

PRODUCT	GOLD (PLACER)	PROVINCE OR TERRITORY	British Columbia	N.T.S. AREA 94 B/2, A/3	REF. AU 1
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NAME OF PROPERTY	PEACE RIVER (BRANHAM FLATS) (GOLD BAR)	HISTORY OF EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT
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OBJECT LOCATED - Branham Flats.

UNCERTAINTY IN METRES 100. Lat. 56°07'30" Long. 122°39'

Mining Division	Liard	District	Peace River
County		Township or Parish	
Lot		Concession or Range	
Sec	Tp.	R.	

OWNER OR OPERATOR AND ADDRESS

DESCRIPTION OF DEPOSIT
 Low, very erratic values in placer gold occur along sections of the river. Some placer platinum occurs with the gold, but as a rule the amount is very considerably less than the gold and in many places it is practically negligible. The gold is found as typical bar concentrations; in some cases the bars are the present ones in the stream, while in others they are the old bars forming flats and low terraces along the valleys. The gold has been concentrated by the working over of the clays, sands, and gravels of the river valley. The gold occurring in these gravels is always fine and some of it may be classified as "flour" gold. As the gold is fine and flaky, much of it has a tendency to float and is thereby lost. Sampling of Branham Flat by W.L. Uglow has indicated that the values are confined more or less to the very points of the bars, and are of the nature of surface enrichments. Of some 22 localities tested by drill or by pits, only 3 showed any platinum at all. Gold values ranged from nil to a high of 26 cents per cubic yard.

Associated minerals or products of value

HISTORY OF EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT

There are two sections of the Peace River on which placer gold has been found: One is near Fort St. John; the other extends for some 75 miles from the Leach River Canyon west to Wicked River in the vicinity of Finlay Forks.

Gold was discovered on the upper tributaries of the river in 1861 and the bars were prospected by individuals for many years, and although some gold was found it was not in sufficient quantity to offer any inducement to the individual miner. In later years a number of dredging operations were attempted, without success.

The Branham Flats section, which lies just below Carbon Creek, was extensively tested by Chinese and White placer miners during 1916. The following year Messrs. Wadleigh and Sanders acquired dredging leases extending 75 miles upstream from the canyon, including the Branham Flats and Gold Bar sections of the river. The testing with a Union Drill of the benches at Branham Flats disclosed very low, or no, gold values and work was suspended in 1918.

The Peace River Gold Dredging Company began prospecting the river in about 1919. The company erected, and operated for a short time, a dredge near Fort St. John in 1922. That same year a dragline operation was attempted by the company at Branham Flats. What was apparently a subsidiary company, Manitoba Gold Dredging Company of Peace River Limited was formed to carry on the exploration work. The assets of the subsidiary were reportedly taken over by the Canyon Dredging & Exploration Company Limited in about 1923. Improvements were made in the dragline and the operation tried again in 1923 but still with no great success. During the latter part of the year the company tested the gravels over the Flat by means of shallow shafts.

Branham Flats were flooded by the Portage Mountain Dam.

HISTORY OF PRODUCTION

Except for one year, no production was recorded before 1930 despite the fact that placer miners were almost continuously at work along the river from 1861.

Recorded production for the Peace River Mining Division, from unspecified bars, during the period 1881-1941 totals 2,856 ounces. Of this total, 328 ounces were recovered from Branham flats during the period 1931-1940.

REFERENCES

Reports of Minister of Mines, British Columbia: 1917, p. 141; 1921, p. 118; 1923, pp. 142-143.

Holland, Stuart S.; Placer Gold Production at British Columbia; Bulletin No. 28, p. 47, British Columbia Dept. of Mines, 1950.

Mineral Development Sector; Corporation File: "Canyon Dredging & Exploration Co. Ltd."

Mineral Development Sector; Commodity Files: MR-AU-301.00, Peace River District; MR-AU-301.00, Placer, British Columbia.

McLearn, F.H., and Kindle, E.D.; Geology of Northeastern British Columbia; Memoir 259, p. 143, Geol. Surv. of Canada, 1951.

Irish, E.J.W.; Halfway River Map-Area, British Columbia; Paper 69-11, p. 90, Geol. Surv. of Canada, 1970.

MAP REFERENCES

Map 1000A, Northeastern British Columbia, (Geol.), Sc. 1": 10 miles - Accomp. Memoir 259.

Map 1232 A, Halfway River, (Geol.), Sc. 1":4 miles - accomp. Paper 69-11.

#Map 94 B/2 E, Gold Bar, (Topo.), Sc. 1:50,000.

REMARKS

Comp./Rev. By	DMacR	DMacR					
Date	9-74	5-76					