

PRELIMINARY REPORT OF SUNSHINE GROUP, PALMER CREEK,
HOPE MINING DISTRICT, ALASKA

October 4, 1937.

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Location and Accessibility:

This group of claims extends along the Palmer Creek road on the west side of the valley approximately 10 miles from Hope. The group consists of seven lode claims and two placer claims. The showings exist between elevations of 2700 to 3000 feet and approximately 1500 feet off the road. A zig-zag trail leads to the tunnels from the road.

Ownership:

These unpatented claims are held by T. Sobel and Son. Mr. Sobel lives on the property.

History and Development:

The veins on this property were discovered by Pete Kopovich in 1923. T. Sobel bought the property in 1924 and has since done annual assessment work. This work has been confined to two tunnels, vertically 270 feet apart. The upper tunnel, which follows the vein, a few feet below the outcrop, has a length of 130 feet. The lower tunnel has a length of 300 feet, but does not encounter the above vein. A few open-cuts above and below the upper tunnel, together with the tunnels, total the amount of development, which was all done by hand methods.

Geology and Showings:

The formation surrounding the tunnels and cuts is a massive graywacke formation. Faults of ^{small} nature were noted in both tunnels. They vary considerably in strike and dip. Occasionally they contain some quartz and high grade ore.

Two quartz veins containing different character of quartz occur in the upper tunnel. The tunnel is driven along their intersection which makes for various widths and irregular masses.

Tuck* describes the two veins as follows:

"The development work shows the graywacke cut by an irregular quartz vein that has a general east-west strike and an almost vertical dip. It ranges in width from 6 to 12 inches. A second vein 2 to 12 inches wide is horizontal and intersects the first at the tunnel level."

*U. S. G. S. Bull. 249-I, "Moose Pass-Hope District," 1931, p. 498.

The No. 1 vein or vertical vein consists of a dark blue banded quartz that contains a fine mineralization on the seams. The No. 2 or flat vein that intersects and cuts No. 1 vein contains a milky white quartz with sparse mineralization. The veins are exposed the full length of the tunnel 130 feet and continued ahead. The No. 1 vein outcrops in a cut above the tunnel as irregular masses and at the upper far end of the cut a small spur vein cuts in on the hanging wall. In a cut alongside the trail and 240' ^{at the depth of 25'} below, ~~via slope~~, the upper tunnel an 8-inch white quartz vein outcrops. This vein strikes N. 60° W. and dips 65° SW. It contained sparse mineralization, but was reported to pan fine colors.

In the No. 2, or lower tunnel, vertically 280 feet below and over 520 feet by trail several slip faults were encountered. The tunnel was driven a considerable distance following one of the faults. No veins were encountered.

Mineralization:

The mineralization is very simple. Both veins contain in order of abundance, pyrite, arsenopyrite, chalcopyrite and free gold. The No. 1 vein contains more mineralization than the No. 2. The former contains a bluish to dark quartz with dark bands. This vein contains the most gold. The later vein contains a milky white quartz with some calcite and pieces of wall rock. The gold occurs in both veins in a very spotty nature. Assay (note sketch) of channel samples vary from a trace to 2.40 oz. per ton gold.

Timber, Water Power, etc.:

Timber is found in Palmer Creek valley 5 miles below this property. A small water power site could be developed on lower Palmer Creek. However, this does not appear economical under present conditions. A log cabin is located on the property alongside the road. All mining has been done by hand methods and hand tools. In regard to placer claims, small amounts of gold have been found in the present stream, however, due to a moraine-filled valley, boulders, depths of bedrock, etc., this has not proven economical. Nevertheless, the ground is held for possible mill-site. There is sufficient water for milling, provided this prospect ever warrants such.