned the property over to C. G. Bush, of Detroit, who represents the Detroit Western Syndicate. It is now understood that this syndicate is forming a large corporation registered within the province. The Revenue Mining Company is a private company with a $500,000 capitalization, financed largely by Vancouver capital. Although it has sold the Western Copper property to the Detroit Company, development work is being administered by the Revenue Mining Company.

Since the property was examined last year by the Resident Mining Engineer very little work has been done on the showings of this property, and there is nothing to add to the description of the ore occurrence as found in the 1926 annual report. The company's efforts have been directed this year towards building a railway, tram, and a fairly large permanent camp, getting ready for more extensive underground development next season. During the summer a narrow-guage railway, just under 5 miles in length, was built from the tide-water at the head of Khutze Inlet to the main camp site, just below the point selected for the working tunnel. Twenty pound steel was put on the ties, because a quantity of this material was on hand from an old railway which had been constructed for some 2½ miles up the same valley, but this steel will be replaced by heavier steel before much shipping is done. The grade is very good for a mining railway. The maximum grade up the valley is 2 per cent, and this is for a distance of but 1,000 feet, and the maximum reverse grade is 1 per cent for a similar distance.

From this upper terminal a 3,000 foot aerial tram is being built to the tunnel site. The right of way has been cleared and some of the towers erected, but the early snowfall prevented its completion this season.

The camp, which has been constructed at the upper terminal, consists of a bunk house, 32 by 100 feet; a cookhouse, 36 by 24 feet; a warehouse, 28 by 58 feet; and office buildings. All the rough lumber for ties and buildings was cut on the ground by the company under contract.

Throughout the greater part of the summer a crew of from fifty-five to sixty men was employed and the company is to be commended on the progress which has been made towards transportation and camp construction.

ROWE CLAIMS

Three claims, the Starboard Watch, Canadian Girl, and Rio Costello, are situated on the west side of Pitt Island, just below Captain Cove, and are owned by C. O. Rowe, of Prince Rupert. The showings are situated at an elevation of about 1,400 feet above sea level and are reached by a foot trail which starts at a cabin on the beach and runs back for about 1½ miles over muskeg and soft soil chiefly.

The one vein on the property is typical of the gold-pyrite-quartz veins found at other points in the adjacent islands, being a very lenticular vein in the granodicrite of the Coast Range and consisting of quartz and coarse-grained pyrite. The pyrite occurs in lenses and bunches rather than as disseminated grains, and gold, which is the only metal of economic importance, is intimately associated with it. Other sulphides are exceptionally rare.

The vein has followed a shear zone in the granitic rocks and consists dominantly of quartz with lenses and bunches of pyrite, and in places it contains a large percentage of the sheared wall-rock in narrow strips, giving it a banded appearance. The strike is north and south (mag.), parallel to the hillside, and the dip appears to be very flat to the east into the hill, although at the bottom of the deepest cut is appreciably steeper than at the very surface and it is possible that the vein dips at an angle of 30 deg. or more.

The vein, which has been opened by a few surface cuts and by one short tunnel, varies in width from a few inches to 5 or 6 feet. The widest section is in the tunnel at the most northerly cut. A 5-foot sample across the face of this tunnel, showing very little pyrite, assayed very low in gold and silver. A samplet of pyrite taken from a number of points along the vein gave returns of $4 in gold and 0.4 oz. silver to the ton. These samples would indicate that the gold in this property is associated with the pyrite, and therefore that the owners should prospect for lenses of pyrite and not work on sections of the vein which consist of quartz only.

TRIXIE GROUP

The Trixie group, also known as the Patterson property, is situated in Welcome Harbor, on the north-west point of Porcher Island, less than a mile from tide-water and at a few hundred feet elevation. The group is owned by Frank Patterson, of Refuge Bay, and is now bonded to J. B. Woodworth, who in turn claims to have interested a strong Eastern mining company in the property. In any event, it would seem that something is to be done to determine the possibilities of the property and such commercial ore as is discovered during the development will be shipped.

At intervals for several years past small shipments of sorted ore have been made to the smelter, either by the owner or by some operator working under lease and bond. In 1917 the property was bonded to the Belmont-Surf Inlet Mines, Limited, when considerable exploratory work was done without developing sufficient ore to warrant the bond being taken up. One of the tunnels driven at this time just missed a small bunch of high-grade ore, which was taken out later by the owner. All the ore which has been shipped has been mined from the surface from small stopes above the short prospect-tunnels. During 1927 38 tons of ore which had been rejected from previous shipments as low-grade material was sent to the Anyox smelter and yielded slightly more than $1,100 in gold, gross value. This would indicate that much of the material which is not massive sulphides might make a very good grade of milling ore.

There are so many veins and workings that it is difficult to describe them satisfactorily without the aid of a plan, which I did not have time to make. In general, the showings consist of a number of steeply dipping veins in the quartz diorite of the Coast Range batholith. They are somewhat irregular in strike and dip, but have the same general trend, striking from N. 50 deg. E. to N. 80 deg. E. Each vein is quite lenticular, varying from a few inches to as much a s5 feet in width, and consists of quartz and pyrite. Although the latter is inclined to occur in small pods or bunches, constituting the high grade ore shoots, some of the veins carry a considerable amount of disseminated pyrite and might make a fair grade of milling ore. The gold, which is the only metal of economic importance, seems to be associated with the pyrite only, for the clean quartz is barren, while the solid sulphides carry from $100 to more than $250 a ton in gold.

The irregularity of the veins themselves and the smallness of the individual high grade ore shoots make it extremely difficult to estimate the possibilities of the property, but there would seem to be a chance that a sufficient tonnage of milling ore might be developed to make it attractive as a small property.

I. X. L. GROUP

The claims constituting the I.X.L. group, which is situated on Porcher Island adjoining the Trixie group on the west, are the I.X.L., I.X.L. Fraction, Klim, Starlight, and H.E.D. Fraction. They are owned by Dennisen & Wright, of Prince Rupert. The veins on this property have similar characteristics to those on the adjoining Trixie group, but, judging from what can be seen at the present time, the veins are smaller and therefore, much less attractive from a mining standpoint. The strikes are in general about east and west (mag.) and the dips steep to the south. The one vein which has received the greatest amount of attention has been opened continuously for about 60 feet; a little less than half of this is an open-cut and the remainder a drift on the vein. Within this distance the vein pinches and swells from about 1 inch to 2 feet. Above the tunnel the vein can be traced another 100 feet or so up the hill, but wherever exposed it is only a few inches wide. A very short distance beyond the upper end of the vein and a short distance in the hanging-wall is another quartz vein 3 feet wide where first outcropping, but this also pinches rapidly to a narrow stringer.

Within the next 50 yards south are several other veins of similar characteristics, some of them heavily mineralized with pyrite and undoubtedly carrying good gold values.

The possibilities of the property rest on the ability of the owners to find either larger veins or sections in the known veins which are of minable width over a reasonable length. This can probably be done much more cheaply by surface prospecting than by underground development.

J. P. Forde, district engineer for the federal department of public works is a passenger aboard the Prince Rupert today bound from Victoria to Skagway where he will embark upon the departmental cruiser Walronda and proceed to Glacier Bay on the upper end of the Alaskan panhandle where the recession of a glacier it is believed will ultimately provide Canada with a new port on the north coast by means of a body of water extending across the panhandle.

LAND ACT

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO APPLY TO LEASE LAND

In Prince Rupert Land Recording District and situate adjacent to Alliford Bay, Moresby Island, Skidegate Inlet, Queen Charlotte Islands.

TAKE NOTICE that Pacific Mills Limited, of Vancouver, B.C., occupation Pulp and Paper Manufacturers, intends to apply for a lease of the following described lands:—

Commencing at a post planted on the high water mark of an island; thence following the high water mark around the island to point of commencement, and containing one acre, more or less.

PACIFIC MILLS, LIMITED,
Applicant.
Donald Wilbur Hodsdon,
Agent for Pacific Mills, Limited.
Dated May 3, 1928.

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Form No. 13, Section 39)

LAND ACT.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO APPLY TO PURCHASE LAND

In Prince Rupert Land Recording District and situate about 5 miles from the mouth of Khutze River.

TAKE NOTICE that the Detroit Western Mining Company of Vancouver, B.C., occupation Mining Company, intends to apply for permission to purchase the following described lands:—

Commencing at a post planted one foot distant from the Witness post on the West side of Lot 172; thence westerly 60 chains; thence southerly 20 chains; thence easterly 60 chains; thence northerly 10 chains, and containing 100 acres, more or less.

F. PARDOE WILSON,
Agent for
Detroit Western Mining Co.
Dated 18th April, 1928.

LAND ACT

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO APPLY TO LEASE LAND

In Prince Rupert Land Recording District and situate adjacent to Alliford Bay, Moresby Island, Skidegate Inlet, Queen Charlotte Islands.

TAKE NOTICE that Pacific Mills Limited, of Vancouver, B.C., occupation Pulp and Paper Manufacturers, intends to apply for a lease of the following described lands:—

Commencing at a post planted on the high water mark of an island; thence following the high water mark around the island to point of commencement, and containing 0.25 acre, more or less.

PACIFIC MILLS, LIMITED,
Applicant.
Donald Wilbur Hodsdon,
Agent for Pacific Mills, Limited.
Dated May 3, 1928.

LAND ACT.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO APPLY TO LEASE LAND

In Smithers Land Recording District and situate adjoining Lot 5180 on East side of Skeena River.

TAKE NOTICE that Christina Corley, of Pacific, B.C., married woman, intends to apply for a lease of the following described lands:—

Commencing at a post planted at the southeast corner of Lot 5180, Range 5, Coast District; thence north 80 chains; thence east 20 chains; thence south 80 chains; thence west 20 chains, and containing 160 acres, more or less.

CHRISTINA CORLEY,
Applicant.
Dated May 28, 1928.

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NOTE—This coupon must be voted on or before 8 p.m. August 8, 1928.

Canadian Pacific Railway

B. C. Coast Services

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