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And Mining Tit-Bits.

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A TRIP TO TEXADA ISLAND.

Leaving Vancouver at 10 a. m., we arrived at Van Anda wharf, after a very pleasant trip on the Comox, at 5.30 p.m. We were surprised to find quite a little town had sprung up since our last visit, about two years ago. We proceeded to the hotel, which we found crowded and had considerable difficulty in procuring accommodation for the night. Everywhere was bustle and rush, and we had to get considerable of a move on ourselves as we found that we were obliged to leave again at nine the following morning, instead of five p.m., as we had been led to understand.

We went at once to interview Mr. McCready, the manager of the Marble Bay mines, at whose hands we received great civility, and who personally attended us down the shaft and through the workings of their mines, showing us the bad with the good; the bad, by the way, being only a small matter of some 150 feet of work which was inadvisedly done, and which resulted only in causing considerable flooding of the mine, through the opening of a mudslip. This work was done contrary to the advice of the management.

We found the shaft to be down 150 feet. It is a double compartment, well timbered, with very neat and compact pit-head works and shaft house. The hoist is steam with bucket. There are two levels, one at 70 feet, and one at 140 feet. Six hundred feet of drifting has been done on these levels. Sinking still continues, and an uprise is being made from No. 1 level, North Drift, to strike a good showing of ore on the surface.

I saw the surface showing on their property when the company were first exploiting, there appeared then to be an indication of their having struck and started work on the intersection of two veins. The showing, however, was in lime and very indefinite. Sinking on this, they followed ore all the way in the shaft, and are still sinking on ore.

In the drifts of the 70 ft. level, ore was followed to the north and south, and the two veins were still indicated in these drifts, that running north-east and south-west appearing the stronger of the two. It was clearly defined as a felsite dyke, the copper ore appearing to have been cast in by a secondary volcanic disturbance, and lying mostly between the dyke and the lime and impregnating both. Near the end of the north drift, diorite was encountered, forming a wall from which both the mineral and the dyke were completely free; this wall is clean, though irregular, and much alteration and disturbance, consequent on its intrusion, is noticeable in the adjacent formations, and the dyke is here compressed into a small stringer, widening again below, a decided gouge is shown between dyke and diorite. In the north drift of the 140 ft. level, the diorite is again encountered, forming a distinct clean wall to the vein, the other wall being in lime, irregular, but fairly well defined. The width of the ore body varies considerably; the showing is good and the mine is being systematically worked under

good management, and the results so far obtained have been eminently satisfactory. The ore is pyritic copper and bornite of high grade. The dump is good, and arranged in bins, to hold the various grades of ore which are sorted, and of which there are now above ground nearly 2000 tons.

250 tons	firsts	with a value of	\$40.00	to the ton.
500	"	seconds	"	26.00
1000	"	finest	"	8.00

150 tons of ore have been shipped, and teams are steadily hauling it to the Van Anda smelter, 900 feet distant, where it is being treated at a price which leaves the company a handsome profit.

From here, we went to the office of the Van Anda Copper and Gold Company, at Van Anda, where we found Mr. Treat, the general manager, extremely busy, even at this late hour. We got an order from him to inspect the mines, and being provided with a note to the foreman, we started for the Copper Queen Mine (which, by the way, is generally miscalled the Van Anda Mine). Here we found a fine new shaft house, very roomy and fitted with modern machinery, and all requisites of a good pit-head works, including sorting tables. The building is not yet quite sheathed in. A steam hoist is used with buckets.

We proceeded down the shaft to the 350 ft. level, as we were acquainted with the upper workings. Two drifts have been run on this level, one to the east, and one to the north-west. In the north-west one, a vein of some 25 to 27 feet was cross-cut at an angle, and diorite encountered on the foot wall. The vein or dyke is felsic, and very highly mineralized, the drift was continued to about 100 feet. The east drift was run in to strike this vein, and run along it for about 110 feet. The whole of this was in ore, showing over 15 feet in width, and of very high grade of copper sulphide and bornite. The face of drift is in ore, as is also the ore of the north side, from the point where the vein was encountered to end of drift; this was broken into for a couple of feet in several places, and still ore showed. An uprise is being made from this to No. 1 level, and is up now 55 feet; here also, they have a similar showing of ore to that in the drift, the diorite wall not having been reached here either.

The work has been done along the lime wall, which though fairly well defined, is irregular and somewhat impregnated with mineral in places. The vein at this level is a well defined contact, between diorite, and lime, the gouge being an orthoclase, heavily charged with high grade copper ore. The shaft is now down 375 feet, and will be put down another 50 feet before drifting again. The showing is an exceedingly good one, promising much for the future of the mine.

Work is being carried on on a systematic and economic basis, and is being pushed as quickly as possible. The mine is very free from water so far and is well ventilated. On coming to the surface again, we found it was pretty late, so went back to the hotel.