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August - - 1899.

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Kamloops Mining Gazette.

AUGUST, 1899. No. 8

What We Think.

In another column will be found a report on the Pothook by Mr. John Redman, of Kamloops, which was printed at the commencement of the month in the *B.C. Mining Record*. It has since been reproduced in other papers, and probably by this time has been fairly well digested, especially in this section of the country. We venture, however, to once more bring it under public notice, as we believe that it is impossible to have too much of a good thing, and also because we wish to advertise this camp as much as lies in our power.

A couple of weeks ago we visited the Pothook mine, and were certainly much struck with the amount of work done, and also the business-like air which prevailed everywhere. It is a model mining camp and well worth any one's while to pay it a visit. On every hand are evidences of the manager's ability and untiring energy. Everything is in its place, the men are well lodged and cared for, and the zest with which they go about their work speaks volumes for itself, and is a pretty true indication that their hearts are in their toil and that their employers' interests are theirs.

The report of Mr. Redman is so exhaustive that it leaves us nothing of interest to say with regard to the actual work done in the mine. We went down the shaft, the rapid descent stirring up a lot of hitherto undeveloped sympathy for the parachutists that drop out of balloons. We visited the workings, candles in hand, picking off pieces of native copper, pyrites, etc., from the sides as we went along. When at last we were drawn to the surface, it was with a feeling of relief that we stepped off the crossbar, not in the least envying the men who were pounding away with hammer and drill far away below.

For a short time the mine will be closed down on account of new and more powerful machinery being ordered, but before the end of October the management hope to have everything in place and a larger force of men at work. The Pothook has already done a lot of good work for Kamloops in bringing it to the front as a copper camp, and will we hope continue to do more.

We are glad to see that the efforts being made to put up a good show of Kamloops minerals at the Spokane Exhibition are being crowned with such success. The necessity of having a good man to go along to thoroughly explain everything is of course apparent to everyone, for although our minerals will speak for themselves when under notice, a little help in that direction will not hurt them. We hear that Mr. Joe Donaldson of the Pothook has been chosen and we think the choice a good one. It could not have fallen on a better man. In his hands the interests of Kamloops will not suffer as he thoroughly understands the nature of the task, and is well acquainted with most of the claims in this district. We wish him every success.

THE KAMLOOPS DRUG STORE. W. E. McCartney, Manager.

Our Camp.

By JOHN REDMAN.
(Queen's Prizeman in Geology, London, Eng.)
Assayer and Mining Engineer, Kamloops, B.C.

THE POTHOOK MINE.

The development of the Pothook Mine is being watched with interest by mining men throughout the Province. The property, however, will attract still further attention when its leading features are better known, and as the property possesses characteristics dissimilar to those possessed by any developed or partly developed mineral claim in B.C., a a description of these characteristics and of the development of the property will perhaps repay perusal.

The group of claims composing the Pothook property is a large one, and is made up of five full claims—four claims varying from 33 to 45 acres in size and five fractions located during survey. The whole of the ground comprises an area of 425 acres. The property is situated on the plateau at the foot of the west slope of Sugar Loaf Mountain, forming the western extension of the Coal Hill camp. The chief claims were located in September, 1896, during the excitement following the first discovery of heavily copper-stained rock on Coal Hill. Men were engaged for about a year cross-cutting and sinking on these big showings of copper-stained rock, and many big pieces of native copper were discovered, to say nothing of the stringers of copper glance and bornite. The work meanwhile was sufficient to demonstrate that considerable depth was needed to prove the value of these showings, but that, nevertheless, the chances were most favorable for the investment of capital, in the making of more than one big mine. In November, 1797, the claims now forming the Pothook group were taken up under a working bond by Mr. H. Croft of Victoria, and systematic development work was commenced under the direction of Mr. Ashby. Extensive surface work, in the form of a series of big crosscuts and a few trial shafts, was first done to supplement the work carried on by the original owners. This proved the presence of a very large vein, composed of a rather soft schistone veinstuff, resembling chiefly a very much altered diorite, but containing less silica and some talc, lying between a footwall of a fine granitoid rock and a hanging-wall of diorite. The vein stuff was heavily copper-stained and was interspersed irregularly with native copper and copper glance. This series of crosscuts aggregate in length 560 feet, showing up the vein for a distance of over 5,000 feet with a width of over 350 feet. A double compartment shaft was commenced on the Pothook claim and sinking and cross cutting has progressed continuously since, with the exception of a short closing down this spring for the erection of a new shaft-house and power-hoisting gear. A horse-winze was installed in May, 1898, and in the fall of that year the property passed into the hands of the Scottish Copper Mines Syndicate of B.C., Ltd. Liability, of which Mr. Croft is the local director.

The mine buildings which have been erected as occasion required now consist of the shaft-house, 36x

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40; blacksmith's shop, 16x24; cook-house, 20x28; bunkhouse, 16x32; manager's office, 18x20; cottage, 16x24; with large stables and barn, power-house, root houses, etc. They are plain, substantial frame buildings, the cook-house and bunk-house being large, airy comfortable places. Mr. Ashby believes in looking after the creature comforts of his men, and is deservedly popular; while he in turn says that his men are as good as can be found in the Province. Mr. Ashby's close attention to their well-being creates a responsive willingness and interest on the part of the miners that make matters work smoothly and attains the highest efficiency and economy for the company. In the shaft-house is a six h.p. gasoline hoisting engine, and a fan for ventilation which draws up the air from the levels through a 10-inch pipe of galvanized iron. The shaft is a double compartment one, each compartment is 4½x5, inside measurement. It is well-timbered all the way, one compartment being used for hoisting and the other as the downcast air-shaft and ladder-way; the ladders are inclined with landings every twenty feet. This shaft is now down 330 feet, and four levels have been driven from it, cross-cutting the vein. It is now possible to study the character of this immense vein. The vein stuff is apparently in very much altered or imperfect diorite. It is almost amorphous in character, very soft and very easy to work, and at a depth of 330 feet it is no harder. Even at this depth it is evidently altered by decomposition, due to infiltration of water. This vein appears to be the channel by which the water finds its way to the drainage level of Cherry Creek and Kamloops Lake. A good proportion of the water in the workings gets away through the vein, and very little is lifted. Under these conditions of a soft, easily decomposed vein material, the continuous water action and the certain leaching out of some of the copper contents, it is evident that the full values will not be realized until the drainage level is passed, which means a depth of over 500 feet. Meanwhile there is a notable improvement in values and extent of ore, as evidenced by comparison of the lower with the upper level. The first cross-cut the A level was commenced at a depth of 80 feet, this was driven 39 feet to the south and 24 feet to the north. The whole 60 feet carried a fine distribution of native copper, averaging from 1 to 1.5 per cent., with an irregular mass of 3 feet of glance, yielding all through 18 per cent. copper. A picked ton of this sent to the Kaslo sampling works yielded 30 per cent. copper. The B level was commenced at a depth of 150 feet and has been driven 243 feet to the south and 214 feet to the north, the showings in this crosscut are a great improvement on the A level, and the vein assumes the character of a more regularly banded mineralized zone. The native copper occurs rather unevenly distributed all the way in the south crosscut and for 100 feet from the shaft in the north crosscut, along with a little glance. In the south crosscut a 3-foot chute reticulated with veins of bornite was met 60 feet from the shaft, and a little further a 4-foot band, carrying 3 per cent. native copper, then native copper in vary-

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ing quantities for 100 feet, when a band of quartzite of considerable width was met, 3 feet of which carried copper pyrites averaging 5.8 per cent. in copper and $3.60 values in gold and silver. At 212 feet a rich band of native copper was met, and the change when this was gone through indicates that the vein was passed through. This last band was 17 feet wide, and the native copper was very uniform throughout. A sample taken across the first foot yielded 3.25 per cent. of copper, a sample from the last foot containing also some finely distributed copper glance, which assayed 7 per cent. copper, and a sample taken all across the 17 feet assayed 4.55 per cent. in copper and $3 in gold and silver. A drift was made along the north side of this band, and samples taken from the vein stuff as it came out gave the same values as the first assay over a distance of 60 feet. A second crosscut was then made and in addition to the native copper an irregular mass of several feet of bornite was encountered. This occurrence of a large band carrying good values in native copper and bornite was very gratifying to the management and the company. The drift of the vein and these bands is to the south, that is, away from the shaft, and the C level, at a depth of 250 feet, is not yet sufficiently advanced to meet this 17-foot band, but the showing for the 230 feet attained is an improvement on the B level. Twenty-five feet from the shaft a band of 4 feet carrying copper pyrites was met; at 80 feet a 12-foot band carrying veins of bornite, native copper and some fine copper-glance; at 227 feet the same quartzite that was noticed on the B level was met and was much wider. At the time of writing the face is still in the quartzite, which carries a good amount of copper pyrites, 27 feet of this assaying 4 per cent. of copper, with $3.50 in gold and silver.

The D level, at a depth of 325 feet, is only in 80 feet from the shaft, and so far carries the same characteristics as the upper ones. A considerable amount of native copper has been met.

On the dump at the mine there is now 700 to 800 tons of low-grade ore, carrying 1.5 to 2 per cent. native copper, with a small proportion of copper pyrites and copper glance, and carrying values of $3 per ton in gold and silver and 25 to 30 tons of picked high-grade ore. The low-grade ore is practically a run of mine ore, chiefly from the upper levels. The material from the lower lavels is considerably higher in copper than the average of the dump, but taking this average for our basis of calculation, we shall see that this immense mass of low-grade ore is sufficiently valuable to yield a good profit when concentrated. Experiments with samples of the ore show that it will concentrate perfectly and cheaply, and the gold and silver values are saved with the concentrates. Its concentrating ratio is ten to one or a little over. This will yield concentrates, carrying about 20 per cent. copper, worth at smelter price $40 per ton, possibly more, and $30 per ton gold and silver values. The remarkable ease with which this soft ore can be mined and crushed reduces the costs of mining and concentrating to a very low figure. It is estimated that $2.50 per ton will cover all mining expenses; but allowing $3, each ton of

Assayers' and Prospectors' Supplies at

concentrates will cost $30 per ton. Freight and Smelter treatment costs at present $12.50 per ton, leaving a balance of $27.50 profit per ton of concentrates.

No stoping has been done on the richer bands, and no allowance has been made for the irregular tenticular bodies of high-grade ore which are evidently distributed through the mass of the vein. When ore is being taken out in quantity from richer bands and the high-grade ore accounted for, the value of the run of mine ore will be at least doubled.

The low-grade ore bodies are now shown to have sufficient size to warrant the erection of a larger plant and the establishment of concentration works on a large scale. As soon as this is accomplished the Pothook should take rank among the mines working large bodies of low-grade ore which not infrequently pay very handsome dividends.

A complete new plant for the mine is now ordered and is expected to be in position by October. This plant will consist of a 50 horse-power hoisting engine, a 60 horse-power air compressor and five machine drills. When this plant is in place, the staff of men will be largely increased and sinking and cross-cutting at lower levels will proceed more rapidly. A tramway route to the selected concentrator site adjoining the railway track and the Thompson River has been surveyed, and the grade is easy and regular. The distance is two and one-half miles, and the tramway will be of the gravity type—inexpensive to construct. It is expected to complete the concentration works by next spring, and by that time there should be a large supply of ore at the mine, and a large amount blocked out below ground.

A remarkable resemblance of the Pothook vein to some of the native copper deposits of Lake Superior will be noticed, but I think this is the first deposit of its kind to be developed in British Columbia.

In conclusion I desire to add a word of praise in respect to the sound business-like policy pursued by the management of the Pothook mine. All the money spent has been spent as far as possible in the under-ground development, on buildings and other accessories to development, these being added only as required. Now that the future of the property is more or less proved, the question of tramways and treatment can be advantageously considered. The system of developing a property before equipping it is not so general as it should be, unfortunately for Kamloops camp and possibly others. Some engineers are so full of schemes for building roads, tramwtys and locating impossible smelter sites, that mine development is often neglected, and a good property with facilities for treating and handling ore is closed down for lack of funds before the ore is even blocked out. In the Pothook we have a good example of "how to do it properly," and the manner in which the mine has been systematically developed reflects great credit on the business capacity of Mr. Ashby, the superintendent of the mine, and of Mr. Croft, the company's resident director. Meanwhile an earnest effort is being made in Kamloops at the present time to conduct mining enterprise in this camp on a more business-like basis—a consummation devoutely to be wished. *B. C. Mining Record.*

THE KAMLOOPS DRUG STORE. W. E. McCartney, Manager.

Local Claims.

THE MINING RECORDS.

Fern—4 miles N. W. of Kamloops, P. S. Fearn ; August 1.

Lovely—4 miles N. W. of Kamloops, Leon Boillot ; August 1.

Hattie—10 mile creek, adj. King Solomon, E. J. Sirett ; August 2.

Mabel—10 mile creek, adj. King Solomon, E. J. Sirett, Aug. 2.

Primrose--2 miles E. of Harper's Camp, Peter Douglas ; August 2.

Eagle—3 miles N. of Coutlees, W. Voght ; August 5.

Cardiff—2½ miles from wagon road, Deadman's creek, R. Williams, August 5.

Toonkwa—12 miles S. of Kamloops, A. J. Colquhoun ; August 5.

Comstock—6 miles E. of Salmon Arm, S. M. McGuire ; August 5.

Gold Bug,—same as above, F. A. McLeod ; August 5.

Treadwell--same as above, G. W. McLeod ; August 5.

Klondike—same as above, F. A. McLeod ; August 5.

Lillie Dale--same as above, Alec. McDonald ; August 5.

Shuswap--same as above, J. D. McGuire ; August 5.

Swamp Angel—8 miles W. of Mamete Lake, L. O. Hamilton ; Aug. 7.

Tough Climb--15 miles S. w. of Kamloops, 3 miles S. of Pendleton's ranche, J. McCabe ; Amgust 7.

30th of July--8 miles W. of Mamette Lake, Chas. Day Mining Coy. ; August 7.

First of August--8 miles W. of Mamette Lake, Chas. Day Mining Coy. August 7.

Brooke--100 yds. up Bonaparte River from Ashcroft, M. T. Ahearn, August 10.

Blue-Nose--6 miles N. of Nicola Lake, J. Clapperton ; August 12.

Atlanta—on Hardie Mtn., F. J. Fulton ; August 15.

Summit--same as above, E. T. W. Pearse ; August 15.

Christobel--same as above, J. F. Wells ; August 15.

Golden Chariot—7 miles S. of Kamloops, J. P. Dillon, G. D. Harrison, G. J. Rodgers ; August 18.

Amalgam--3½ miles E. of Copper Creek, W. Jackson ; August 18.

Dunlevin--Gilmore Mt. S. of Nicola Lake, H. S. Cleasby ; August 19.

Champion--Ten Mile Creek, west

Swan--Mill creek 7 miles from Nicola, J. T. P. Nash ; August 19.

Alice--on Ten Mile Creek, east side, E. J. Sirett ; August 19.

Rambler--Bonaparte River 3 miles West of Ashcroft, F. Burns, anb M. F. Ahearn ; August 21.

Bill Nye--S. W. of Kamloops, J. A. Lavery ; August 22.

Ina--Coal Hill adj. Little Eva, J. M. Harper : Aurust 22.

Woodhouse--on Hardie Mtn. adj. Bru :e, A. C. Wells ; August 22.

Severn--on Criss Creek, W. H. Whittaker, August 23.

Ophir--4 miles S. of Kamloops, E. J. Leeming ; August 25.

Big T--6 miles S. W. of Kamloops, A. D. McIntyre : August 25.

Dot--1 mile N. of Harper's Camp, J. McCabe ; August 25.

Maple--same as above, A. Wallace and L. Austin ; August 25.

New Glasgow—6 miles E. of Salmon Arm, A. B. Currie ; Aug. 26.

Adelaide Fraction--Coal Hill, adj. Truth and Dakota, C. W. Sarel ; Aug. 26.

Lake View--E. of Quilchena, T. Legasey ; Aug. 28.

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Mobile--1¼ miles N. of Harper's Camp, A. Wallace, J. McCabe and L. Austin; August 24.

Gold Bug--G. D. Harrison, and G. J. Rodgers, to O. S. Batchelor.

Treadwell Mining Coy. ⅓ to O. S. Batchelor.

Skookum Pup--John Fleet to H. Ashby.

Truth, Hope, Jennie, Dakota--J. McGee, option to H. Ashby.

Hecla--W. H. Fowler, ⅛ interest to J. P. Dillon.

Hecla Fraction--J.P. Dillon to H. L. Matthews.

Liberatus--J. Delaney to E. Powers.

Rose and Last Rose of Summer--J. P. Dillon to O. S. Batchelor.

Providence--R. Caverly to C. E. McKenzie.

Buena Vista and Golden Pearl -T. Legasey to T. Ahearn.

The samples already sent to Paris are copper-gold ores from the Pothook; Python, Golden Star, Evening Star, Delaney fraction, Iron Mask, Lucky Strike, Truth Group, Wheel Tamar, OK Group, Gold from the Grass Roots and Chieftain and iron ores from the Glen Iron and Pothook mines. Gold quartz from the Noonday and Gordon groups, the Hardy Mountain group, copper and silver, Princess; molybdenite, Grande Prairie: coal from Sarel and Young property, on the North Thompson; silver lead from Manson Creek: pyrrhotite from the Blue bird, Shuswap.

The Kimberly group is being worked steadily at the tunnel, some ore is showing on the face.

Lytton is quiet at present, but within a month or six weeks a dredge employing about 20 men will be working on the river. The road into Lillooet will also be finished in about a month which will make things better for both towns.

The Mountain View was visited during the week and it was noticeable how well the property is showing up with the work done. Instead of wasting time and money on sinking shafts, going nowhere in particular, a series of deep cross-cuts have been made, which will enable the property to be easily examined. The surface showings are very fine and extensive. Good specimens of copper stained rock and copper pyrites are to be seen near the surface. Another feature is the presence of copper pyrites in magnetite.

Mr. Donald Simpson has made a fine discovery up Cherry Creek, about 12 miles south of Mr. Hughes. The vein stuff is quartz, carrying gold values. The country rock is dioritic schist, the vein is beautifully formed. Mr. Simpson has taken out a man with him to help develop his claim.

One of the most promising groups in the camp, though it has seldom had the public attention drawn to it, is the Truth Group, which lies between the Cherry Creek road and the Pothook. For some time past, a good deal of careful development work has been done, with most gratifying results, a large amount of surface cross-cutting has shown

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the existence of a massive vein of iron, three or four hundred feet in width, and has been trced for a long distance. The vein stuff contains copper pyrites, varying from 10 to 13 per cent. of metal, with several dollars in both gold and silver values. A shaft has been sunk to a depth of 45 feet, it is well timbered and has a fine showing of ore on the bottom. A considerable amount of ore from this shaft is to be seen on the dump.

Messrs. Angus and Mitchell have property that is of considerable interest and value if it can reach the proper market. The ore which is molybdenite is generally found associated with copper veins, but is usually limited to the first twenty feet or so from the surface. The samples from these claims, which are at Grande Prairie, are exceedingly fine, but the property is not yet sufficiently developed.

Drifting on the vein has commenced on the Noonday at a depth of over a hundred feet. Some fine looking quartz has been brought to the surface. As soon as the drift is in some distance, samples will be taken every now and then for assaying. This will enable the owners to arrive at a close estimation of the value of their property. This it should be remembered is a free gold proposition.

The Gordon group at Harper's Camp is advancing to the shipping stage and are now sacking some of their gold and silver ore for shipment to Trail.

Work is being done on the Adelaide fraction, adjoining the Truth group.

There seems to be hope for the Lillooet district yet, as eastern capitalists have secured some of the best properties in Cayoosh Creek, and are developing them, notably the Ample, where some work was done long ago by that wonderfully unsuccessful company, the Horne-Payne syndicate. There is no doubt that there are good properties in the district, but the quartz veins roll in and out very suddenly as veins in slate often do, and the slate itself is sometimes of more value than the quartz. This renders careful oversight of the work most necessary. The district, however, has the advantage of good waterpower and the steepness of the mountains will obviate the necessity of sinking in most cases. It is only a matter of time when the heart of that mining district will be opened by a railroad coming in either along the Fraser from Lytton or up the valley of Anderson river from the head of Harrison Lake.

There is some activity around Lytton where a large dredge is being built for Cobledick & Co. It is to be hoped that it will be more successful than most of the dredges employed in trying to save gold from the Fraser. It is noteworthy that the most successful of these machines is one which was built at Welland and operates at North Bend. There are, however, many difficulties in the way of dredgers in the Fraser. *Canadian Mining Gazette.*

Mr J. F. Smith has gone up to the Tete Jaune Cache to do assessment work on his mica prospects.

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(Form F.)

Certificate of Improvements.

Notice.

The "Sutter," "Skyline," "Vigo" and "Lulu" mineral claims, situate at Summit City Camp in the Granite Creek Mining district of the Yale Division. Take notice that I, J. Meinecke, of Terre Haute, Indiana, U.S.A., agent for the Star Exploring and Mining Co., Free Miners Certificate No. B21275, intend sixty days from date hereof, to apply to the Mining Recorder for a Certificate of Improvements for the purpose of obtaining a Crown Grant of the above claim. And further take notice that action, under section 37, must be commenced before the issuance of such Certificate of Improvements.

Dated this 8th day of September, 1899.

J. MEINECKE.

Agent for the Star Exploration and Mining Co.

British Columbia Pottery Co.,

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