

The Dry Ores of the Slocan, B.C.

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In submitting a paper on this subject to the members of the Canadian Mining Institute, the author is aware of the very large scope of area in which these ores occur in Slocan, and also of the many professed and actual commercial successes in treating this character of ore used locally, in Australia for Broken Hill ores, in the United States, Mexico and South America. The object of the paper is to draw the members' attention to this existing area, to recite the experiences of those engaged in mining these ores, to relate the present attempts to treat the ore and so pay dividends to the shareholders, to suggest other treatments that may be applicable, and to gather the members' experience and ideas on the subject, so that this rich area may become another gem in Canada's diadem, and thus make us all even more proud of the country we live in.

As far as the author can ascertain there is no fixed division between the terms "dry" and "wet" ores, to limit the hard line where one ends and the other commences. For the purpose of describing the ores of this district a return of 10 per cent. and less of metallic lead to the ton is spoken of as a dry ore, and over 10 per cent. as a wet ore.

All these ores are rich in silver values, some also containing gold, and some not; in fact the ores are phenomenally rich.

The area included, especially in this district under discussion, is bounded on the north by the divide between the Lardeau and Slocan, stretching from Kootenay Lake to Arrowhead Lake; bounded on the east by Kootenay Lake, on the south by Kootenay River, and on the west by the Arrowhead Lakes and the Columbia River. This division contains an area fifty (50) miles wide from east to west, and forty (40) miles long from north to south. There are other parts in the Lardeau, East Kootenay and elsewhere containing dry ores, but the scope of this paper must be limited, and so mention must be left to another time.

This Slocan area is composed of granite rocks, certainly a broad description, but sufficient till those with more leisure than the mine