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Progress Report on Blair Option  
near Dry Creek, Y.T.

Introduction

Preliminary sampling of the copper showing located at the No.1 post of mining claim Henry No.5 has been completed. Five trenches approximately 100 feet in length and 6 feet in depth were made along the strike of the mineralized zone with a bulldozer. The results of the mapping and sampling are shown on the attached plan. Trenches three, four and five encountered bed rock. Trenches one and two failed to reach bedrock due to ground ice conditions. A good channel sample representative of the mineralized zone was obtained from trench No.3 across a total width of 40 feet. The results of this sampling will be forwarded on return from the assayer.

Preliminary grab samples taken in the vicinity of trench No.3. prior to the present work have been received. The results are as follows. No.16 Copper 3.2%; lead 0.3%; zinc trace; silver 0.2 oz/ton; gold trace; WO3 trace; No.17-copper 0.8%; zinc trace; WO3 trace. A spectrographic analyses of the material was run and the results are attached. The results indicate that the major constituents are iron and silica and other minerals characteristic of a limestone metamorphic contact zone. Copper appears to be the only metal that occurs in quantities of economic interest.

A visual estimation of the copper content in trench No.3 would appear to be less than 2% over 40 feet in width. The heavily mineralized oxidized material in trench No.2 is similar in appearance though bedrock was not reached.

Geological conditions

The general geology of the area in which the claims lie is described by DD.Cairnes, in Memoir 50, GSC, 1915, entitled Upper White River District Yukon.

The series of rocks encountered on the Blair-Enger claims appear to be intercalated beds of lava and sediments of Carboniferous age that have been intruded by dikes and sills. On the actual showing the intrusives are of a basic nature and appear to be gabbro. Three claims to the northeast of the showing granite and porphyry are exposed. At the northeast boundary of the group diorite is exposed on Gold Creek. The intrusives are thought to be of Mesozoic age. Fossils characteristic of the Carboniferous era were identified in the limestone. The mineralization is associated with the basic intrusive near the contact of the chloritic lavas and limestone sediment.

Mineralization is comprised of patches of black magnetite up to several inches in diameter that replace the gabbro. The magnetite content of the mineralized zone would be about 50 percent of the rock by volume. Buff colored iron and calcium silicates are associated with the magnetite. Chalcopyrite is scattered through the magnetite and gabbro in disseminated grains and small nodules up to a quarter inch in diameter. Considerable black specularite occurs with the magnetite. Sparse particles of a black mineral tentatively identified as hubnerite (MnWO4) are also present locally.

The dimensions of the mineralized zone exposed in trenches 2 and 3 are 40 feet in width by 60 feet in length. The zone may extend an additional hundred feet to trench No.1 where oxidized gravel and hardpan were noted. To the northeast the zone is covered with shallow overburden. To the southwest the zone does not appear in trenches 4 and 5 on strike, and appears to be cut off in this direction a few feet southwest of Trench No.3. No rock is exposed for several claims in either direction from the showing which occupies a shallow dome sloping gently on all sides from Trench No.3.

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The structure in which the mineralization occurs would appear to be a narrow syncline approximately 40 feet in width that strikes N30E and pitches at around 15 degrees in a northeasterly direction. The southwest end of the syncline has been eroded off.

Conclusions and recommendations

The overall grade of the deposit and the structural characteristics as reconstructed from the trenching would indicate that the deposit is not of economic importance and that further payments on the option should not be made. This of course is contingent on the receipt of the channell samples still at the assayer.

The ground offers prospecting possibilities for copper along the limestone intrusive contact zone to the northeast of the trenches. This ground is covered with shallow overburden up to 10 feet in thickness including a layer of ground ice two to three feet thick above bedrock.

Test pitting and geophysical surveying would appear to be the only feasible way to explore the ground. An extension in the time of the option payment due on October 1st for 1 year might be arranged if the company thiaks it advisable. Otherwise it is recommended that the Blair and Enger claims be turned back to the owners and the Beth group staked by the writer be dropped.



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Whitehorse, Aug28/52.