

The Mayo Silver Area, Yukon Territory

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The Mayo area in the Stewart River district of Yukon Territory, Canada, has attracted considerable attention within the last few years and more particularly recently, by reason of the extremely rich and promising lode-deposits of Silver-Galena Ore, which have been located in considerable numbers, extending over an area of fifty miles.

The writer, who has just returned from making a personal inspection of the Mayo District, submits the following brief report, which may be of interest to your readers.

The town of Mayo is situated on the Stewart River, about 180 miles from its mouth. The Stewart River flows into the Yukon and is easily accessible. Navigation opens early in May and usually remains open until middle of October. During the open season the White Pass and Yukon Route run regular passenger steamers there as the needs justify. During winter months, Mayo is served by a regular freight and passenger-stage from Dawson, Yukon Territory.

From Mayo good wagon roads radiate to nearly all of the important operations, which include those on Lookout Mountain, (Spur of Mount Haldane) Silver King, Galena Hill, Rambler Hill, Mount Cameron, Mount Hinton and Keno Hill, which is in the Gustavson Range.

Previous to 1914 little prospecting for other than gold was done in the ordinary type area, but the opening up of the extremely rich silver deposit of the Silver King mine on Galena Creek, stimulated interest in lode deposits and since then vigorous prospecting has been going on, with the result that several most promising prospects have been discovered and are being developed.

The Silver King mine produced from a "pocket" approximately half a million dollars in Silver, with comparatively little effort or expenditure.

The next prospect to be developed, was that on the Lookout Claim, on Lookout Mountain, at an elevation of 3,500 feet.

This claim, with four adjoining ones, are under option to the Yukon Territory, for the purpose of developing this property.

Development work on the one claim has been going on for two years and results are 1,200 feet of adits and shafts, with a total depth of 450 feet on the original "discovery vein."

The country rock on this claim is gneissoid quartzite and quartz mica-schist. Greyish granite-porphry and greenstone schists also occur.

The hanging-wall is usually well defined and marked by gouge.

The ore is of a disseminated character, the galena occurring in small streaks and masses. There are several zones in which this occurs, permitting of sorting a shipping grade of ore.

The vein follows a well defined but slightly irregular fracture in a gneissoid quartzite and quartz mica-schist, striking from 120 degrees to 150 degrees magnetic and dipping from 45 to 50 degrees to the north east.

The width of the vein varies from 6 to 33 feet, its length and depth being undetermined. The workings are entirely within the oxidized zone.

Dr. W. E. Cockfield, Dominion Geologist, in his

1918 report says that, in addition to the vein on Lookout claim, two and possibly three other veins as yet undeveloped, occur on the adjoining claim. From the outcroppings they were traced, by means of float, a distance of over 2,000 feet.

The development work on the Lookout claim proves the vein to have streaks of carbonates to 12 inches in width, carrying very high but somewhat erratic values in silver.

A sample shipment of 27 tons of ore sent to the Trail Smelter gave returns of 95.6 oz, silver and 59.4% lead.

A sample of 1800 pounds from discovery tunnel, gave 125 oz. silver and 62% lead.

The efforts of the Yukon Silver-Lead Mining Co, have had entirely the object of proving depth of vein, but since the wonderfully rich surface enrichment recently discovered on Keno Hill, the management intend seeing if their property is not similarly enriched.

I have purposely given extended data about Lookout claim, for the reason that this was the only property which has been systematically developed and the district generally has been depending somewhat on this property to prove geology, etc.

Rambler Hill, situated about six miles east of Lake McQuestion, has some very promising properties with similar formation to that on Lookout claim.

The workings are at an elevation of about 5,000 feet and are entirely above timber line. The owners of property have outlined considerable work for this winter.

Mount Cameron, which is about 45 miles in a direct line from Mayo, has three claims upon which some development work has been done and it is claimed that in the adit the vein has a banded appearance, with alternating streaks of galena and sphalerite, the galena occurring in streaks from 2 to 6 inches wide. The general geology of the district is similar to that of Keno Hill and Lookout mountain.

The size of the outcroppings and the fact that streaks of pure galena carrying high values in silver occur, indicate that the property may have considerable value, but much development work is necessary to prove this.

Development work on this property has been retarded by reason of the fact it was the most inaccessible, but road conditions are now improved.

Keno Hill is one of the Gustavus Range of mountains lying between the head of Lightning and Christal Creeks, at an elevation of about 6500 feet. It is about 42 miles from Mayo. Discovery and location was made in July 1919. Six of the original claims were taken under option by the Yukon Gold Company (the Guggenheims). There was three main showings of mineral on one claim and two on the other. Development has opened up nine separate leads on these claims. Values on discovery vein of 150 ounces-silver from a series of samples, were obtained by the owners. Grab samples taken from the dump on one of the claims, ran from 100 to 1000 ounces silver.

The veins on some of the claims opened up shew a width of 15 feet of solid galena, the values in silver being phenomenally high.

The results of the development work done by the Yukon Gold Co. up until July proved sufficiently satisfactory for the management to authorize the statement that they will spend half a million dollars on