

SILVER-LEAD DEPOSITS OF THE TWELVEMILE AREA,
YUKON TERRITORY

Extracts from Dr. W.E. Cockfield's report - For full text see Summary Report, 1918 Part B, Dept. of Mines.

The lead-silver deposits of the Twelvemile area in the Yukon have been known to exist for over thirty years. The deposit has never been sampled or tested with any degree of accuracy. The galena is known to carry silver at the ratio of 1% of lead to 1- $\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 ounces in silver.

The region lies wholly within the physiographic unit known as the Ogilvie range....The range has everywhere a rugged appearance and is composed of a series of sharp ridges separated by broad deeply-cut valleys.

At the first locality examined there are two veins, nearly parallel in strike and about 4 feet apart, on the outcrop. These veins dip at different angles and intersect about 6 feet below the surface. The maximum thickness of one vein is 16 inches and of the other 10 inches..... The vein-filling is a coarsely crystalline galena with pyrite and calcite, with included angular fragments of greenstone..... About 75 feet upstream another vein occurs, similar in many respects to those already described but thinner and more sparingly mineralised.

Four samples were taken. No. 50 is intended to represent the average of the larger vein, No. 51 the intersection of the two veins; No. 52 a sample cut at intervals along the smaller vein, and No. 53 a cut taken across the two veins to give an idea of the content per ton mined.

No.	Gold Oz. per ton	Silver Oz. per ton	Silver Value per ton	Lead Per Cent
50	Nil	73.60		50.11
51	"	105.00		63.36
52	"	30.08		20.64
53	"	29.96		18.62

As may be seen from the above results, the deposits are of high grade and could doubtless be worked at a profit even under present conditions of transportation and with hand methods of mining. Several hundred tons of ore could doubtless be extracted and hand sorted for shipment, but as the veins are small and unlikely to prove persistent in depth, no large tonnage is expected. Such ore-shoots, however, rarely if ever occur singly. The conditions are such as to warrant further exploration work in the hope of encountering other bodies....There is no reason for supposing that the veins already discovered are the largest and best in the immediate vicinity, as they were really discovered as the result of a canyon having formed at this place. Trenches laying bare the surface of the dykes are consequently quite likely to disclose similar bodies.

With regard to the district as a whole, it may be said that the geological conditions indicate the probability of other mineral deposits. The district is one of intense igneous activity and such conditions are frequently favourable to the formation of ore deposits.

The occurrence of Galena float in large pieces in the canyon at points further up than the known veins points to the existence of other ore-bodies which have not yet been located.



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