

T D M BULLETIN

August - 1953

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NEW MINING ACTIVITIES

FIRST DIVISION

New interest is being shown in iron ore deposits in Southeastern Alaska. QMI now has a crew of fifteen men conducting exploratory work on the Klukwan iron deposit and taking large samples for metallurgical test purposes. The U. S. Bureau of Mines is conducting a drilling program of the Snettisham iron deposit with interesting results. Representatives of Bethlehem and U. S. Steel have visited both of these deposits in the past month. Don't be too surprised if the development of low-cost electrical energy in Southeastern should be followed by the inauguration of a steel industry on the West Coast.

Representatives of Texas Gulf Sulphur Company are now covering Southeastern Alaska and the Prince William Sound area in search of massive iron pyrite deposits as a source of sulphur. They are looking for massive sulphide deposits measuring tens of feet in width and hundreds of feet in length containing approximately 70% pyrite, or 35% sulphur. The Department will gladly put these representatives in touch with holders of any deposits approaching these qualifications.

Activities just across the border in Canada, but which will have a bearing on Southeastern Alaska, are being conducted by Granduc Mining Company. Their operations are four miles from the border at the head of the Leduc River. Underground work and diamond drilling have disclosed a comparatively large body of low-grade copper ore. Future access to this property would require the building of a road from the head of Behm Canal, and the Canadian concern has indicated that some 32 miles of road built in 1902 by the Daley Alaska Mining Company can be utilized with some minor repair. It has been necessary to fly some 250 tons of freight into this area from Ketchikan to reach the present stage of development.

A Canadian concern has just completed an aerial magnetometer survey of the extensive low-grade nickel-copper deposit on Yakobi Island.

SECOND DIVISION

The U. S. Tin Corporation is continuing development of its lode tin deposit at Lost River. Final adjustment in the metallurgical flow sheet is being made in the mill, and the property should be in full scale production shortly.

Jessen's Weekly of July 23 reports a uranium strike in the Peace River District, Seward Peninsula. This office has received no confirmation of this as yet from the Department representative in Nome.

Zenda Gold Mining Company is continuing its drilling program on a placer tin deposit near Tin City.

Ear Mountain Tin has been given the "green light" to conduct exploration for placer tin with DMEA participation.

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### THIRD DIVISION

Kenai Chrome Company is preparing its camp site to begin actual mining and shipping of 2,500 tons of refractory grade chrome ore this season. Snow still hampers operations at the higher elevations of the deposit, an unusually late date.

Bear Creek Mining Company, exploration subsidiary of Kennecott, has completed construction of an air strip on the east side of Nabesna River near its head, and is conducting geological and geophysical exploratory work on the Orange Hill deposit with a four-man crew.

Delano Mining Company is driving a tunnel on the Radovan copper property in the Nizina District.

The Suntrana Mining Company has purchased the Healy River Coal mine from the Lathrop interests and is planning expansion of plant capacity to half a million tons annually by 1955.

Drilling equipment and camp facilities have been landed in Icy Bay in the Yakataga District by Kerr-McGee in preparation of exploratory drilling for oil under an agreement with Phillips Petroleum.

### FOURTH DIVISION

DeCoursey Mountain Mining Company has begun exploratory work on the Red Devil and DeCoursey Mountain mercury deposits.

The Miscovich "Intelligent" is finding wider application. One unit is now under test by U.S.S.R.&M. and units are also in operation by the International Mineral and Chemical Corporation on phosphate mining operations at Bartow, Florida.

### POINTERS TO PROSPECTORS

Investment capital, both United States and Canadian, is actively engaged in the search for mineral deposits in Alaska at the present time. The following types of deposits are of major importance based on current metal prices and demand: copper, nickel, cobalt, asbestos, tin, tungsten, manganese, molybdenum and titanium. The efforts of present-day prospectors should be concentrated in the search for these types of deposits.

Another important point to consider is this. When investment capital becomes interested in a claim, or a group of claims, their first move is to check title. It behooves all people holding valuable mining claims to be absolutely sure that their title to the mineral contained is undisputable. The claims must be properly staked and annual assessment work accomplished. This Department has printed a brief two-page circular entitled "Proper Claim Staking in Alaska" which is well worth any prospector's or claim holder's time to read.

### DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL

In the First Division, the headquarters office staff in Juneau consists of Phil R. Holdsworth, Commissioner of Mines; James A. Williams, Associate Mining Engineer; Cathryn Mack, Administrative Assistant; and Jean Crosby, Clerk. Mailing address is Box 1391, Juneau. The Ketchikan assay office is operated by Art Glover,

Engineer-Assayer. Mailing address is Box 1408, Ketchikan.

In the Second Division, Dan Jones is Assayer-Engineer. Construction of the new Nome assay office is to be completed during August. Mailing address is Box 657, Nome.

In the Third Division, the Department now has a full-time Associate Mining Engineer, Martin Jasper. Wiley Robinson continues as Coal Mine Inspector. Tom Thomas, Laboratory Assistant, is being replaced by Roy Rowe, who will be full-time Assayer in the new assay office. The new assay office, located on the north side of Second Avenue between C and D Streets, will be completed by mid-August. Mailing address is Box 139, Anchorage.

In the Fourth Division, Bob Saunders is the Associate Mining Engineer, and Lowell Patten is Assayer-Engineer. The Department of Mines assay and field offices are located on the College campus. Mailing address is Box C, College.

Several prospects have been examined and three geophysical surveys conducted by the Field Engineers this season. Up to this time, the field work has been accomplished at the request of property owners. On occasion, the DMEA Field Team has requested geophysical surveys by the Department as a means of directing drilling programs which are under its supervision. As examinations are made of new or "open" ground showing deposits of possible commercial importance, the information will be made available to the public through this bulletin.

#### MISCELLANEOUS

Pioneers of Alaska, Igloo No. 16, have an interesting and valuable collection of typical Alaskan ores. This collection has just been moved to the Ketchikan assay office where it will be on permanent display.

A complete bibliography of all mineral information on Alaskan deposits, as provided for in the Department's budget for the 1953-1955 biennium, is now being compiled. This will include all USGS, USEM and TIM reports on all known deposits. The information will be compiled on a Kardex system, which will be kept current and will be filed in such a way that classified lists of deposits can be readily taken from the cards and distributed to interested parties.

The Department is now receiving copies of all documents recorded in the various recording districts, as provided for by Chapter 95, SLA 1953. This information is being filed and cross-indexed in the Juneau office. Within two or three years, the Department should have an accurate record of all currently held mining ground in the Territory, indexed as to location, mineral or metals contained, claim name, and owner's name. This information will be extremely useful to prospective investors in, or operators of, mining property.

TERRITORIAL DEPARTMENT OF MINES  
Box 1391  
Juneau, Alaska