

The galena varies in grain, from large cube down to that with a fine steely fracture as shewn by these specimens. It is sometimes enriched by the presence of ruby silver and the richer silver minerals scattered through it. What is known as "Carbonated" ore occurs with the galena, but this is not really carbonate of lead, as one might suppose, but is the ochreous gangue material in which the silver occurs disseminated in the metallic or native condition and in the condition of the richer silver minerals, with doubtless some carbonate of lead. The whole probably results from the decomposition of the gangue and of the silver-bearing galena of the vein.

Other minerals are associated with the galena in places and in varying quantities. Of these, zinc-blende is the most prominent; iron pyrites occurring in fair quantity, and other metallic minerals being only occasional.

The pure galena in solid ribs seems to effect more particularly the narrower veins, cutting the shales, whereas the big developments in the calcareous parts carry generally a large proportion of zinc blende which lessens their value, this mineral being objected to by the smelters, when its percentage is large. Another class of the veins found, show various rich arsenical and antimonial silver minerals in a gangue composed principally of quartz.

Development work on these veins has in a number of cases opened up most promising exposures of ore. In one case a tunnel was seen on a new prospect where for all its length about 75 feet, it was estimated that the ground broken had been from 50 to 60 per cent. pure galena assaying 125 ounces to the ton. Or again, at another place, a prospect pit was seen showing a 2 foot rib of absolutely pure steel galena with ruby silver, the ore assaying 860 ounces to the ton. When one sees such exposures of ore as these, at a number of places in the district as the result of merely preliminary development work by the prospectors themselves, and taking into account the many other veins found in the district, having good, if not quite so extensive, shows of ore, one cannot help feeling that the district has a very hopeful future before it.