

cliff at Red Gulch, on the south side, very prominent red stain is seen, and this ground might be worth prospecting. Also at Indian Point some float mineral was noted, where the country rock is granite. A short distance up Whittaker Creek nothing but granite was found, and McBride Creek was not examined at all, but there are reasons for believing that it offers a fair field to the prospector.

On going up the Big Interior Trail for the first three or four miles nothing but granite rocks are seen, but at about four miles from the lake, limestone, both as float and in place, was noted. In all probability, on the mountains to the north of the trail, there is a limestone and granite contact which may extend over to the McBride Creek County, and experience has shown that on this coast it is a good field in which to find ore. The ore body of the Big Interior Mine occurs on such a contact.

There is evidence to show that on Vancouver Island granite is the later rock, and where it penetrates the basaltic rocks of the Vancouver series, or, better still, a limestone strata, there we may expect to find ore, sometimes in paying quantities and sometimes not. The entire Big Interior Basin is on a limestone and granite contact.

While there has been a fair amount of work done, mining in Alberni has not got beyond the development stage, but a number of shipments have been made, the ore being taken out during the course of development. The ores down the canal and off Barkley Sound are largely copper, the mineral being chalcopyrite in a rather basic gangue, sometimes carrying a good deal of magnetite, which makes them very suitable for smelting with the silicious ores of the East Coast.*

amount and is often intergrown with hornblende. Quartz occurs both in large individuals and interstitially. The structure of the rock is granitoid. It is therefore a rather basic hornblende granite. On breaking this rock, in order to make the section, a fine-grained, dark-coloured nodule, about an inch in diameter, was disclosed. It separated somewhat easily from the rest of the rock, and as it appeared likely to give further information of the character of the rock, a section (No. 4,587A) was made from it. It was found to be composed of the same minerals as the main rock, but to have a much finer structure. The feldspates, hornblende and mica are probably a little more abundant in it, and orthoclase forms a larger proportion of the feldspar. It is, therefore, a "Kugel" or nodule formed by some process of differentiation during the cooling of the original magma, and is not an inclusion of one of the other rock varieties, as appeared from the hand specimen.

*No. 4,588.—*Country rock from Slide, Indian Point, Great Central Lake.*—

This is a gray, massive rock, having a rather fine texture. In the thin section it is found to be composed of feldspar, chiefly orthoclase, biotite and quartz, the quartz being very abundant. The structure is granitoid and the rock is therefore a rather acid dioritic granite.

*For a detailed description of the different mining claims, see the Report of the Minister of Mines.