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BUREAU OF MINES
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THE QUATSINO MINING DISTRICT
EXTRACT FROM
THE BRITISH COLUMBIA MINING RECORD.
July, 1898 .

THE QUATSINO MINING DISTRICT.

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The British Columbia Mining Record of July 1898 says :-

Quatsino Arm is situated about 250 miles northwest of Victoria, near the upper end of Vancouver Island, extending to the east about 22 miles, where it forks, forming three arms, known respectively as the West Arm, Rupert Arm and the South East Arm. The Sound proper and its different Arms vary from one half to three miles in width, forming, with perhaps the exception of Puget Sound, the most commodious, the safest and the most magnificent harbour on the North Pacific Coast.

Upon the west shore of the South east Arm, and about three miles from the forks, Comstock mountain rises at an altitude of about 2,500 feet, and down this mountain Canyon Creek, a considerable stream, flows into the sound. Upon either side of this creek are located the different mining properties comprised in the New Quatsino Mining District, now numbering perhaps forty claims. The first of these locations were made in the early summer of 1897, and were recorded at Nanaimo, which is at present the nearest Recorder's office.

TOPOGRAPHY OF THE DISTRICT.

The mountains rise more or less abruptly from the waters of the Sound, and their sides are covered by a dense growth of valuable fir, spruce, hemlock, red and yellow cedar and other timber, the surface being covered by decayed vegetation, moss and undergrowth, which renders prospecting difficult.

Upon the higher altitudes only does snow fall and lie during the winter. The rain fall during the winter season, in common with the rest of the Coast, is rather heavy, though not as excessive as further up the Coast, in Alaska.

COMSTOCK MOUNTAIN.

Nearly all the locations made in the District, up to the present time, lie upon Comstock Mountain. The formation here consists principally of gneiss, quartzite, crystalline limestone

and porphyritic dykes. This mountain is upon the west side of, and parallel to, the Southeast Arm of the Sound, the locations extending along this mountain for a distance of two and half to three miles. The mountain is cut by numerous strong fissure veins, varying from several to fifty feet in width - in some places the showings are as much as one hundred feet wide with croppings of iron sulphides, carrying copper, and also a considerable percentage of silver and gold. Some of these ledges have been traced for an unbroken distance of over 2,000 feet. Some galena and lead is found mixed with the copper in one or two instances, but only one assay for lead has been made, yielding a return of 10.5 percent. Other veins of almost pure iron sulphides, which will prove valuable for fluxing purposes, are also found. These sulphides closely resemble the best ores from the Trail Creek District. Although but little development work has yet been done, numerous assays taken from surface ores have given values varying from 2.6 per cent to 16 per cent copper, and from trace to \$7.00 gold, with from one to twenty ounces silver. The result of a number of these assays are as follows, the copper being figured at 11 cents, although the market value is \$12.50 per cwt.

No.	Copper	Gold	Silver	Lead	Total.
1	2.6 per ct.	\$1.20			\$5.82
2	3.2 " "	trace			7.04
3	3.2 " "	"	77¢		7.91
4	4.3 " "	"	1.1oz		10.11
5	4.9 " "	"	1.4oz		12.55
6	3.0 " "	2.48	2.00		11.08
7	5.2 " "	trace	1.4 oz		12.23
8	5.7 " "	"	3.04 oz		12.41
9	5.6 " "	"	11.00 oz		18.37
10	5.9 " "	2.06	5.02 oz		18.00
11	5.0 " "	7.01	1.6 oz		18.93
12.	2.0 " "	1.03	10.9 oz	10.5 p	24.11
13	6.5 " "	4.12	5.2 oz		21.44
14	6.8 " "	trace	9.2 oz		24.70
15	8.3 " "	5.50	3.3 oz		25.50

No.	Copper	Gold	Silver	Lead	Total.
16	9.1 per ct.	\$3.10	5.4 oz		\$26.19
17	12.5 " "	trace	5.6 "		30.58
18	9.1 " "	trace	19.6 oz		30.80
19	14.4 " "	"	9.0 "		36.63
20	16.0 " "	\$1.00	6.0 "		39.62
21	12.1 " "	trace	9.6 oz		31.90
22	10.6 " "	1.03	5.0 oz		27.10
23	13.7 " "	4.13	11.6 oz		40.99

This gives an average of \$21.52 on 23 assays, all from surface rock, the first half dozen being made before any prospecting had been done, and previous to the discovery of the stronger ledges, which have shown a uniformly high value, especially in the copper returns.

Tunnel sites are plentiful where depth can be obtained running upon the veins at the rate of foot for foot, in this manner approximating 2,500 feet in depth in some places on the mountain.

CONDITIONS FOR MINING AND SHIPPING.

On account of the numerous outcrops, development work could be commenced at a number of very favourable points, where tunnels could be driven or shafts sunk in pay ore from the surface.

There is an abundance of water in Canon Creek and its tributaries to furnish power for drills and other machinery, and the dense forests upon the claims solve the question of timbering for all time. The configuration of the ground is such that a gravity system can be utilized for carrying the ore to tide water, where deep water vessels can lay close to the shore at any point desired. At the mouth of Canon Creek there is sufficient open and comparatively level ground upon which to erect extensive concentrating and reduction plants, with a sufficiently large townsite to accommodate all the business likely to be developed, and where wharves, and all facilities for shipping can be advantageously erected. The most remote locations are not further distant than a mile and a half from tide water, and the majority of them are within half a mile.

From the shore, water transportation to the smelters at Tacoma and Everett, should not exceed, on ten-ton lots, \$1.10 per ton, and for heavy shipments a material reduction of these figures should be made. Transportation rates from this District to Swansea, Wales, have been quoted at \$5.00 per ton, and the smelters at that point have offered to pay \$1.50 per unit for copper and full value for gold and silver.

From tests made and figures obtained, the ores from this camp can be reduced at Tacoma or Everett, Wash. at a rate averaging \$6.00 per ton. However, should this District develop as expected, and as present indications imply, the ores will be smelted upon the ground, as all necessary fluxes are in the immediate vicinity, coal of an excellent coking quality existing upon Ruper Arm of the Sound, and large deposits of limestone in the immediate vicinity of the camp will produce plenty of iron, silica, lead, etc., for all purposes.

The absence of ice and snow greatly facilitates mining and smelting operations, and supplies can be laid down here from Victoria, at the present time, at from \$4.00 to \$6.00 per ton in small quantities.

TRANSPORTATION.

The Canadian Pacific Navigation Company is now operating a boat line ~~from~~ ^{between} Victoria and Quatsino, leaving the former place on the 20th. of each month, and making the round trip, touching at various other places along the trip, in from eight to ten days. We are assured that as soon as business justifies it, this service will be increased and extended and that more favourable rates will be established when the quantity of business warrants. In fact it is stated that hereafter the service will be a semi-monthly one, as the Coal Company has recently sent in two ship loads of machinery, and are preparing for extensive improvements, which will require better service than has obtained heretofore. It is also stated on what seems good authority, that a saw mill of from 50,000 to 75,000 feet daily capacity, will shortly be in-

stalled of the Sound, which alone would necessitate a weekly service.

The Sound can also be reached from Vancouver via the inside channel, by rounding the upper point of the island, thus making an optional route of about equal length to that from Victoria.