DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
ALBERT B. FALL, Secretary

UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
GEORGE OTIS SMITH, Director

BULLETIN 722

MINERAL RESOURCES OF ALASKA

REPORT ON PROGRESS OF INVESTIGATIONS IN

1920

BY

A. H. BROOKS AND OTHERS

WASHINGTON
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
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By ALFRED H. BROOKS and others.

PREFACE.

By ALFRED H. BROOKS.

This volume is the seventeenth of a series of annual bulletins[1] summarizing the results achieved during the year in the investigation of the mineral resources of Alaska and treating of the mining industry of the Territory, especially of the statistics of mineral production, with the collection of which the Geological Survey is charged by law.

The reports included in this volume are primarily intended to give prompt publication of the more important economic results of the work of the year. The time available for their preparation does not permit full office study of the field notes and specimens, and some of the statements made here may require modification when the study has been completed. Those who are interested in any particular district should therefore procure a copy of the complete report on that district as soon as it is available.

Again, as for many years in the past, the Geological Survey is under great obligation to residents of the Territory for valuable data. Those who have thus aided include the many mine operators who have made reports on production as well as developments. There are still some Alaskan mineral producers who fail to respond to requests for information. Many prospectors, Federal officials, engineers, and officers of banks and transportation and commercial companies have contributed valuable data. It is impracticable to mention by name all who have aided in this work, but it should be stated that without the assistance of these public-spirited citizens the preparation of this report would have been impossible. Special acknowledgments should be made to the Director and other officers of the Mint; the

[1] The preceding volumes in this series are U. S. Geol. Survey Bulls. 259, 284, 314, 345, 379, 442, 480, 520, 542, 592, 622, 642, 662, 692, 712, and 714.

Director and other officers of the United States Bureau of Mines; B. D. Stewart, Territorial mining inspector; the officers of the Alaska customs service; the officers of the Alaskan Engineering Commission; the American Railway Express Co.; Stephen Birch, Kennecott Copper Corporation; Sumner S. Smith, resident engineer of the Alaskan Naval Coal Commission; George Parks, General Land Office; Asa C. Baldwin, of Seattle, Wash.; C. W. Dietzel, of Juneau; Philip Bradley, of Treadwell; George C. Hazelet, of Cordova; J. M. Finnegan, of Kodiak; Paul Buckley, of Unalaska; J. M. Elmer, of Chistochina; F. E. Youngs, of Seward; Sidney Anderson and Milo Kelley, of Anchorage; H. W. Nagley and Edward McConnell, of Talkeetna; Luther C. Hess, the First National Bank, T. H. Deal (postmaster), J. A. Fairborn, and Henry Cook, of Fairbanks; B. J. Everman, of Fox; N. P. Nelson, of Chisana; Charles E. M. Cole and F. E. Phillips, of Jack Wade; Charles Zielke, of Nenana; John B. Mathews, of Hot Springs; George W. Ledger, of Rampart; Oscar Morell, of Deadwood; Alexander Mitchell, of Kantishna; Thomas G. Carter and F. P. Sturrock, of Beaver; H. S. Wanamaker, of Nolan; T. A. Parsons, of Ruby; B. B. Smith and G. W. C. Glass, of Ophir; Harry Madison, of Tolstoi; F. E. Wiseman and R. C. Butler, of Iditarod; D. E. Stubbs and L. Huber, of Aniak; John Haroldson and A. Stecker, of Quinhagak; R. W. J. Reed, of Nome; George P. Stanley, of Kiana; and Louis Lloyd, of Shungnak.

THE ALASKA MINING INDUSTRY IN 1920.

By Alfred H. Brooks.

GENERAL FEATURES.

Though the mining industry of Alaska as a whole suffered a serious depression in 1920, yet the value of the total mineral output was greater than in 1919, chiefly because of the great increase in the production of copper, to be credited largely to the four leading copper mines in the Territory. The value of the total mineral product of Alaska was $19,620,913 in 1919 and $23,303,757 in 1920. The output of the gold placers has decreased, but that of the gold lode mines has been maintained.

During 41 years of mining Alaska has produced minerals to the value of more than $460,000,000, over half of which was produced in the last decade. About 75 per cent of this output has come from small but rich deposits termed "bonanzas." Such deposits can be exploited profitably, even under the most adverse conditions of isolation and transportation, because they yield very large returns on the capital and labor employed.

Bonanza mining, always the first to be developed in a new land, is a most powerful agency in attracting population, in forming communities, and in establishing transportation systems. This mining will continue, for the known bonanza deposits in Alaska have been by no means exhausted, and there is good prospect of finding others. A stable and permanent mining industry can not, however, be founded on the exploitation of only the very rich ore bodies. Permanency must be based on the development of the larger deposits of less unit value. This development depends for its profits not so much on the richness of the ore as on economies made possible by the magnitude of the operations. Large mining operations require regular and cheap transportation; they can not be successful at places served only by the haphazard and expensive means of transportation that are generally available on the frontier. The passage from bonanza mining to a stable and permanent industry takes place in all mineral-bearing regions and has long been under way in the accessible coastal region of Alaska, but the mineral wealth of the interior remains practically untouched except by the bonanza miner.

It will be well to emphasize again the fact that the product of large mining operations on low-grade deposits has for many years formed a considerable part of the mineral output of the Territory. This kind of mining began with the exploitation of the Treadwell auriferous lode in 1887. During the last two decades low-grade deposits of copper, placer gold, etc., have been profitably worked in other parts of the seaboard region of Alaska. The minerals recovered from these large operations have a total value of about $105,000,000, of which nearly $76,000,000 is to be credited to the mines of the Juneau district. This total includes the value of the mineral output from (1) auriferous lodes that yield ores whose gold and silver content is valued at less than $2.50 a ton, (2) copper deposits containing an average of not more than 3 per cent of copper, (3) placers having a gold content of less than 75 cents to the cubic yard, and (4) marble and gypsum of southeastern Alaska. All the low-grade deposits thus far developed are at or near tidewater and therefore have not had to bear the high cost of land transportation, which can be borne only by bonanza deposits. Many mineral deposits of low grade are known in Alaska, and the prospect of finding others is good. The exploitation of large mineral deposits of this kind yields only a small profit per ton, but under normal industrial conditions this disadvantage is offset by the large tonnage handled. Under the present high operating costs and the relatively low market value of mineral products the profits on certain operations are entirely swept away, so that during the last two years there has been no incentive to this form of mining in Alaska, and no large mining ventures have been undertaken.

As about 96 per cent of the mineral output of Alaska, measured in value, has been taken from her gold and copper mines, the world-wide depression in the mining of these two metals, which continued through 1920, has been a staggering blow to the prosperity of the Territory. About 60 per cent of the population of Alaska has heretofore been directly or indirectly supported by gold mining, and with the relative decrease in the value of gold the population has decreased, for the miner or prospector has been forced to leave the Territory. This decrease, however, must not be regarded as an indication of the early exhaustion of the gold resources, for Alaska contains enormous potential reserves of gold and other minerals.[1] The depression of the mining industry is only temporary; a change for the better will come when general economic conditions become more nearly normal and water and land transportation are cheaper and better. A lowering of freight rates, the completion of the Government railroad, and the building of a large mileage of wagon roads are needed to quicken the now stagnant mining industry. Such changes will, however, take time, so that an immediate general improvement can not be expected.

[1] Brooks, A. H., The future of Alaska mining: U. S. Geol. Survey Bull. 714, pp. 5-57, 1921.

The prospects of successfully exploiting the mineral fuels have been improved somewhat by the coal-land leasing act of 1913, but unfortunately this act became effective during the period when industrial conditions were made unstable by the World War and by the readjustments that followed peace. In 1920 further help was given by the passage of an oil-land leasing act, but this act has not been in force long enough to affect the Alaska mining industry.

The interdict which long existed on the use of the mineral fuels of Alaska greatly retarded all forms of mining in the Territory. It not only enhanced the cost of mining by prohibiting the use of local fuels, but it made the industry lose the benefit of the improvement in industrial conditions that would certainly have followed the development of coal and oil. In spite of these conditions gold and copper mining in Alaska has been very prosperous, principally because there has been no direct interference to prevent their normal development. Had metal mining been subject to restrictions similar to those imposed on the development of mineral fuels the Alaska mining industry would to-day be still in its infancy.

The number of men engaged each year in productive mining gives a rough measure of the prosperity of the industry, but unfortunately complete statistics of the number of men employed in mining are not available. A careful study of all the facts at hand appears to justify the following estimates,[2] which include only the men employed at mines that made some mineral output during the year.

Estimates of number of men employed at productive mines of Alaska, 1911–1920.

Year.	Placer mines.		Lode mines and reduction plants.	All other mining and quarrying.	Total men engaged in mining, not including winter placer mines.
	Summer.	Winter (omitted from total).			
1911	4,900	670	2,360	150	7,410
1912	4,500	900	2,560	150	7,210
1913	4,500	800	3,450	140	8,090
1914	4,400	800	3,500	140	8,040
1915	4,400	700	3,850	160	8,410
1916	4,050	880	4,570	340	8,960
1917	3,550	950	3,220	270	7,040
1918	3,000	610	2,000	400	5,400
1919	2,180	320	1,900	310	4,390
1920	1,990	340	1,880	360	4,230

[2] The reports of the Geological Survey contain estimates of the number of men engaged in placer mining for each year since 1910, and miscellaneous notes on the number of men employed in other branches of the mining industry. The following publications also give much valuable information about the number of men employed, especially in lode mining:

Smith, S. S., Report of the mine inspector for the Territory of Alaska to the Secretary of the Interior for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1912, Washington, 1913. Same for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1913, Washington, 1914. Same for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1914, Washington, 1914.

Maloney, William, Report of the Territorial mine inspector to the governor of Alaska, for the year 1915 [Juneau, Alaska, 1916]. Same for the year 1916 [Juneau, Alaska, 1917]. Same for the year 1917 [Juneau, Alaska, 1918].

Stewart, B. D., Annual report of the Territorial mine inspector to the governor of Alaska, 1920, Juneau, Alaska, 1921.

In considering the above table it should be remembered that the summer placer mines are operated for an average period of less than 100 days in a year. A comparison of the first two columns shows that only a small percentage of the men engaged in summer placer mining can find similar employment in the winter. As the winter placer mining is all done through shafts and drifts it is closely related to lode mining. Some of the deep placer mines are operated for nearly the entire year and hence are included in the total summer mines also. The lode mines include copper and gold and a few other metal mines. The fourth column shows the number of men engaged in all other forms of mining and quarrying, including the exploitation of coal, petroleum, marble, tin, gypsum, etc.

Mineral output of Alaska, 1919 and 1920.

	1919		1920		Decrease or increase in 1920.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
Gold.....fine ounces..	455,984	$9,426,032	404,683	$8,365,560	− 51,301	−$1,060,472
Copper......pounds..	47,220,771	8,783,063	70,435,363	12,960,106	+23,214,592	+ 4,177,043
Silver....fine ounces..	629,708	705,273	953,546	1,039,364	+ 323,838	+ 334,091
Coal.......short tons..	60,674	343,547	61,111	355,668	+ 437	+ 12,121
Tin, metallic....do....	56	73,400	16	16,112	− 40	− 57,288
Lead.............do....	687	72,822	875	140,000	+ 188	+ 67,178
Platinum minerals, fine ounces.	569.52	73,663	1,478.97	160,117	+ 909.45	+ 86,454
Miscellaneous nonmetallic products, including petroleum, marble, and gypsum.	....	143,113	....	266,830	....	+ 123,717
	....	19,620,913	....	23,303,757	....	+ 3,682,844

Value of total mineral production of Alaska, 1880–1920.

By years.				By substances.	
1880–1890	$4,686,714	1907	$20,850,235	Gold	$320,030,553
1891	916,920	1908	20,145,632	Copper	127,486,202
1892	1,098,400	1909	21,146,953	Silver	7,342,892
1893	1,051,610	1910	16,887,244	Coal	1,796,128
1894	1,312,567	1911	20,691,241	Tin	934,264
1895	2,388,042	1912	22,536,849	Lead	662,258
1896	2,981,877	1913	19,476,356	Antimony	237,500
1897	2,540,401	1914	19,065,666	Marble, gypsum, petroleum, platinum, etc	2,984,992
1898	2,587,815	1915	32,854,229		461,474,789
1899	5,706,226	1916	48,632,212		
1900	8,241,734	1917	40,710,205		
1901	7,010,838	1918	28,253,961		
1902	8,403,153	1919	19,620,913		
1903	8,944,134	1920	23,303,757		
1904	9,569,715		461,474,789		
1905	16,480,762				
1906	23,378,428				

NEW DEVELOPMENTS.

One of the most encouraging features of the year's mining was the systematic development of a large auriferous lode in the Nixon Fork (McKinley) district, in the upper Kuskokwim Valley. This ore body gives promise of being valuable, and if the promise is fulfilled the beginning of a lode-mining industry in this remote region will be assured. Auriferous mineralization appears to have taken place rather widely in the Kuskokwim basin, a region which has been relatively little prospected. The gold of this region is associated with granitic rocks, which are intruded into limestone and other little-altered sedimentary rocks. In general the strong mineralization appears to be more localized than that in the schist areas of the upper Yukon, and the conditions are therefore favorable to the occurrence of commercial ore bodies.

The discovery of this lode and the continued success of the Candle Creek dredge near McGrath have attracted attention to the Kuskokwim basin, and more prospecting has consequently been done in this region than in any other part of inland Alaska. Especially noteworthy has been the considerable search and the numerous tests for dredging ground here and in the region immediately adjacent during the last two years.

Though lode mining in southeastern Alaska is still chiefly confined to the low-grade ores of Juneau, whose development is seriously handicapped by the existing conditions, yet there was in 1920 a marked increase in prospecting for auriferous lodes in this field, notably in the Sitka district. Promising discoveries of auriferous quartz were made on Chichagof Island. Important also were the activities in the Willow Creek district, in the Susitna basin, tributary to the Government railroad, which were directed to the consolidation of some auriferous lode properties and their development on a large scale.

One of the most important events of the year was the beginning of systematic underground exploration of the Matanuska coal field under the auspices of the Navy Department. This exploration has for its purpose the development of high-grade coal for the use of the Navy, but incidentally it should afford a thorough test of the commercial possibilities of the field.

The enactment of the oil-land leasing law in February, 1920, together with the world-wide search for petroleum, have again attracted public attention to the oil in Alaska. There has not yet been sufficient time to drill under the new régime, but more than 700,000 acres of land has been staked on the assumption that it is oil bearing. The evidence in hand indicates that though a part of this land is well worth drilling many of the places staked now, as during all oil booms, will be found worthless. There is, however, a very good prospect of developing producing wells in Alaska.

GOLD AND SILVER.

TOTAL PRODUCTION.

The total production of gold and silver since the beginning of mining in 1880 is given in the following table. For the earlier years the figures, especially those for silver, are probably far from correct, but they are based on the best information now available.

Gold and silver produced in Alaska, 1880–1920.

Year.	Gold.		Silver.	
	Quantity (fine ounces).	Value.	Quantity (fine ounces).	Commercial value.
1880	967	$20,000		
1881	1,935	40,000		
1882	7,256	150,000		
1883	14,561	301,000		
1884	9,724	201,000	10,320	$11,146
1885	14,512	300,000		
1886	21,575	446,000		
1887	32,653	675,000		
1888	41,119	850,000	2,320	2,181
1889	43,538	900,000	8,000	7,490
1890	36,862	762,000	7,500	6,071
1891	43,538	900,000	8,000	7,920
1892	52,245	1,080,000	8,000	7,000
1893	50,213	1,038,000	8,400	6,570
1894	62,017	1,282,000	22,261	14,257
1895	112,642	2,328,500	67,200	44,222
1896	138,401	2,861,000	145,300	99,087
1897	118,011	2,439,500	116,400	70,741
1898	121,760	2,517,000	92,400	54,575
1899	270,997	5,602,000	140,100	84,276
1900	395,030	8,166,000	73,300	45,494
1901	335,369	6,932,700	47,900	28,598
1902	400,709	8,283,400	92,000	48,590
1903	420,069	8,683,600	143,600	77,843
1904	443,115	9,160,000	198,700	114,934
1905	756,101	15,630,000	132,174	80,165
1906	1,066,030	22,036,794	203,500	136,345
1907	936,043	19,349,743	149,784	98,857
1908	933,290	19,292,818	135,672	71,906
1909	987,417	20,411,716	147,950	76,934
1910	780,131	16,126,749	157,850	85,239
1911	815,276	16,853,256	460,231	243,923
1912	829,436	17,145,951	515,186	316,839
1913	755,947	15,626,813	362,563	218,988
1914	762,596	15,764,259	394,805	218,327
1915	807,966	16,702,144	1,071,782	543,393
1916	834,068	17,241,713	1,379,171	907,495
1917	709,049	14,657,353	1,239,150	1,021,060
1918	458,641	9,480,952	847,789	847,789
1919	455,984	9,426,032	629,708	705,273
1920	404,683	8,365,560	953,546	1,039,364
	15,481,476	320,030,553	9,972,562	7,342,892

The subjoined table gives an estimate, based on the best available data, of the gold and silver produced in Alaska from different sources since mining began in 1880. About $65,900,000 worth of gold, or about one-fifth of the total estimated output, was produced before 1905, and there is but scant information about its source. For the period since that time fairly complete statistics are available, and the figures presented in the following table are probably sufficiently accurate to be valuable. The figures given for the silver recovered from placer gold and from siliceous ores are probably less accurate than those for the gold. Copper mining did not begin in Alaska until 1901, and the figures for gold and silver derived from this industry therefore represent approximately the actual output.

Gold and silver produced in Alaska from different sources, 1880–1920.

	Gold.		Silver.	
	Quantity (fine ounces).	Value.	Quantity (fine ounces).	Value.
Siliceous ores [a]	4,662,942	$96,391,594	1,674,872	$1,321,588
Copper ores	84,799	1,752,967	6,497,919	4,956,834
Placers	10,733,735	221,885,992	1,799,771	1,064,470
	15,481,476	320,030,553	9,972,562	7,342,892

[a] Including small amounts of galena ore.

The above table shows that 30 per cent of all the gold produced in Alaska since 1880 has been obtained from siliceous ores. During the last decade there has been a gradual increase in the percentage of the annual gold output from the auriferous lodes. In 1911 the proportion was 25 per cent; in 1915, 37 per cent; in 1919, 46.6 per cent, and in 1920, 53 per cent.

Gold and silver produced in Alaska, 1920, by sources.

	Ore.	Gold.		Silver.	
		Quantity. (fine ounces).	Value.	Quantity. (fine ounces).	Value.
Siliceous ores..........tons..	3,413,021	216,414	$4,473,687	246,292	$268,458
Copper ores..........do....	765,025	913	18,873	682,033	743,416
Placers..........cubic yards of gravel..	3,439,974	187,356	3,873,000	25,221	27,490
	....	404,683	8,365,560	953,546	1,039,364

LODE MINING.

Seventeen gold-lode mines and five prospects were operated in 1920 and produced gold worth $4,473,687. Twenty-three gold-lode mines and two prospects were operated in 1919 and produced gold worth $4,392,237. This increase came entirely from the gold mines of southeastern Alaska, as the output from all the other districts declined. It is not likely that the output from the low-grade mines of the Juneau district will be maintained, and unless there is an increase elsewhere the gold-lode output of Alaska probably will be less in 1921 than it was in 1920. There is most hope for an increase from the Willow Creek district, where a large consolidation of mines was made in 1920, and operations on a larger scale than heretofore are to be expected.

Gold and silver produced from gold-lode mines in Alaska, 1920, by districts.

District.	Mines operated.	Ore mined (short tons).	Gold.		Silver.		Average value per ton of ore in gold and silver.
			Quantity (fine ounces).	Value.	Quantity (fine ounces).	Value.	
Southeastern Alaska	8	3,409,197	210,536	$4,352,165	114,621	$124,936	$1.31
Willow Creek	3	2,850	3,067	63,400	146	158	22.30
Fairbanks district	[a] 2	504	967	20,000	164	178	40.03
Other districts	[b] 4	1,165	1,844	38,122	131,361	143,186	155.63
	17	3,413,716	216,414	4,473,687	246,292	268,458	1.39

[a] In addition a small tonnage of ore was produced from 5 prospects.
[b] Includes 1 small mine in Kantishna district, 1 in McKinley district, and 2 in Kenai Peninsula.

Of the eight mines in southeastern Alaska only four made a large output, that of the other four being only incidental to development work. The reduction in the number of producing mines in the Willow Creek district, from five in 1919 to three in 1920, was due to a combination of three properties which are to be worked as a unit, and there was an actual output from only one of these properties. In 1920, as in 1919, little work was done on the gold lodes in the Fairbanks district, for the owners of the mines in this district are awaiting cheaper operating costs before continuing developments. The great increase in the silver ouput of the lode mines, as indicated by the above table, is to be credited to the small mine in the Kantishna district, whose principal ore is galena carrying a high percentage of silver. For many years the average value per ton of ore of the gold and silver recovered from Alaska siliceous ores was about $2.80. This high value was due to the preponderance of the metals in the ore produced from the mines of the Treadwell group. When, in 1915 and 1916, the output of the lower-grade ores of the Perseverance and Alaska Juneau mines began to be larger, the value of the average recovery fell below $2 per ton, and the value was still further reduced when two of the Treadwell mines closed in 1917. The average value per ton of ore of the gold and silver mined in Alaska in 1919 was $1.38, and the average value in 1920 was $1.39.

One of the most encouraging features of lode mining in southeastern Alaska is the work being done on Chichagof and Admiralty islands, where promising auriferous lodes are being developed. The advances in lode mining made in the Willow Creek district have already been referred to. The Cliff and possibly the Granite lode mine of Prince William Sound may again be productive in 1921.

PLACER MINING.

During 41 years of mining Alaska has produced gold to the value of $320,000,000, and $217,885,000 of this amount is to be credited to her placer mines. For reasons already discussed less placer mining was done in 1920 than in 1919, and the profits on actual operations were also less. Though the general fall of prices will eventually benefit the Alaska placer mines, yet it is not likely to prevent a further decline of the industry in 1921. Except the installation of some dredges no new large placer-mining projects are definitely under way. Investigations of large bodies of gold-bearing gravel are, however, being made in several districts, and if these result in mining operations a revival of the industry is assured. Meanwhile any lowering of operating costs by cheaper freight rates and cheaper supplies will quicken the mining activities of the smaller operators. It can not be too strongly emphasized that the enormous alluvial gold reserves of Alaska [3] give every assurance of the eventual revival of placer mining. In the following table a comparison is made between the condition of the placer-mining industry in 1920 and its condition in 1919:

Alaska placer mining, 1919 and 1920.

Region.	Number of mines.				Number of miners.				Value of gold produced.		Decrease or increase, 1920.
	Summer.		Winter.		Summer.		Winter.				
	1919	1920	1919	1920	1919	1920	1919	1920	1919	1920	
Southeastern and southwestern Alaska	14	18	......	......	39	18	......	......	$30,000	$10,000	−$20,000
Copper River region	18	19	......	......	115	94	......	......	185,000	200,000	+ 15,000
Cook Inlet and Susitna region	21	27	......	......	81	70	......	......	110,000	55,000	− 55,000
Yukon basin	274	273	76	69	1,246	1,130	255	271	2,910,000	1,995,000	−915,000
Kuskokwim region	20	32	2	......	101	125	3	......	350,000	305,000	− 45,000
Seward Peninsula	103	112	10	8	555	540	60	61	1,360,000	1,300,000	− 60,000
Kobuk region	16	7	......	5	40	10	......	9	25,000	8,000	− 17,000
	466	488	88	82	2,177	1,987	318	341	4,970,000	3,873,000	1,097,000

The above table shows that there was a decrease of about 22 per cent in the value of the output of placer gold in 1920 as compared with 1919, and also that the chief loss was in the Yukon camps, where the decrease was 31 per cent. It also indicates that, measured by production, the districts on Seward Peninsula were the most prosperous. A still greater decrease in the output of placer gold from Alaska is to be expected in 1921. The record of 488 placer mines operated in the summer of 1920 and 82 in the previous winter somewhat exaggerates the activity of the industry. These totals, like those given in all previous reports, include every placer-mine operation of the year, no matter how small, and among them are many whose output for the year amounted to only a few hundred dollars. About 150 mines were operated in the summer of 1920 and 20 mines

[3] Brooks, A. H., The future of Alaska mining: U. S. Geol. Survey Bull. 714, pp. 7-11, 1921.

in the previous winter that produced less than $1,200 worth of gold per mine. The total value of the gold produced by these mines was $95,000, and they employed about 230 men. Sufficiently complete returns have been received from 100 of these mines to permit the analysis of their operations presented in the following table:

Operations of small gold-placer mines in Alaska in 1920.

[Includes only mines whose gold output for the year was $1,200 or less.]

Region.	Number of mines considered.	Number of men employed.	Average number of days' work per man.	Average number of cubic yards of gravel mined per man per day.	Value of gold recovered—		
					Per cubic yard.	Per man per day.	Per man for the year.
Southeastern Alaska, Copper River, and Susitna River districts	15	23	45	7.4	$1.03	$7.63	$343
Yukon and Kuskokwim districts	67	86	76	4.8	1.10	5.28	401
Seward Peninsula and Kobuk districts	18	27	50	5.8	1.37	7.92	396
	100	136	67	5.3	1.13	4.94	398

About 70 per cent of these operations consisted of development work on placer deposits, which are expected to yield satisfactory returns at some future time, when the economic conditions are more favorable or better equipment can be obtained. Some placer gold was recovered during this work. The other 30 per cent of these operations consisted of mining small and rich pockets of gold-bearing gravel exploited by "snipers" or "pocket hunters" solely to obtain an immediate livelihood. Many millions of dollars' worth of gold has been won by this kind of mining. The richest field of the sniper was the beach placers of Nome in 1899 and 1900. The bars of Fortymile River have been yielding returns to the sniper since their discovery in 1886. In recent years, however, no new fields for the sniper have been found, and, as the above table shows, his returns have been very meager. Unless new bonanzas are found mining of this kind must therefore inevitably cease, except in so far as it may be done by men who obtain their principal support from some other work.

As shown above, the average return to the small miner in 1920 was only $398. A careful estimate, based on retail prices at Fairbanks, shows that the cost of a year's provisions for one man in 1920 was $420. Supplies are considerably cheaper in the districts nearer the coast but are much higher in the isolated camps than at Fairbanks. A year's provisions for a man, including only necessities, will probably cost from $300 to $500, and will average above $398. The returns in gold from these small mines are therefore not paying the cost of the provisions consumed.

This loss is in part offset by the fact that the miner works on the average only 67 days a year; living in a cabin built by himself he pays no rent, and his fuel, which is wood, he obtains for the labor of cutting it. In most places his provisions are helped out by fish and game, and he may be able to raise his potatoes and other vegetables. Furthermore, many small miners get a much larger return from fur hunting in winter than from mining in summer. In estimating the number of days' work it should be noted that the small miner must spend a certain number of days each year in transporting his supplies from the nearest trading post, in cutting his fuel, in building cabins, in making sluice boxes, and in doing other work, none of which is included in the average 67 days of mining. Taking together the time devoted to mining and to the work just mentioned, the average small miner will probably not be employed more than half the year. If, therefore, he can find remunerative occupation, such as trapping or cutting wood during the rest of the year he may still make a fair income, and if he is developing a mineral deposit that will give good profits in the future he may be bettering himself economically.

The increased cost of supplies is a serious hardship to the small operator. It not only reduces the net returns on mining his own claim, but by reducing the larger operations it prevents his finding employment with the mining companies. It is probably safe to estimate that the cost of clothing, traveling, tools, etc., added to that of provisions, will bring the average annual expense of the Alaska miner up to $700 or $800. It will therefore be necessary for him to earn an additional sum of money at least equal to the return from his mine, taken as the average return of 1920. The returns for 1920 (see table above) show that he is mining placers whose value is only $1.13 a cubic yard, and he is mining an average of 5.3 cubic yards a day, which gives him an average daily wage of $5.94. If he is to obtain his actual living expenses from mining alone he must confine his efforts to deposits which carry at least $2 worth of gold to the cubic yard, which will give him a daily wage of $10 and, with an average of 67 working days, an annual return of $670.

If the small mines as defined above and the gold dredges are excluded the summer placer mines operated in 1920 numbered 317, employing 1,832 men, and the winter placer mines numbered 62, employing 278 men. In these winter placers the gold-bearing gravel is thawed in winter and is sluiced after the summer thawing. The total value of the gold recovered by placer mining was $1,478,068. The gold and silver output of placer mines by regions is shown in the following table:

Gold and silver produced from placer mines in Alaska, 1920, by regions.

Region.	Gold.		Silver.		Gravel mined (cubic yards).	Recovery per cubic yard.
	Quantity (fine ounces).	Value.	Quantity (fine ounces).	Value.		
Southeastern and southwestern Alaska	483.75	$10,000	83.27	$91	2,750	$3.64
Copper River region	9,674.99	200,000	1,014.78	1,105	160,000	1.25
Cook Inlet and Susitna region	2,660.62	55,000	397.02	432	78,000	.70
Yukon basin	96,508.08	1,995,000	12,905.46	14,068	1,272,924	1.57
Kuskokwim region	14,754.36	305,000	3,962.98	4,320	131,900	2.31
Seward Peninsula	62,887.49	1,300,000	6,813.06	7,426	1,792,100	.73
Kobuk region	387.00	8,000	44.47	48	2,300	3.47
	187,356.29	3,873,000	25,221.04	27,490	3,439,974	1.13

The following table shows approximately the total bulk of gravel mined annually since 1907 and the value of the gold recovered per cubic yard. This table is based in part on returns made by operators of placer mines and in part on known facts or assumptions concerning the richness of the gravels in the several districts. Although the table is thus in part an estimate it is probably nearly correct.

Gravel sluiced in Alaskan placer mines and value of gold recovered, 1908–1920.

Year.	Total quantity of gravel (cubic yards).	Value of gold recovered per cubic yard.	Year.	Total quantity of gravel (cubic yards).	Value of gold recovered per cubic yard.
1908	4,275,000	$3.74	1915	8,100,000	$1.29
1909	4,418,000	3.66	1916	7,100,000	1.57
1910	4,036,000	2.97	1917	7,000,000	1.40
1911	5,790,000	2.17	1918	4,931,000	1.20
1912	7,050,000	1.70	1919	4,548,000	1.10
1913	6,800,000	1.57	1920	3,439,974	1.13
1914	8,500,000	1.26			

The table shows that from 1908 to 1914 there was a decline in the average gold content of the gravels mined. This decline reflects the improved methods of placer mining that have been introduced, more especially the increase in the use of dredges, which is brought out in the following table:

Relation of recovery of placer gold per cubic yard to proportion produced by dredges.

	Percentage of placer gold produced by dredges.	Recovery per cubic yard.		
		Dredges.	Mines.	All placers.
1911	12	$0.60	$3.36	$2.17
1912	18	.65	2.68	1.70
1913	21	.54	3.11	1.57
1914	22	.53	2.07	1.26
1915	22	.51	2.33	1.29
1916	24	.69	2.64	1.57
1917	26	.68	2.21	1.40
1918	24	.57	1.84	1.20
1919	27	.77	1.31	1.10
1920	29	.69	1.53	1.13

The 22 dredges operated in 1920 employed crews numbering 145 men. Two of these dredges were in the Fairbanks district, 2 in the Iditarod, 1 in the Mount McKinley (McGrath) district, and 17 in Seward Peninsula. The average gold recovery of the 5 Yukon and Kuskokwim dredges was 94 cents per cubic yard, and that of the Seward Peninsula dredges was 48 cents per cubic yard. The inland dredges were operated for an average of 170 days, and the longest season was that in the Iditarod, which ran for 196 days. The Seward Peninsula dredges were operated for an average of 66 days, and the longest season for any one dredge was 96 days.

Gold produced by dredge mining in Alaska, 1903–1920.

Year.	Number of dredges operated.	Value of gold output.	Gravel handled (cubic yards).	Value of gold recovered per cubic yard.
1903	2	$20,000		
1904	3	25,000		
1905	3	40,000		
1906	3	120,000		
1907	4	250,000		
1908	4	171,000		
1909	14	425,000		
1910	18	800,000		
1911	27	1,500,000	2,500,000	$0.60
1912	38	2,200,000	3,400,000	.65
1913	35	2,200,000	4,100,000	.54
1914	42	2,350,000	4,450,000	.53
1915	35	2,330,000	4,600,000	.51
1916	34	2,679,000	3,900,000	.69
1917	36	2,500,000	3,700,000	.68
1918	28	1,425,000	2,490,000	.57
1919	28	1,360,000	1,760,000	.77
1920	22	1,129,932	1,633,861	.69
		21,524,932		

COPPER.

The copper output of Alaska was 70,435,363 pounds, valued at $12,960,106, in 1920, and 47,220,771 pounds, valued at $8,783,063, in 1919. This increase is to be credited almost entirely to 3 mines of the Kennecott group, in the Chitina basin, and the Beatson mine, on Prince William Sound. Eight copper mines were operated productively in 1920 as compared with 11 in 1919. Of the productive mines, 2 on Prince William Sound were under development and recovered only small amounts of ore incidentally. The total copper output shown in the following table includes, in addition to that of the copper mines, some copper won from ores mined chiefly for other metal.

Output of Alaska copper mines in 1920, by districts.

District.	Mines operated.	Ore (tons).	Copper.		Gold.		Silver.	
			Quantity (pounds).	Value.	Quantity (fine ounces).	Value.	Quantity (fine ounces).	Value.
Ketchikan [a]	2	16,088	670,155	$123,308	912.72	$18,868	5,313	$5,791
Chitina [b]	2	[c] 295,473	55,997,660	10,303,569			557,553	607,733
Prince William Sound	4	454,534	13,767,548	2,533,229			119,167	129,892
	8	766,095	70,435,363	12,960,106	912.72	18,868	682,033	743,416

[a] Includes some copper shipments from other parts of Alaska.
[b] Kennecott Copper Corporation Annual Report for 1920.
[c] Includes a small amount of placer copper.

The average copper content of the ore mined in 1920 was 4.6 per cent. The ores yielded an average of $0.025 in gold and $0.97 in silver to the ton. The average yield for 1919 was 4.8 per cent copper, $0.129 in gold, and $1.11 in silver. The large reduction in the average gold content of the ores mined in 1920 as compared with those mined in previous years is due to the closing of the Ellamar mine, whose ores carried much gold.

Of the total copper ore mined in Alaska in 1920, 96 per cent, or 732,549 tons, was treated by oil flotation, yielding 80,342 tons of concentrates, which averaged 32 per cent of copper. Most of the copper ore mined in 1920 was shipped to the Tacoma smelter, but a part of that mined in southeastern Alaska was treated at the Anyox smelter, in British Columbia.

Copper produced in Alaska, 1880–1920.

Year.	Ore mined (tons).	Copper produced.	
		Quantity (pounds).	Value.
1880	[a] 40,000 (1880–1904)	3,933	$826
1901		250,000	40,000
1902		360,000	41,400
1903		1,200,000	156,000
1904		2,043,586	275,676
1905	52,199	4,805,236	749,617
1906	105,729	5,871,811	1,133,260
1907	98,927	6,308,786	1,261,757
1908	51,509	4,585,362	605,267
1909	34,669	4,124,705	536,211
1910	39,365	4,241,689	538,695
1911	68,975	27,267,878	3,408,485
1912	93,452	29,230,491	4,823,031
1913	135,756	21,659,958	3,357,293
1914	153,605	21,450,628	2,852,934
1915	369,600	86,509,312	15,139,129
1916	617,264	119,854,839	29,484,291
1917	659,957	88,793,400	24,240,598
1918	722,047	69,224,951	17,098,563
1919	492,644	47,220,771	8,783,063
1920	766,095	70,435,363	12,960,106
	4,501,793	615,442,699	127,486,202

[a] Estimated.

In 1920, as in previous years, the Rush & Brown copper mine was the largest copper producer in southeastern Alaska. Copper was produced also at the Salt Chuck mine, better known for its production of palladium. Relatively little prospecting and no considerable development work was done on the copper deposits of southeastern Alaska. The three large mines, the Bonanza, Jumbo, and Mother Lode, were the only producing mines of the Chitina district in 1920, and no considerable developments were made at other mines. Some alluvial copper was produced incidentally to gold-placer mining in the Nizina district. On Prince William Sound the Beaton mine was the only property operated systematically throughout the year. The most notable advances were made at the Girdwood mine, where systematic underground and surface work was continued during much of the year. Small developments were continued at the Schlosser and McIntosh mines through a part of the year.

The above review shows that the Alaska copper-mining industry is in a rather discouraging situation in spite of the relatively large output of the metal in 1920. Except possibly in Prince William Sound, no large amount of work was done during the year in opening new ore bodies. The falling copper market and certain local conditions have discouraged the launching of any new enterprises. Not only will the copper output of 1921 be far less than that of 1920, but probably several years will pass before any new large copper-mining ventures will be under way.

LEAD.

The lead produced in Alaska in 1920 amounted to 875 tons, valued at $140,000, as compared with 687 tons, valued at $72,822, in 1919. In 1920, as in other years, most of the lead output was a by-product derived from the gold ores of the Juneau district. The increase in 1920 over 1919 was derived largely from galena ore mined in the Kantishna district.

The recent development of rich silver-lead ores in the Mayo district[4] of the Yukon Territory, about 100 miles east of Dawson, has started a search for similar deposits on the Alaska side of the boundary, not because of the lead content of the ore but because of the recent high price of silver. Galena ores are rather widely distributed in Alaska, but no large deposits have been found. Though some work was done on a number of Alaska galena deposits in 1920, which will be referred to in the review by districts, to follow (pp. 43–54), only one mine, in the Kantishna district, shipped any ore.

[4] Cockfield, W. E., The Mayo area, Yukon: Canada Geol. Survey Summary Rept., 1918, pp. 1B–22B, Ottawa, 1919.

Lead produced in Alaska, 1892–1920.

Year.	Quantity (tons).	Value.	Year.	Quantity (tons).	Value.
1892	30	$2,400	1908	40	$3,360
1893	40	3,040	1909	69	5,934
1894	35	2,310	1910	75	6,600
1895	20	1,320	1911	51	4,590
1896	30	1,800	1912	45	4,050
1897	30	2,160	1913	6	528
1898	30	2,240	1914	28	1,344
1899	35	3,150	1915	437	41,118
1900	40	3,440	1916	820	113,160
1901	40	3,440	1917	852	146,584
1902	30	2,460	1918	564	80,088
1903	30	2,520	1919	687	72,822
1904	30	2,580	1920	875	140,000
1905	30	2,620			
1906	30	3,420		5,059	662,258
1907	30	3,180			

TIN.

The tin mines of Alaska produced 26 tons of ore, containing 32,000 pounds of tin, valued at $16,112, in 1920, as compared with 86 tons of ore, containing 112,000 pounds of tin, valued at $73,400, in 1919. This decrease of output was due largely to the fact that in 1920 only one tin dredge instead of two, as in 1919, was operated in the York district of Seward Peninsula, which is the only important tin-producing area in Alaska. None of the tin mined in 1920 was marketed before the end of the year. In the York district the American Tin Mining Co. operated its dredge on Buck Creek from July to October. Some open-cut mining was done with pick and shovel on Goodwin Creek. During the winter of 1919-20 about 20 men were employed in developing the Lost River tin mine, on Cassiterite Creek. A 250-foot incline was sunk on the tin-bearing dikes from a station on the lower tunnel. Work was suspended in May, 1920.

It is reported that the tin placers of Grouse Creek have been worked out and that at the present rate of mining the placers of Buck Creek may be exhausted in about five years. Meanwhile sufficient prospecting has been done on other creeks to give reasonable assurance that the tin production will be maintained. Tin-bearing gravels have been prospected on Potato Creek and on Goodwin Creek and its tributary, Percy Gulch, flowing northward to the Arctic Ocean, as well as on Cape Creek, flowing southward to Bering Sea. Tin has been found on other creeks in the district, but on these creeks the prospecting is said to have developed some good dredging ground, and plans to install dredges on them are under consideration.

Though the only mines exploited solely for tin were the two in the York district, 7 of the Yukon gold-placer mines reported the recovery of some tin. Of these 6 were in the Hot Springs district and 1 in the Ruby district.

Tin produced in Alaska, 1902–1920.

Year.	Quantity (tons).		Value.	Year.	Quantity (tons).		Value.
	Ore.	Metal.			Ore.	Metal.	
1902	25	15	$8,000	1913	98	50	$44,103
1903	41	25	14,000	1914	157.5	104	66,560
1904	23	14	8,000	1915	167	102	78,846
1905	10	6	4,000	1916	232	139	121,000
1906	57	34	38,640	1917	171	100	123,300
1907	37.5	22	16,752	1918	104.5	68	118,000
1908	42.5	25	15,180	1919	86	56	73,400
1909	19	11	7,638	1920	26	16	16,112
1910	16.5	10	8,335				
1911	92.5	61	52,798		1,600.0	988	934,264
1912	194	130	119,600				

PLATINUM METALS.

The output of platinum, palladium, and other metals of the platinum group in Alaska in 1920 is estimated at 1,476.97 ounces, valued at $160,117, as compared with 569.25 ounces, valued at $73,663, in 1919. In 1920, as in previous years, the larger part of the output was from the copper-palladium ore of the Salt Chuck mine, in the Ketchikan district. An output of platinum minerals was reported by 7 gold placer mines in 1920. Four of these were in the Koyuk district and one in the Fairhaven district of Seward Peninsula. Two placer mines in the Chistochina district of the Copper River basin produced platinum in 1920. The largest output of placer platinum was made on Dime Creek, in the Koyuk district, and on Slate Creek, in the Chistochina district. The bedrock source of the alluvial platinum has not yet been definitely determined. The total production of platinum metals in Alaska since they were first saved, in 1916, is given in the following table:

Platinum metals produced in Alaska, 1916–1920.

Year.	Quantity.		Value.
	Crude ounces.	Fine ounces.	
1916	12.0	8.33	$700
1917	81.2	53.40	5,500
1918	301.0	284.00	36,600
1919	579.3	569.52	73,663
1920	1,493.4	1,478.97	160,117
	2,466.9	2,394.22	276,580

QUICKSILVER.

Productive mining was continued in a small way at the Parks cinnabar mine, the only one in Alaska that has yet made an output. This mine is on the north bank of Kuskokwim River about 16 miles above Georgetown.

In 1919 a cinnabar-bearing lode was discovered in the headwater region of Iditarod River, a tributary of the Yukon. This deposit is said to be on Montana Creek, formerly called Moose Creek, 35 miles south of the town of Iditarod. Though it is on the Yukon side of the watershed, the place appears to be only about 10 miles in a direct line from the Kuskokwim. A trail about 15 miles long has been built from the Kuskokwim at the mouth of Crooked River to the deposit. Claims are under development by the Fidelity-Kuskokwim Quicksilver Co., which is said to have shipped about 60 tons of supplies, including retorts, during the summer of 1920. The underground development consists of a 50-foot shaft, said to reveal an ore body of considerable size. The deposit has not been examined by any member of the Geological Survey, but it is probably of the same general type as that found in the Iditarod district,[5] to the north, though it is reported to be much larger.

This newly discovered lode and the cinnabar deposits previously found are distributed over a considerable area, and cinnabar is not uncommon in the gold placers of this general region. This rather wide distribution of quicksilver ore augurs well for future discoveries, especially as but little prospecting has been done for cinnabar. Though most of the cinnabar-bearing lodes found thus far are too small to be of value yet there is good hope of finding commercially valuable bodies such as that on Montana Creek is reported to be.

MISCELLANEOUS METALS.

Antimony ore (stibnite) was mined at several places in Alaska during the World War, when the price of the metal was high. A total of 2,492 tons of stibnite ore, valued at $237,500, was mined in Alaska during 1916, 1917, and 1918. No antimony was mined in the Territory in 1920. The only developments reported were on the Norvill property, in Chicken Creek valley, in the Fortymile district. No tungsten has been mined in Alaska since 1918. It is reported that a deposit of chromite has been developed on the Whitney & Lass property, at Red Mountain, near the southern end of Kenai Peninsula, and that in the course of the work some ore was produced

The development of the molybdenite deposits near Shakan, on Prince of Wales Island, which has been going on for several years, was suspended in 1920. Oscar Yehring, of Juneau, discovered a molybdenite deposit near Glacier Bay in 1920. The deposit is near Wood Glacier, about 1½ miles from the beach and 200 feet above tidewater.

COAL.

The output of coal in Alaska in 1920 was 61,111 tons, valued at $355,668; the output in 1919 was 60,674 tons, valued at $343,547. Of the output in 1920, 35,044 tons was taken from the two Government

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[5] Brooks, A. H., The antimony deposits of Alaska: U. S. Geol. Survey Bull. 649, pp. 47-49, 1916.

mines in the Matanuska field. Besides these two mines there were only three others whose output for the year exceeded 1,000 tons—two in the Nenana field and one in the Kachemak Bay field. Lignitic coal for near-by use was produced at five other mines. The largest output from the small mines was made at the Kugruk mine, in the Fairhaven district, which supplied coal for some placer operations in its vicinity. The Alaska school service mined about 200 tons of coal for its use on Wainwright Inlet, north of Cape Lisburne. Ten mines, large and small, were operated during the year, employing 207 men for an average of 240 days.

Work at the Eska mine, in the Matanuska field, was continued on about the same scale as in previous years, to obtain coal for the Government railroad and for some of the near-by communities. The mine was operated 239 days, employing an average of 43 men underground and 50 men on the surface, which gave a total of 8,835 man-shifts underground and 15,609 man-shifts on the surface. There were 195 days lost owing to sickness, and the mine was closed 73 days on account of a strike. A total of 3,633 feet of gangways, etc., were driven in 1920, making 5,337 feet in all.[6] The resident engineer, S. S. Smith, reports that the cost of mining coal was about $6 a ton in 1920, compared with $5 in 1919 and $4.66 in 1918, and that the increase in cost was due to an increase of 32 per cent in the wages of miners,[7] the reduced output on account of the strike, a longer haul underground, and the greater cost of timber. The underground work consisted chiefly of mining coal beds, and but little advance work was done. The developed coal reserves are reported to be about 70,000 tons, which at the present rate of mining is about two years' supply. A washery having a capacity of 1,000 tons is being built and will be completed in 1921. It will be used for the Eska coal and for any other coal mined by the Government along the railroad.

In the summer of 1920 the Navy Department began systematic prospecting in the Matanuska field to find coal for use by the Navy. This work is directed by the Alaskan Naval Coal Commission, of which Commander O. C. Dowling is chairman. Sumner S. Smith, resident engineer, has the immediate technical direction of all the field work and has associated with him as geologists Prof. T. E. Savage, of the University of Illinois, and Lieut. W. P. T. Hill, of the Marine Corps. Prospecting and underground exploration have been actively pushed in the Chickaloon and Coal Creek areas, and some examinations have been made in other parts of the field. The results are reported to be encouraging, notably in the Coal Creek area, but details are not yet available for publication. The only other mining done in the Mata-

[6] Information on mining developments in the Matanuska field is taken from "Report of the mining department, Alaskan Engineering Commission, for 1920," by Sumner S. Smith, resident engineer, to whom the writer is indebted for an advance copy.

[7] Wages in 1920, per day of 8 hours, for skilled labor underground were $8.60; for unskilled labor, $7.90.

nuska field was on the leasehold of the Evans Jones Coal Co., near Eska. Underground work was started in October, 1920, to produce coal to be sledded to the railroad, about 1½ miles distant, during the winter. About five men were employed at the mine.

The Bering River Coal Co. continued the underground exploration and surface improvement of its leasehold in the western part of the Bering River field throughout the year. An average of 20 men were employed underground and 20 on the surface. No coal has been mined except that incidental to the development work, which supplied the wants of the mine. In all about 3,500 feet of crosscuts and gangways have been driven. In 1920 a plank automobile road 4 miles long was constructed, which gives connection with scow navigation at tidewater on Bering Lake. The company reports a total expenditure of nearly $400,000 up to the end of 1920.[8]

Some developments were continued by the Alaska Coal & Petroleum Co. on its patented coal claim in the eastern part of the field. The mine is connected with tidewater on Bering River by a small railroad.

The McNally mine, on Kachemak Bay, previously operated under a permit, is now operated under a leasehold, and larger developments are promised. It finds its principal market for its lignite product in the Cook Inlet region.

The Healy River Coal Corporation is operating a small lignite mine under leasehold on the west bank of Nenana River, opposite the mouth of Healy Fork. An adit[9] driven into the bank of Nenana River a few feet above water level reaches the coal about 200 feet in. An entry has been driven on the coal for about 300 feet. The coal is from 5 to 7 feet thick, and the floor and roof are of shale. The mine was worked throughout the year and employed about 12 men.

The Broad Pass Coal & Development Co. is operating under a permit a small lignite mine on Lignite Creek, a tributary of Nenana River from the east. It is worked only in winter, and the coal mined is carried across the Nenana on the ice. The coal bed is about 25 feet thick and lies nearly horizontal. In 1920 the mine was operated 80 days and employed 12 men underground and 9 on the surface, including those who sledded coal to the railroad.

The coal produced in the Nenana field was sold to the railroad and in the near-by settlements. Some coal was shipped to Fairbanks, where it was sold in carload lots at $7 a ton, but it has not yet there superseded wood as the general fuel.

The above review shows that the development of the high-grade Alaska coal has not yet gone beyond the prospecting stage. Indeed, the coal actually blocked out does not exceed a few hundred thousand

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[8] Kennecott Copper Corporation Ann. Rept. for 1920, p. 15, New York, 1921.

[9] Information received from B. W. Dyer, of the U. S. Bureau of Mines, and from George Parks, of the General Land Office.

tons, which, of course, is not an adequate base for a productive industry. This is the state of affairs after the coal fields have been open to leasehold for seven years, during which only one coal tract has been systematically explored by private capital. There is certainly a strong contrast between the present actual conditions and those foretold in the prophecies so freely made in the conservation propaganda a decade ago. Exaggerated statements of the value of the Alaska coals and of the profits sure to be realized by their development were then widely published and were generally accepted as true by those who had no technical knowledge of the subject and who failed to inform themselves by reading the official publications then extant. At the height of this propaganda every Alaska coal claimant was regarded by many as a prospective millionaire. After the actual facts were recognized the pendulum of popular opinion swung toward the other extreme, and some persons probably now believe that any interest in Alaska coal lands is a liability rather than an asset. The truth lies between these two extreme views.

The coal fields were opened for leasing about at the outbreak of the World War, and the industrial and financial revolution attendant on the war has no doubt delayed their development. Some men who attempted to develop leased tracts had neither the experience nor the capital to carry on the projects properly and were soon discouraged. The best hope for profitable exploitation of the Alaska high-grade coals is in operation on a large scale, calling for heavy investments. A great deal of preliminary underground exploration must be done to block out sufficient coal to justify the costly installation of large mining plants and, in the Bering River field, the construction of railroads. The conditions are in strong contrast to those affecting the eastern coals, which lie horizontal and are undisturbed, so that only a comparatively few openings are required to afford a reliable estimate of the quantity of coal available.

In view of the general importance of the fuel problem on our Pacific coast it will be well to summarize briefly the essential facts relating to the occurrence of the Bering River and Matanuska coals, even though they may be largely a repetition of what has long been published.[10] The underground work of the last few years has revealed

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[10] Martin, G. C., and Katz, F. J., Geology and coal fields of the lower Matanuska Valley, Alaska: U. S. Geol. Survey Bull. 500, 1912.

Martin, G. C., and Mertie, J. B., jr., Mineral resources of the upper Matanuska and Nelchina valleys: U. S. Geol. Survey Bull. 592, pp. 273–300, 1914.

Martin, G. C., Geologic problems at the Matanuska coal mines: U. S. Geol. Survey Bull. 692, pp. 269–282, 1919.

Chapin, Theodore, Mining developments in the Matanuska coal field: U. S. Geol. Survey Bull. 712, pp. 131–167, 1920; Mining developments in the Matanuska coal fields: U. S. Geol. Survey Bull. 714, pp. 197–199, 1921.

Brooks, A. H., The future of Alaska mining: U. S. Geol. Survey Bull. 714, pp. 43–51, 1921.

Martin, G. C., Geology and mineral resources of Controller Bay region, Alaska: U. S. Geol. Survey Bull. 335, 1908. (This publication contains a detailed description of the Bering River coal field.)

details concerning the occurrence of the coal that were not available when the earlier reports were published. Those reports were necessarily based solely on examinations of the outcrops and of the shallow pits of their day. In general, however, the conclusions then reached have been confirmed by the underground developments of recent years. For example, Martin [11] in his report on the Bering River field, published 13 years ago, says:

> The possible overturned folds and faults introduce problems the scope of which can perhaps be determined only by exploration of the seams in depth. It seems probable that there are areas within the field which can not be successfully mined. These must be determined by careful surface prospecting, followed by either boring or tunneling at critical points.

It has been known that the fuel value of the Alaska coals leaves little to be desired, though like many others of similar grade they will require washing. The friability of the coal favors cleaning by washing, as has been demonstrated by numerous tests. In general the quality of the coals appears to bear a more or less direct relation to the intensity of their deformation. For example, the coal of the Eska mine is both of a lower fuel value and much less disturbed than that of the Chickaloon mine. It also appears that the anthracite coals of the eastern part of the Bering River field are more intricately folded and faulted than the bituminous coals in the southwestern part of that field.

The most discouraging fact that has been brought out by the underground work is the lack of continuity of the coal beds. Most of those opened up thicken and thin very irregularly, and many pass into beds in which the carbonaceous material forms only a part and in some only a small part of the whole bed. These irregularities of occurrence are probably due largely to disturbances caused by folding and faulting, but they are also in part original features of deposition.

The evidence tends to show that the vegetable matter from which the coals were formed accumulated in small basins along valley bottoms and in river deltas rather than in extensive swampy lowlands. In coal beds formed from deposits that accumulated under the conditions stated there would naturally be recurring transition from clean coal well within the basins to dirty coal or even to clay sediments toward the rims of the basins. The mode of origin of the coal will therefore in part account for the lack of continuity of good coal beds. There is, however, no measure of the size of the basins in which the vegetable matter accumulated, and it probably varied greatly from place to place. These differences in original deposition are probably of less consequence to the miner than the folding and faulting of the beds, but a careful study of the conditions under which the coal was

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[11] Op. cit. (Bull. 335), p. 93.

deposited will reveal facts which will aid in the identification and correlation of coal beds found in different mine openings. Furthermore, it may be possible that the most persistent coal beds as originally deposited may be found in the unprospected parts of both the Bering River and the Matanuska fields.

Though some of the variations in the thickness and composition of individual coal beds may be due to their mode of accumulation, there is no question that much of their extreme irregularity is certainly due to the profound disturbance of all the coal measures. This disturbance is general throughout both coal fields, but it varies in intensity, apparently increasing from the southwest to the northeast, yet there are no doubt local variations from the general conditions, so that both fields should be carefully prospected to discover the coal beds that are least disturbed. Such prospecting has been begun by the Navy Department for the Matanuska field and should be done in the Bering River field.

As a result of this great disturbance nearly all the coal beds are tilted, many at high angles, and some are folded and overturned. Although the folding is far more complex than that of the Pennsylvania anthracite, it is no greater than that of some of the coal beds mined in Europe.

In addition to the folding there is much faulting, which is far more serious to the miner. Faults are of two general types—cross faults, which cut across the beds, and bedding or parallel faults, which follow the bedding of the strata and of many of the coal beds themselves. These two types merge into each other so that by change of direction a cross fault may become a bedding fault and vice versa.

The best-known example of cross faulting is in the Eska mine, where the displacement in at least one locality amounts to several hundred feet. If the cross faults are clean breaks they do not seriously interfere with the mining of coal, though they do greatly increase the cost of mining because of the large amount of deadwork required to pick up the coal bed beyond the fault.

Far more serious are the bedding faults, which, so far as present developments show, are characteristic structural features of much of the areas of best coal. Evidence is abundant to show that the bedding faults are usually developed from cross faults, which enter the coal bed, follow it as bedding faults for a certain distance, and leave it as cross faults. Where a fault follows a coal bed the bed thickens and thins very irregularly and may be practically squeezed out. Moreover, many of the bedding faults are not the results of movements along a single plane, but include a complex of fault planes. This type of fault is marked by a zone of crushing, which may include not only the entire coal bed but a part of the wall rock, so that the position of the coal bed is marked by a complex mixture of coal and wall rock. These bedding faults appear at irregular intervals and differ in extent. As a result of such faulting a bed of good coal that has been followed by a gallery for several hundred feet may suddenly be lost or may pass into a zone made up of intermingled coal, shale, and bone that can not be separated in mining. In the mining thus far done no coal bed has been traced unbroken for more than 500 feet.

In places the difficulties of mining are further enhanced by the presence of intrusive dikes or stocks of igneous rocks. In the Bering River field there are no stocks and so far as determined the dikes are not sufficiently abundant to interfere seriously with mining. In the Matanuska field dikes are far more numerous and large dioritic stocks cut the coal measures. The gaseous character of these coals, the local differences in the firmness of the wall rock, and other physical conditions also influence the cost of mining, but these will not be considered here.

The discouragement found in the facts presented above is offset by the encouragement afforded by certain other facts: (1) The coal is of better grade than any other found on the Pacific seaboard; (2) outcrops of such coal are distributed over an area of about 70 square miles in the two fields; (3) it is quite possible that the parts of the fields in which the structural conditions are most favorable to mining have not been revealed; (4) underground work has thus far been limited to a total of about 21,500 feet of gangways and crosscuts and to tracts aggregating only a few square miles, and even these tracts have not been exhaustively explored.

The above outline indicates the principal difficulties, as well as the advantages and favorable possibilities, in mining Alaska coal. The difficulties are inherent in the mode of occurrence of the coal, and added to them are the difficulties inherent in all operations in remote regions, such as that of obtaining transportation and labor. It should be noted also that though there will undoubtedly be a great demand for the coal no actual market has yet been definitely established. The Government railroad gives ready access to the Matanuska field, but a large investment will be required for railroad construction into the Bering River field. Moreover, to reach a market in the States will require proper ocean carriers, which do not now form a part of the Alaska merchant marine. It is therefore evident that large investments will be necessary and that much time must pass before any expectation of a large coal-mining industry in Alaska can be realized; also that private capital will not undertake the development of the industry unless there is hope for very large returns. The greatest liberality must therefore be shown to coal lessees unless the Government itself is to undertake the underground exploration.

Coal produced in Alaska, 1888 to 1920.

Year.	Quantity (short tons).	Value.	Year.	Quantity (short tons).	Value.
1888–1896	6,000	$84,000	1910	1,000	$15,000
1897	2,000	28,000	1911	900	9,300
1898	1,000	14,000	1912	355	2,840
1899	1,200	16,800	1913	2,300	13,800
1900	1,200	16,800	1914		
1901	1,300	15,600	1915	1,400	3,300
1902	2,212	19,048	1916	13,073	52,317
1903	1,447	9,782	1917	53,955	265,317
1904	1,694	7,225	1918	75,606	411,850
1905	3,774	13,250	1919	60,674	343,547
1906	5,541	17,974	1920	61,111	355,668
1907	10,139	53,600			
1908	3,107	14,810		313,788	1,796,128
1909	2,800	12,300			

Coal consumed in Alaska, 1899–1920, in short tons.

Year.	Produced in Alaska, chiefly subbituminous and lignite.	Imported from States, chiefly bituminous from Washington.	Total foreign coal, chiefly bituminous from British Columbia.	Total coal consumed.
1899	1,200	10,000	a 50,120	61,320
1900	1,200	15,048	a 56,623	72,871
1901	1,300	24,000	a 77,674	102,974
1902	2,212	40,000	a 68,363	110,575
1903	1,447	64,626	a 60,605	126,678
1904	1,694	36,689	a 76,815	115,198
1905	3,774	67,713	a 72,612	144,099
1906	5,541	69,493	a 47,590	122,624
1907	10,139	46,246	a 93,262	149,647
1908	3,107	23,893	a 86,404	113,404
1909	2,800	33,112	69,046	104,958
1910	1,000	32,098	58,420	91,518
1911	900	32,255	61,845	95,000
1912	355	27,767	68,316	96,438
1913	2,300	69,066	56,430	127,796
1914		41,509	46,153	87,662
1915	1,400	46,329	29,457	77,186
1916	13,073	44,934	53,672	111,679
1917	53,955	58,116	56,589	168,660
1918	75,606	51,520	37,986	165,112
1919	60,674	57,166	48,708	166,548
1920	61,111	37,043	45,264	143,418
	304,788	928,623	1,321,954	2,555,365

a By fiscal year ending June 30.

PETROLEUM.

The petroleum produced in Alaska in 1920, as in previous years, was derived from the single patented claim in the Katalla oil field. This property is owned by the Chilkat Oil Co., which refines the entire product in its own refinery. The output in 1920 was pumped from 7 or 8 small wells. Two new wells in which oil was found were drilled on this property in 1920. The high-grade gasoline made from this oil finds a ready sale in the local market, chiefly on Prince William Sound. At present the residue from the refinery is not utilized

No drilling was done in undeveloped fields in 1920, but some geologic examinations were made by private corporations. In 1920–21 a hole was sunk near Anchorage to a depth of about 200 feet, but did not reach bedrock. Later (July, 1921) a small petroleum seepage was found near Anchorage in the gravel and clay which here mark the bedrock. The alluvial cover prevents the determination of the bedrock source of the oil.

The enactment of the oil-land leasing act of February, 1920, together with the world-wide search for petroleum, has again attracted public attention to the oil lands in Alaska, which had been withdrawn from entry since 1910. The enactment of the new law started a rush into all the accessible prospective oil fields, and many claims were staked. Later the enthusiasm of this rush carried many of the locators into areas that had little to recommend them as possible fields for petroleum. Up to the end of the year 335 applications for oil-prospecting permits, covering 762,553 acres, had been received at the Juneau land office. These applications, according to Mr. Stewart,[12] are distributed geographically as follows:

Applications for oil permits received at Juneau land office, 1920.

Location.	Number.	Area (acres).
Cold Bay	168	431,040
Katalla	63	98,053
Yakataga	36	75,520
Iliamna (Iniskin Bay)	30	69,400
Kootznahoo (Admiralty Island, southeastern Alaska)	15	33,280
Cape Spencer (Icy Strait, southeastern Alaska)	3	7,680
Chinitna, (north of Iliamna Bay, Cook Inlet)	3	7,680
Seward (Kenai Peninsula)	2	5,320
Wasilla (Matanuska Valley)	2	5,120
Anchorage (Knik Arm)	9	19,200
Aniakchak (Alaska Peninsula, southwest of Cold Bay)	4	10,240

Of the above list, only the Cold Bay, Katalla, Yakataga, Iliamna, and possibly the Chinitna and Aniakchak areas are classed by the Geological Survey as prospective oil territory on the geologic information now at hand.[13] Curiously enough, no claims appear to have been filed on any land in the Douglas River region, tributary to the southwest end of Cook Inlet, where an oil seepage has long been known.

The large areas staked in the prospective oil fields above listed no doubt include much land that is worthless, but until the structure has been worked out this can not be helped. It will be well to note also that until actual drilling has been done there is no certainty of the existence of important oil pools in any of these areas. Some drilling will probably be done in 1921, but these prospective fields can probably not be systematically tested for several years.

[12] Stewart, B. D., Annual report of the Territorial mine inspector to the governor of Alaska, 1920, p. 11, Juneau, 1921.

[13] Martin, G. C., Preliminary report on petroleum in Alaska: U. S. Geol. Survey Bull. 719, 1921.

Petroleum products shipped to Alaska from other parts of the United States, 1905–1920, in gallons.[a]

Year.	Heavy oils, including crude oil, gas oil, residuum, etc.	Gasoline, including all lighter products of distillation.	Illuminating oil.	Lubricating oil.
1905	2,715,974	713,496	627,391	83,319
1906	2,688,940	580,978	568,033	83,992
1907	9,104,300	636,881	510,145	100,145
1908	11,891,375	939,424	566,598	94,542
1909	14,119,102	746,930	531,727	85,687
1910	19,143,091	788,154	620,972	104,512
1911	20,878,843	1,238,865	423,750	100,141
1912	15,523,555	2,736,739	672,176	154,565
1913	15,682,412	1,735,658	661,656	150,918
1914	18,601,384	2,878,723	731,146	191,876
1915	16,910,012	2,413,962	513,075	271,981
1916	23,555,811	2,844,801	732,369	373,046
1917	23,971,114	3,256,870	750,238	465,693
1918	24,379,566	1,086,852	382,186	362,413
1919	18,784,013	1,007,073	3,515,746	977,703
1920	21,981,569	1,764,302	887,942	412,107
	259,931,061	25,369,708	12,695,150	4,012,640

a Compiled from Monthly Summary of Foreign Commerce of the United States, 1905 to 1920, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

STRUCTURAL MATERIALS, ETC.

Marble is widely distributed in southeastern Alaska[14] but has been developed on an extensive scale only at the quarries of the Vermont Marble Co. at Tokeen, near the north end of Prince of Wales Island. In 1920, as in the past, only one gypsum mine was operated in Alaska. The mine was flooded during the first four months of the year, but operations were resumed later on the same scale as before.

The equipment for mining and reducing sulphur on Akun Island, at the east end of the Aleutian chain, was completed about the end of the year, but no sulphur has yet been produced there.

A trial shipment of about 20 tons of garnet sand, taken from the beach of Imuruk Basin, 20 miles east of Port Clarence, to be used as an abrasive, was made from Nome in the summer of 1920.

REVIEW BY DISTRICTS.

The following review summarizes briefly the principal developments in all the districts. Many of the districts were not visited by members of the Geological Survey in 1920, and for this reason and because some operators fail to make reports the information at hand is not complete, especially concerning the placers of the lower Kuskokwim basin and of the Koyukuk district. The space devoted to any district is therefore not necessarily a measure of its relative importance. The general arrangement of the presentation is geo graphic, from south to north.

14 Burchard, E. F., Marble resources of southeastern Alaska: U. S. Geol. Survey Bull. 682, 1920.

SOUTHEASTERN ALASKA.

The mineral output of southeastern Alaska in 1920 was derived from eight gold-lode mines, gold placers (a very small production), two copper mines, one of which yields ore carrying a high content of platinum minerals, one gypsum mine, and one large marble-quarry property. The total value of the minerals produced increased from $4,679,632 in 1919 to $5,120,163 in 1920. Only four of the gold mines were large producers—three at Juneau and one on Chichagof Island; the others were under development and made a small incidental output of gold. All the copper produced came from the Rush & Brown and Salt Chuck mines, in the Ketchikan district. Placer mining was limited to very small operations in the Porcupine district and on the beach placers of Yakataga and Lituya Bay.

Mineral production of southeastern Alaska, 1920.

	Ore mined (tons).	Gold.		Silver.	
		Quantity (fine ounces).	Value.	Quantity (fine ounces).	Value.
Gold-lode mines	3,409,197	210,535	$4,352,145	114,621	$124,937
Copper mines	15,018	913	18,873	5,313	5,791
Placer mines	....	193	3,990	33	36
	3,424,215	211,641	4,375,008	119,967	130,764

	Copper.		Lead.		Palladium, marble, gypsum, etc. (value).
	Quantity (pounds).	Value.	Quantity (pounds).	Value.	
Gold-lode mines			1,518,454	$121,477	....
Copper mines	[a] 670,155	$123,308	....	....	....
Placer mines			....	....	....
	670,155	123,308	1,518,454	121,477	$369,606

[a] Includes some copper shipped from other parts of Alaska.

KETCHIKAN DISTRICT.

Productive development work was continued at the Rush & Brown mine on about the same scale as in previous years. This is the oldest productive copper mine in southeastern Alaska, having been operated almost continuously since 1904. In 1920, as in previous years, the work was directed principally to the development of the smaller of the two ore bodies that have been explored underground. This ore body lies in a shear zone bounded by two well-defined walls of graywacke. It consists of rich chalcopyrite ore shoots in a mineralized gangue of crushed graywacke, which is in part merchantable ore, for in addition to the rich shoots the gangue contains veins and veinlets of sulphides. The ore body contains also some pyrite and pyrrhotite. The lower-grade copper-bearing magnetite ores on the property, of which a considerable tonnage has been developed, will not be utilized until a market for their iron content can be found. The Ketchikan district as a whole has large reserves [15] of this type of ore, which will form an important asset when use can be found for its iron content. The principal work on the Rush & Brown mine in 1920 was the extension of the incline to the 500-foot level, drifting on the 450-foot level, and explorations at higher levels. All the ore produced was sent to the Anyox smelter, in British Columbia. Mining was done at the Salt Chuck mine on a larger scale in 1920 than in the previous year. The ore on this property has a high content of palladium and platinum and carries copper also. This occurrence was fully described in the report of last year.[16]

The Dunton gold mine, near Hollis, on Prince of Wales Island, has been taken over by the Kasaan Gold Mining Co., and the name of the property has been changed to Harris Creek mine. The ore body has been described in a recent publication.[17] In 1920 the work has consisted chiefly of a reconstruction of the mill and mining plant, which was completed in the fall of 1920. Some gold ore was milled in the course of the year. Considerable prospecting was done by the Helm Bay Mining Co. on a group of claims on Helm Bay, on the south shore of Cleveland Peninsula, north of Ketchikan. The group includes the old Gold Standard mine, which has not been worked for many years. The work performed in 1920 includes a series of shallow open cuts and pits, which crosscut a rather ill-defined shear zone traversing greenstone schists. Within this shear zone there are many small quartz veins and stringers which carry gold and some pyrite. The zone has been traced with some interruptions for several thousand feet. The several open cuts show from 10 to 50 feet of mineralized rock, but no well-defined walls were seen. It is reported that results of sampling seven or eight of these cuts yielded an average of about $6 worth of gold to the ton. A crosscut is being driven, which should reach the shear zone at a depth of 80 feet. The work on this property when it was hastily examined in September, 1920, was only well begun, as the bedrock was exposed only in the open cuts. No adequate conception of the character of the ore body could be obtained. The value of the property will depend on the quantity of ore, which, according to the surface indications, may be large. Another important fact that awaits determination is the continuance in depth of the gold content thus far reported. The cuts examined showed some oxidation, which indicates that there may be some surface enrichment. The evidence at other mines in the district supports the

[15] Brooks, A. H., The future of Alaska mining: U. S. Geol. Survey Bull. 714, pp. 15-19, 1921.

[16] Mertie, J. B., jr., Lode mining in the Juneau and Ketchikan districts: U. S. Geol. Survey Bull. 714, pp. 121-217, 1921.

[17] Idem, pp. 127-128.

belief that a crosscut run on the ore body at a depth of 80 feet should give a reliable indication of the depth of surface enrichment.

JUNEAU DISTRICT.

The Perseverance, Alaska-Juneau, and Ready Bullion mines and mills, all near Juneau, were operated throughout the year. In 1920 the value of the average recovery of metal from the ore of these three mines was 85 cents a ton. Developments were continued throughout the year on the Alaska Ebner property, adjacent to the Alaska-Juneau. This mine is developed by an adit 4,000 feet long, and during 1920 about 1,000 feet of drifting and crosscutting was done.

Developments at the Jualin mine, at Berners Bay, were suspended in February, 1920, but the company reports that work will be resumed when financial conditions improve. The 10-stamp mill at this mine was burned during the year, but the extensions projected include a 200-stamp mill. A little work was done at the Peterson mine, north of Juneau. Some work was done at the Daisy Bell mine, near Snettisham, and a little ore was treated in its 5-stamp mill.

The following notes on the most important recent developments at Windham and Sumdum bays are taken from Stewart's report.[18] In 1919 the Alaska Peerless Mining Co. drove about 50 feet of adits and crosscuts on the Basin Queen lode, at Windham Bay. This property, formerly known as the Yellow Jacket group, has been described by Spencer.[19] This work exposed an extensive belt of highly mineralized talcose schist approximately 70 feet in width, constituting a showing which appears to be well worth further exploration. The main tunnel is now 400 feet in length, and from it four crosscuts have been driven aggregating 300 feet. It was planned by the Alaska Peerless Mining Co. to drive a crosscut adit 630 feet vertically below the present drift adit and 5,000 feet in length, to cut the above-described zone at this horizon. This work was started and 50 feet of open-cut work and 30 feet of tunneling work completed. Work on the property was discontinued in the fall of 1919 and only assessment work done during 1920.

According to the mine inspector's report, the Independent Gold Mining Corporation completed in 1920 about 150 feet of underground work on a property at the head of Windham Bay. The ore body exposed is a belt of silicified schists, having an average width of about 10 feet and containing gold, galena, and iron sulphides. This mineralized belt has been traced on the surface for a long distance to the southeast of the adit and it crops out on the opposite shore of the bay, where claims have been located upon it.

The most extensive developments on Admiralty Island were those made on the property of the Admiralty Alaska Gold Mining Co.,

[18] Stewart, B. D., Annual report of Territorial mine inspector to the governor of Alaska, 1920, p. 20, Juneau, 1921.

[19] Spencer, A. C., The Juneau gold belt: U. S. Geol. Survey Bull. 287, p. 41, 1906.

which has been described in a recent report.[20] Here operations were carried on from May to the end of the year. The main adit was extended for about 650 feet. Many open cuts were made, and a new working shaft was started. Work was continued in a small way on the Nowell-Otterson group of claims,[21] which are adjacent to the Admiralty-Alaska property.

Underground work has been continued at the Alaska Endicott property on William Henry Bay, north of Juneau. Preparations are being made to erect a mill and compressor plant.

SITKA DISTRICT.

The Sitka district was the scene of the first lode-gold mining venture in Alaska, which began as early as 1871. This proved unprofitable, and when gold was discovered at Juneau and on the Yukon the district was almost abandoned. It was not until 1905, when the Chichagoff lode, now developed into one of the largest mines in Alaska, was discovered, that prospectors began to return to the district. In 1920 lode prospecting was more active here than in any other part of the Territory and some promising discoveries were made. It is astonishing that a region which is so readily accessible and in which the physical conditions permit low operating costs should have been almost ignored for nearly half a century.

In 1920, as in the past, the Chichagoff mine was the only productive property in the district except the gypsum mine already referred to (p. 33). The mine and 30-stamp mill were operated throughout the year, and the new underground work included 112 feet of shaft and 1,310 feet of drifts.

The following quotation from the Territorial mine inspector's report summarizes the recent prospecting in the Sitka district:[22]

Active development was continued on the Hirst-Chichagoff property, at Hirst Cove, on the opposite side of Doolth Mountain from the Chichagoff mine.

During the winter of 1919 and the spring of 1920 a stamp mill which had been installed at Windham Bay was dismantled and moved to the Hirst-Chichagoff property. A mill building was constructed, but the mill has not yet been installed.

A wharf has been built and a comfortable bunk house and boarding house completed at the property. Difficulty was had with the compressor formerly in use, and a new machine has been installed. Following this improvement work was resumed on the crosscut tunnel at the mill level, and about 300 feet driven, making a total of about 1,100 feet. It is understood this tunnel has reached the vein and exploration of the ore zone at the mill tunnel level has begun. This vein is very similar in type to the Chichagoff vein, and the results of development work upon it are being looked forward to with interest.

The Chichagoff Mining Co. has acquired control of the Apex group of claims, lying across the divide, between the head of Cann Creek on the west shore of Lisianski Inlet and Stag Bay, an arm of Lisianski Strait.

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[20] Mertie, J. B., jr., Mining in Juneau and Ketchikan districts: U. S. Geol. Survey Bull. 714, pp. 115-116, 1921.

[21] Idem, pp. 116-118.

[22] Op. cit., pp. 22-23.

The discovery of the Apex vein was made in October, 1919, and development work was commenced upon it as soon as the snow had left in the early summer of 1920. The vein on the surface averages about 20 inches in width, and its outcrop has been traced for a considerable distance. Patches of exceedingly high grade gold ore appear on the outcrop at several places.

A camp was built on the beach at the mouth of Cann Creek and a pack trail about 2 miles in length constructed, leading to an upper camp and the lowest showings on the outcrop. The upper camp is at an altitude of 800 or 900 feet and the discovery about 1,300 feet. It is understood that a tunnel 50 feet in length has been driven on the vein, commencing at the discovery, since July, 1920. A lower tunnel, commencing at a point near the upper camp, is understood to be under construction at the present time.

The Apex vein is practically solid quartz in unaltered hornblende diorite. A very fine grained porphyritic acidic dike a few inches in thickness lies along the walls on either side of the vein. This dike closely resembles quartzite in appearance and weathers brown on the surface.

Adjoining the Apex group on the east is the El Nido group of claims, controlled by Mr. J. H. Cann, who was also one of the discoverers of the Apex lode. The El Nido lode was discovered in June, 1920, and some development work, consisting of open cuts and trenching, had, at the time of visit (July, 1920), exposed the outcrop for a length of about 200 feet. Some exceedingly high grade samples were secured from this crop, hand specimens being said to run as high as $5 per pound. The El Nido lode at the outcrop is from 3 to 3½ feet in width, consisting of alternating pure white quartz and dike material, similar to that referred to above in connection with the Apex lode. No report has been had on developments made on this lode since July, 1920.

COPPER RIVER BASIN.

The continuous operation of the three large copper mines of the Kennecott group and the summer placer mining in the Nizina and Chistochina districts constitute all the productive work done in the Copper River basin in 1920. A little underground work was done on the Midas gold mine [23] in the early part of the summer, but the mill was not operated. The only other lode operations were assessment work on copper claims.

The following statements on mining and milling at the Kennecott group of mines during 1920 are taken from the annual report of the company:[24]

Kennecott ores milled totaled 199,656 tons, assaying 6.82 per cent. From this tonnage there resulted 21,696 tons concentrates assaying 51.06 per cent copper, this giving a recovery of 82.29 per cent, as against 85.9 per cent in 1919 and 84.19 per cent in 1918. The percentage of total copper occurring in carbonate form was 41.8, compared with 37.4 in 1919 and 37.8 in 1918, which accounts for the lower recovery obtained during the last year. The cost per ton of milling was 76 cents, as against 73 cents in 1919 and 80 cents in 1918.

In addition to the Kennecott ores the Kennecott mill also treated 67,567 tons of ore during the year for the account of the Mother Lode Coalition Mines Co.

The leaching plant at Kennecott treated 190,327 tons mill tailings assaying 1.14 per cent carbonate copper, with a recovery of 3,332,500 pounds of copper in the form of

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[23] For a brief description of the ore body see Moffit, F. H., Mining in the Chitina Valley; U. S. Geol. Survey Bull. 714, pp. 191-192, 1921.

[24] Kennecott Copper Corporation Sixth Ann. Rept., for year ending December 31, 1920, pp. 6-7, New York, 1921.

precipitates assaying 74.75 per cent copper, the percentage of recovery being 74.5 per cent, as against 74 per cent in 1919. Leaching costs were $1.33, as against $1.18 in 1919 and $1.12 in 1918.

The total recovery of copper in all ores treated, milling and leaching combined, was 90.10 per cent, as against 92.96 per cent in 1919 and 89.38 per cent in 1918.

Thirteen thousand six hundred and thirty feet of development work was driven for the purpose of developing new ore bodies and opening known deposits on other levels preparatory to stoping. In addition to this 14,936 feet of diamond drilling was done. The most important items were the development of the Birch vein, on the 150-foot level, and the Bonanza-Mother Lode vein, on the 900-foot level in the Bonanza mine; and in the Jumbo mine, the development of the ore in the 518 vein at and below the fifth level.

The work of building the Glacier mine tramway was completed in time to transport 4,722 tons that were mined before the season closed. At the same time an intermediate station at the halfway station of the Jumbo line was built, making it possible to handle a greater tonnage over this line.

A high-tension power line was strung to the Erie mine, making it possible to use compressed air in carrying on the development of this mine.

In 1920, as in previous years, practically all the placer gold produced in the Nizina district was obtained from three hydraulic mines on Dan, Chititu, and Rex creeks. A little mining was also done on the bench placers of Dan Creek.

Nine placer mines were operated in the Chistochina district during the summer of 1920, employing 35 men and producing gold to the value of about $75,000. The largest output was made by a hydraulic plant on Slate Creek. An average of $1.53 worth of gold per cubic yard was recovered from the placer-mining operations of the district. Some platinum was won from the Slate Creek placers.

Some placer mining was done in the Nelchina and Valdez Creek districts, and plans are under way for again operating the large hydraulic plant on Valdez Creek, which has been idle for several years.

PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND.

Mining was at a low ebb in the Prince William Sound region[25] during 1920, except for the large copper output of the Beatson mine, on Latouche Island. Other mines, however, incidentally produced some copper. The only gold mine on Prince William Sound that reported any production in 1920 was the Valdez Gold, which produced only a few tons of ore.

The following extracts from the annual report of the Kennecott company summarize the principal operations at the Beatson mine during the year. Much work was done at the Girdwood mine, which is north of and adjacent to the Beatson. The mine is developed by a 1,600-foot adit and is equipped with a 150-ton flotation mill.

Ore milled totaled 451,863 tons, assaying 1.77 per cent copper. From this tonnage 44,268 tons of concentrates were produced, assaying 15 per cent copper, as against

[25] The ore deposits of Prince William Sound are described in the Geological Survey reports listed on pages v and vi.

264,265 tons milled, 28,204 tons concentrates produced, assaying 14.78 per cent, in 1919. The average recovery was 82.85 per cent, as against 80.8 per cent in 1919; however, the recovery of copper existing as the sulphide in the ore was 85.2 per cent.

Two thousand nine hundred and fourteen feet of raising and 5,738 feet of drifting, making a total of 8,652 feet, augmented by 4,846 feet of diamond drilling, was done during the year. This work, with the exception of 1,499 feet of raising and drifting and 991 feet of diamond drilling done on the upper levels, was for the purpose of preparing the ore above the 200 level for stoping.

A small sawmill was added to the surface equipment. A compressor of 500 cubic feet capacity was added to furnish air for the mill. A mechanical shoveler was purchased to be used underground.

The Schlosser mine of the Alaska Mines Corporation was operated from January 1 to November 15. The hand-sorted crude ore is shipped to the Tacoma smelter. In 1920 the principal advance work done was that of driving 1,450 feet of the main adit.

The work done at the Fidalgo (McIntosh) mine on Fidalgo Bay included the driving of a 104-foot raise and a 150-foot drift, in course of which some ore was recovered, but none was shipped.

Copper prospecting on Knight Island is practically at a standstill. The only development was the continuation of the main crosscut on the Rua Cove property by W. A. Dickey.

The Valdez Mining Co. continued to develop its property [27] on the west side of Valdez Glacier from June until December, 1920. The main adit was driven 400 feet during the year and is now 800 feet long. Some ore that was recovered incidentally to the development work was milled. Late in the summer of 1920 the Cliff mine, near Valdez, was unwatered, and about 119 feet of underground work was done. The ore body has been described by Johnson.[28]

KENAI PENINSULA.

There was no improvement in gold mining on Kenai Peninsula during the year. The value of the total mineral output in 1920 was $35,000, and that in 1919 was $37,500. Of the total amount for 1920 $14,675 is to be credited to the gold output of two small lode mines and six placer mines, the latter employing about 15 men. Most of the placer gold came from Resurrection, Canyon, and Sixmile creeks.

The Lucky Strike mine, on Palmer Creek, was operated from June to October, and its mill for 15 days, one shift a day. The principal underground work done consists of a 150-foot adit. Some ore was milled at the Virginia mine, but no developments were made. There was considerable prospecting of auriferous quartz veins during the year. Plans were made for doing work on a group of quartz claims at the head of Crow Creek, on the north side of Turnagain Arm.

[27] For a brief description of the ore body see Johnson, B. L., The gold and copper deposits of the Port Valdez district: U. S. Geol. Survey Bull. 622, p. 162, 1915.

[28] Idem, pp. 170–172.

These claims, so far as identified, belong to what was formerly known as the "Barnes property," which has been described in a former report.[29]

The operation of the lignite mine at Bluff Point, on Kachemak Bay, and the developments on chrome deposits at Red Mountain have already been referred to (pp. 26, 24).

SUSITNA AND MATANUSKA REGION.

Productive mining in the Susitna-Matanuska region included gold-placer mining in the Yentna district and at a few scatterred places in the Susitna basin, gold-lode mining in the Willow Creek district, and coal mining in the Matanuska field and at one or two other places in the Susitna basin. The value of the total mineral output from this region was $532,562 in 1919 and $324,810 in 1920. Most of the decrease in 1920 was due to the decline in the output of gold. The consolidation of some of the Willow Creek gold properties and the systematic exploration of the Matanuska coal field constitute the most important advances of the year. The developments in coal mining have already been summarized (pp. 25, 26).

WILLOW CREEK DISTRICT.

Productive mining was done on three properties in the Willow Creek district in 1920. These were the Mabel mine, the Gold Bullion mine, and the Independent, Brooklyn, and Free Gold mines, consolidated into one holding by the Kelly Mines Co. Lode mining in this district has heretofore been done in a small way on properties worked only during the open season, and the several small mills were built at altitudes so high that they could obtain water only during the summer. Since mining began, in 1908, the district has produced 66,053 tons of ore, from which the average value of gold recovered has been $27.70 per ton and the silver recovery 0.1 ounce per ton. These figures do not, however, represent the whole value of the ores, for the gold is largely free gold, recovered by rather crude milling practice. Thus far little of the concentrates has been utilized. Larger operations have now been planned and an increase in the output of gold can be confidently expected.[30]

The following table shows the progress and results of lode mining in the Willow Creek district. In addition to the production of lode

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[29] Johnson, B. L., The central and northern part of Kenai Peninsula: U. S. Geol. Survey Bull. 587, pp. 173–176, 1915.

[30] The ore bodies of the Willow Creek district are described in the folowing publications:

Capps, S. R., The Willow Creek district: U. S. Geol. Survey Bull. 607, 1915; Gold mining in the Willow Creek district [1915]: U. S. Geol. Survey Bull. 642, pp. 195–200, 1916; Gold-lode mining in the Willow Creek district [1917]: U. S. Geol. Survey Bull. 692, pp. 177–186, 1919.

Chapin, Theodore, Lode developments in the the Willow Creek district [1918]: U. S. Geol. Survey Bull. 712, pp. 169–176, 1920; Lode developments in the Willow Creek district [1919]: U. S. Geol. Survey Bull. 714, pp. 201–206, 1921.

gold about $30,000 worth of placer gold has been taken from the gravels of Willow Creek. A little placer mining was done in this field as early as 1897, but no output has been made from these placers during the last 10 years.

Gold and silver produced at lode mines in the Willow Creek district, 1908–1920.

Year.	Mines operated.	Ore mined (short tons).	Gold.		Silver.	
			Quantity (ounces).	Value.	Quantity (ounces).	Value.
1908	1	12	87.08	$1,800	6.88	$3.64
1909	1	140	1,015.87	21,000	80.25	41.73
1910	1	144	1,320.15	21,290	104.29	56.31
1911	2	812	2,505.82	51,800	197.95	109.91
1912	3	3,000	4,673.02	96,600	369.07	226.97
1913	3	3,028	4,883.94	100,960	385.83	233.42
1914	3	10,110	14,376.28	297,184	1,330.00	735.00
1915	3	6,117	11,961.55	247,267	811.00	421.00
1916	3	12,182	14,473.46	299,193	1,468.00	967.00
1917	5	7,885	9,466.17	195,662	713.00	586.00
1918	5	13,043	13,043.05	269,624	724.00	724.00
1919	5	6,730	7,882.00	162,944	508.00	509.00
1920	3	2,850	3,067.00	63,400	148.00	158.00
		66,053	88,755.39	1,828,724	6,846.27	4,771.98

YENTNA DISTRICT.

Only about half the placer-mining operators in the Yentna district made complete returns in 1920, but it is estimated that 21 placer mines, employing 55 men, were operated in this district during the year, and that they produced gold having a value of $45,000. The value of the output of gold in 1919 was $95,000. The length of the mining season in 1920 was about 150 days, but the mines were operated for an average of only 92 days. The returns from 7 mines, of which 5 were hydraulic, showed that the value of the gold recovery per cubic yard ranged from 40 cents to $2 and averaged 70 cents.

Several hydraulic plants are being installed in the district, and a hydroelectric plant is being built to furnish power for the Cache Creek dredge, which has not been operated in two years. The completion of the Talkeetna-Cache Creek wagon road, now under construction by the Alaska Road Commission, will do much to revive mining in the Yentna district.

UPPER SUSITNA VALLEY AND BROAD PASS REGION.

No productive mining was done in the upper Susitna Valley nor in the Broad Pass region in 1920 except the digging of a little lignitic coal for local use at Sullivan Road House and possibly a little placer mining at widely scattered localities. Interest in the gold and copper lodes of this region has continued, and in the aggregate considerable development work was done, but the details are lacking at this writing.

SOUTHWESTERN ALASKA.

No productive mining was done in southwestern Alaska in 1920 except small beach-placer operations on Kodiak Island. The development of the sulphur on Akun Island has already been recorded (p. 33), as well as the staking of petroleum claims in the Cold Bay and other regions of the Alaska Peninsula (pp. 131–132).

YUKON BASIN.

The value of the total mineral output of the Alaska Yukon region in 1920 was $2,329,286; the value in 1919 was $3,049,061. No encouraging advances were made during the year except some development of gold and silver lodes in the Kantishna district and the systematic mining of coal in the Nenana field. The sources of the product in 1920 and the total mineral production since mining began, in 1886, are presented in the following tables:

Mineral production of the Yukon basin, Alaska, in 1920.

	Placer mines.		Lode mines.		Total.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
Gold.....fine ounces..	96,508	$1,995,000	2,585	$53,447	99,093	$2,048,447
Silver.....do....	12,905	14,068	131,276	143,090	144,181	157,158
Tin, metal.....pounds..	11,057	3,454	....	....	11,057	3,454
Coal.....tons..	....	....	....	....	21,252	107,418
Lead and copper.....	....	....	....	12,809	....	12,809
	....	2,012,532	....	209,346	....	2,329,286

Mineral production of the Yukon basin, Alaska, 1886-1920.

	Placer mines.		Lode mines.		All mines.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
Gold.....fine ounces..	6,305,858	$130,352,000	62,364	$1,288,677	6,368,222	$131,640,677
Silver.....do....	1,083,447	656,390	150,030	152,012	1,233,477	808,402
Tin, metal.....pounds..	327,467	162,194	....	....	327,467	162,194
Coal.....tons..	....	....	....	....	42,851	253,621
Lead and copper...pounds..	....	....	275,321	14,481	275,321	14,481
Antimony, tungsten, and platinum.....	....	3,100	....	325,500	....	328,600
	....	131,173,684	....	1,780,670	....	133,207,975

In 1920 the Alaska Yukon region produced about $1,995,000 and in 1919 $2,910,000 worth of placer gold. The decrease in output was rather evenly distributed among all the districts except the Ruby district, which practically maintained its output of 1919. The Tolovana district showed the greatest percentage of loss as compared with previous years. About 273 placer mines, giving employment to about 1,130 men, were operated during the summer of 1920, and 69, giving employment to 270 men, were operated during the previous winter. A very large number of these mines were worked for only a part of the season. In 1919 274 mines, employing 1,246 men, were worked in the summer and 76, employing 255 men, in the winter.

Estimated value of gold produced from principal placers of Yukon basin, 1920.

Fairbanks	$580,000	Marshall	$90,000
Iditarod	505,000	Circle	55,000
Tolovana	200,000	Hot Springs	50,000
Ruby	170,000	All others	152,000
Innoko and Tolstoi	103,000		
Koyukuk	90,000		1,995,000

FAIRBANKS DISTRICT.

The value of the total mineral production of the Fairbanks district in 1920 was $605,998, represented entirely by gold and silver, for no other metals were mined. The total mineral output of the district to date is $72,650,767. The output for 1920 was practically all obtained from placer mines (see subjoined table), about 45 of which, employing 345 men, were operated in the summer of 1920 and 9, employing 54 men, in the previous winter. During the summer of 1919 there were in operation 53 mines, employing 350 men, and during the previous winter 24 mines, employing 86 men.

Placer gold and silver produced in the Fairbanks district, 1903–1920.

Year.	Gold.		Silver.	
	Quantity (fine ounces).	Value.	Quantity (fine ounces).	Value.
1903	1,935.00	$40,000	348	$188
1904	29,025.00	600,000	5,225	2,821
1905	290,250.00	6,000,000	52,245	28,212
1906	435,375.00	9,000,000	78,367	42,318
1907	387,000.00	8,000,000	69,660	37,616
1908	445,050.00	9,200,000	79,909	43,151
1909	466,818.75	9,650,000	84,027	45,375
1910	295,087.50	6,100,000	53,116	28,683
1911	217,687.50	4,500,000	52,245	27,690
1912	200,756.25	4,150,000	48,182	29,632
1913	159,637.50	3,300,000	20,274	12,245
1914	120,937.50	2,500,000	29,024	16,050
1915	118,518.75	2,450,000	28,444	14,421
1916	87,075.00	1,800,000	11,058	7,276
1917	63,371.25	1,310,000	8,379	6,904
1918	38,700.00	800,000	5,708	5,708
1919	35,313.75	730,000	5,197	5,820
1920	28,057.50	580,000	3,870	4,218
	3,420,596.25	70,710,000	635,278	358,329

The placer mines can be classed as follows: One dredging company, operating 2 dredges; 22 open-cut mines, using steam scrapers; 2 hydraulic mines; 7 open-cut mines, worked by pick and shovel; and 13 deep mines, worked by thawing and drifting. The two dredges on Fairbanks Creek carried on the largest single operation. The largest of the open-cut mines were on Goldstream Creek and its tributaries. The 13 deep mines produced gold to the value of about $150,000.

An attempt has been made in the following table to distribute the total placer-gold production of the Fairbanks district by the creeks on which the mines are located, although the information available as to the source of the gold may not be very accurate.

Approximate distribution of gold produced in the Fairbanks district, 1903–1920.

Cleary Creek and tributaries	$23,098,000
Goldstream Creek and tributaries	14,625,000
Ester Creek and tributaries	11,359,000
Dome Creek and tributaries	8,149,000
Fairbanks Creek and tributaries	7,857,000
Vault Creek and tributaries	2,665,000
Little Eldorado Creek	2,269,000
All other creeks	688,000
	70,710,000

About 386,000 cubic yards of gravel, having an average gold content of $1.50 to the cubic yard, was sluiced in the Fairbanks district in 1920. The returns made by seven of the thirteen deep mines were nearly enough complete to permit the following analysis. These mines were operated for an average of 240 days, two of them throughout the year. They employed an average of 6.5 men each. They hoisted in all 32,600 cubic yards of gravel, from which $134,000 worth of gold was sluiced. The value of the gold content of the gravel per cubic yard ranged from $2.46 to $8.27 and averaged $4.11. The gravel mined per man per day, including surface and underground employees, ranged from 0.73 to 3.25 cubic yards and averaged 2.59 cubic yards.

The large open-cut mines in the Fairbanks district were operated on an average for 130 days. The returns from these mines are not nearly enough complete to permit a determination of the average gold recovery, but if the hydraulic mines are included and not the dredges, it ranged from 54 cents to $1.78 a cubic yard.

There was little development of the auriferous lodes in the district during 1920, nor were any discoveries reported. Work was continued in a small way at the Crites & Feldman and Billy Sunday (Smith & McGonnigle) properties, and incidentally some ore was mined and milled. Similar but smaller operations were carried on at half a dozen other quartz properties. These activities are exceptional, for the general practice of the owners of lode property in the district is to await lower operating costs before attempting lode developments.

Lode gold and silver produced in the Fairbanks district, 1910–1920.

Year.	Crude ore (short tons).	Gold.		Silver.	
		Quantity (fine ounces).	Value.	Quantity (fine ounces).	Value.
1910	148	841.19	$17,389	106	$57
1911	875	3,103.02	64,145	582	308
1912	4,708	9,416.54	194,657	1,578	971
1913	12,237	16,904.98	349,457	4,124	2,491
1914	6,526	10,904.75	225,421	2,209	1,222
1915	5,845	10,534.91	217,776	1,796	910
1916	1,111	1,904.81	39,376	140	92
1917	1,200	2,311.38	47,781	2,217	1,826
1918	1,035	1,294.04	26,750	616	616
1919	1,384	2,026.57	41,893	378	424
1920	504	967.48	20,000	164	178
	35,573	60,209.67	1,244,645	13,910	9,095

HOT SPRINGS DISTRICT.

As will be seen from the subjoined table, the gold output of the Hot Springs district was only about half as large in 1920 as in 1919. Eleven placer mines, employing 30 men, were operated in the summer of 1920, and 4, employing 15 men, in the previous winter. The value of the average gold recovery from deep mines was about $5.50 per cubic yard. Six of these mines produced a little stream tin, the total output being 7,057 pounds. The district has produced in all 265½ tons of concentrates, containing about 336,060 pounds of metallic tin, valued at $157,695.

Placer gold and silver produced in the Hot Springs district, 1902–1920.

Year.	Gold.		Silver.	
	Quantity (fine ounces).	Value.	Quantity (fine ounces).	Value.
1902–3	12,717.79	$262,900	1,818	$964
1904	7,038.56	145,500	1,007	584
1905	5,805.00	120,000	831	507
1906	8,707.50	180,000	1,245	843
1907	8,465.63	175,000	1,210	798
1908	7,256.25	150,000	1,038	550
1909	15,721.88	325,000	2,248	1,169
1910	15,721.88	325,000	2,248	1,169
1911	37,974.37	785,000	5,430	2,932
1912	19,350.00	400,000	3,267	2,009
1913	19,350.00	400,000	3,267	1,973
1914	36,281.25	750,000	6,125	3,387
1915	29,508.75	610,000	4,982	2,526
1916	38,700.00	800,000	6,534	4,299
1917	21,768.75	450,000	3,675	3,028
1918	7,256.25	150,000	1,225	1,225
1919	4,837.50	100,000	817	915
1920	2,418.75	50,000	567	618
	298,880.11	6,178,400	47,534	29,496

TOLOVANA DISTRICT.

A shortage of water prevails in the Tolovana district in all but very wet seasons and has hampered mining for the last two years. About 13 mines, employing 106 men, were operated during the summer of 1920, and 6 mines, employing 60 men, during the preceding winter. In 1920, as in previous years, the mines making the largest production were those of Livengood Creek.

Placer gold and silver produced in the Tolovana district, 1915–1920.

Year.	Gold.		Silver.	
	Quantity (fine ounces).	Value.	Quantity (fine ounces).	Value.
1915	3,870.00	$80,000	321	$163
1916	33,862.50	700,000	2,813	1,851
1917	55,631.25	1,150,000	8,430	6,946
1918	42,328.12	875,000	4,060	4,060
1919	25,396.88	525,000	2,141	2,454
1920	9,675.00	200,000	819	893
	170,763.75	3,530,000	18,634	16,367

RAMPART DISTRICT.

Only small placer mines are being operated in the Rampart district. In 1920 there were 10 summer mines, employing 20 men, and 4 winter mines, employing 6 men.

Placer gold and silver produced in the Rampart district, 1896–1920.

Year.	Gold.		Silver.	
	Quantity (fine ounces).	Value.	Quantity (fine ounces).	Value.
1896–1903	29,799.00	$616,000	4,440	$2,664
1904	4,353.75	90,000	649	376
1905	3,870.00	80,000	576	351
1906	5,805.00	120,000	865	588
1907	6,046.87	125,000	901	595
1908	3,628.12	75,000	540	286
1909	4,837.50	100,000	721	375
1910	2,080.12	43,000	310	167
1911	1,548.00	32,000	231	125
1912	1,548.00	32,000	274	169
1913	1,548.00	32,000	274	165
1914	1,451.25	30,000	257	142
1915	1,693.13	35,000	300	152
1916	1,935.00	40,000	343	226
1917	1,596.37	33,000	280	231
1918	1,161.00	24,000	206	206
1919	1,451.25	30,000	90	101
1920	967.50	20,000	69	75
	75,319.86	1,557,000	11,326	6,994

CIRCLE DISTRICT.

The output of gold in the Circle district in 1920 was only about one-third of that in 1919. About 20 mines were operated, employing some 50 men in the summer of 1920, and about 9 mines, employing 15 men, in the previous winter. The small output of gold was due partly to the closing down of the dredge and partly to a dry season, which caused a shortage of water for sluicing.

Placer gold and silver produced in the Circle district, 1894–1920.

Year.	Gold.		Silver.	
	Quantity (fine ounces).	Value.	Quantity (fine ounces).	Value.
1894	483.75	$10,000	123	$77
1895	7,256.25	150,000	1,886	1,226
1896	33,862.50	700,000	8,794	6,080
1897	24,187.50	500,000	6,289	3,773
1898	19,350.00	400,000	5,031	2,968
1899	12,093.75	250,000	3,144	1,886
1900	12,093.75	250,000	3,144	1,886
1901	9,675.00	200,000	2,512	1,507
1902	9,675.00	200,000	2,512	1,331
1903	9,675.00	200,000	3,144	1,698
1904	9,675.00	200,000	3,144	1,823
1905	9,675.00	200,000	3,144	1,918
1906	14,512.50	300,000	3,773	2,565
1907	9,675.00	200,000	3,144	2,075
1908	8,465.63	175,000	2,212	1,166
1909	10,884.37	225,000	2,830	1,472
1910	10,884.37	225,000	2,830	1,528
1911	16,931.25	350,000	4,402	2,333
1912	15,721.87	325,000	2,439	1,500
1913	8,465.63	175,000	1,314	794
1914	10,884.37	225,000	1,689	934
1915	11,126.25	230,000	1,727	875
1916	14,512.50	300,000	2,252	1,482
1917	9,675.00	200,000	1,561	1,285
1918	8,465.63	175,000	1,798	1,798
1919	6,530.63	135,000	1,260	1,411
1920	2,660.62	55,000	464	506
	317,098.12	6,555,000	76,562	47,897

RICHARDSON DISTRICT.

Auriferous gravels are rather widely distributed in the Richardson district, in the Tanana Valley. No very rich placers have been found, and the mining consists of relatively small operations at widely scattered localities. It is estimated that eight mines, employing 18 men, were operated in the summer of 1920, and one mine, employing 3 men, was operated in the previous winter.

Placer gold and silver produced in the Richardson district, 1905–1920.

Year.	Gold.		Silver.	
	Quantity (fine ounces).	Value.	Quantity (fine ounces).	Value.
1905	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)
1906	4,837.50	$100,000	989	$673
1907	18,140.62	375,000	3,707	2,447
1908	18,140.62	375,000	3,707	1,965
1909	7,256.25	150,000	1,483	771
1910	4,837.50	100,000	989	534
1911	4,837.50	100,000	989	524
1912	4,837.50	100,000	989	608
1913	4,837.50	100,000	989	597
1914	4,837.50	100,000	989	547
1915	4,595.62	95,000	939	476
1916	3,870.00	80,000	790	520
1917	1,289.37	25,000	245	202
1918	290.25	6,000	59	59
1919	483.75	10,000	99	111
1920	338.62	7,000	69	75
	83,430.10	1,723,000	17,032	10,109

[a] Prospects.

EAGLE DISTRICT.

In the Eagle district about 10 mines, employing 25 men, were operated in the summer of 1920. There was no winter mining. Most of the productive mining was done in the Seventymile basin.

Placer gold and silver produced in the Eagle and Seventymile districts, 1908–1920.

Year.	Gold.		Silver.	
	Quantity (fine ounces).	Value.	Quantity (fine ounces).	Value.
1908	483.75	$10,000	76	$40
1909	1,209.37	25,000	191	99
1910	483.75	10,000	76	41
1911	580.50	12,000	92	49
1912	967.50	20,000	164	100
1913	2,418.75	50,000	382	231
1914	2,418.75	50,000	382	211
1915	1,935.00	40,000	305	155
1916	822.37	17,000	130	86
1917	628.88	13,000	96	75
1918	1,209.37	25,000	191	191
1919	969.50	20,000	152	170
1920	725.62	15,000	99	108
	14,853.11	307,000	3,336	1,556

FORTYMILE DISTRICT.

The miners of the Fortymile district suffered losses in 1920 because of a lack of water for sluicing, as the summer was exceptionally dry. For this reason and because of the general economic conditions the output of gold was smaller than it has been for 20 years. About 22 mines, employing 30 men, were operated in the summer of 1920, and

12 mines, employing 20 men, during the previous winter. These figures show that much the larger part of this mining was done by men working alone, who obtained their gold from the relatively rich pockets of auriferous gravels. These "snipers," though their operations augment the number of mines, do not add greatly to the production of gold. The value of the recovered gold per man per year in this type of mining does not average more than a few hundred dollars, not enough to pay for a year's provisions. (See pp. 15–17.) These small operations were forced upon many of the miners because the lack of water prevented the larger operations.

Though productive mining was at a low ebb in the Fortymile district during 1920, there was some systematic prospecting of larger bodies of auriferous gravels on both Dennison and North forks. A hydraulic plant was being installed on the upper end of Jack Wade Creek. The completion of the wagon road from Eagle, part of which is now only a sled road, would do much toward stimulating the mining industry of this isolated district.

Placer gold and silver produced in the Fortymile district, 1886–1920.

Year.	Gold.		Silver.	
	Quantity (fine ounces).	Value.	Quantity (fine ounces).	Value.
1886–1903	193,500.00	$4,000,000	30,553	$22,915
1904	14,851.12	307,000	2,345	1,360
1905	12,384.00	256,000	1,955	1,193
1906	9,868.50	204,000	1,558	1,059
1907	6,772.50	140,000	1,069	706
1908	6,772.50	140,000	1,069	567
1909	10,884.37	225,000	1,719	894
1910	9,675.00	200,000	1,528	825
1911	9,575.00	200,000	1,528	810
1912	10,303.87	213,000	1,627	1,000
1913	4,837.50	100,000	764	461
1914	2,418.75	50,000	382	211
1915	2,418.75	50,000	382	194
1916	2,418.75	50,000	382	251
1917	3,870,00	80,000	624	513
1918	3,628.12	75,000	573	573
1919	1,983.37	41,000	313	350
1920	1,935.00	40,000	348	380
	308,197.10	6,371,000	48,791	34,262

CHISANA DISTRICT.

The Chisana district is in the headwater region of Tanana River and is difficult of access. Though it lies within the Yukon basin the district receives its supplies and obtains its transportation through the Copper River basin. About 8 mines, employing 18 men, were operated in the district during the summer of 1920; there was no winter mining. Though no large deposits of valuable auriferous gravels nor rich placers were found in 1920, the gravel mined ranged from 81 cents to $12.40 per cubic yard and averaged about $2.08.

The mines were operated for an average of about 120 days. The information in hand shows that the average earnings of the miners were about $10 a day, or $1,200 for the season, so that in spite of the high cost of supplies the few miners in the district were better off than the average small operators of Alaska. (See pp. 15–17.)

Placer gold and silver produced in the Chisana district, 1913-1920.

Year.	Gold.		Silver.	
	Quantity (fine ounces).	Value.	Quantity (fine ounces).	Value.
1913	1,935.00	$40,000	465	$280
1914	12,093.75	250,000	2,910	1,609
1915	7,740.00	160,000	1,862	944
1916	1,935.00	40,000	465	306
1917	1,935.00	40,000	420	346
1918	725.63	15,000	160	160
1919	1,306.12	27,000	314	352
1920	967.50	20,000	137	150
	28,638.00	592,000	6,733	4,147

BONNIFIELD DISTRICT.

Small-scale placer mining was done on Moose, Eva, and Daniel creeks, in the Bonnifield district, during 1920. It is estimated that 6 mines were operated during the summer, employing about 10 men. The coal mining in the Nenana field, lying within the Bonnifield district, has already been described (p. 126).

Placer gold and silver produced in the Bonnifield district, 1903–1920.

Year.	Gold.		Silver.	
	Quantity (fine ounces).	Value.	Quantity (fine ounces).	Value.
1903–1906	1,451.25	$30,000	227	$136
1907	241.87	5,000	38	25
1908	241.87	5,000	38	20
1909	2,418.75	50,000	379	197
1910	483.75	10,000	76	41
1911	967.50	20,000	152	81
1912	967.50	20,000	152	93
1913	967.50	20,000	152	92
1914	1,451.25	30,000	227	126
1915	967.50	20,000	152	77
1916	483.75	10,000	76	50
1917	580.50	12,000	98	81
1918	580.50	12,000	91	91
1919	483.75	10,000	75	84
1920	241.87	5,000	38	41
	12,529.11	259,000	1,971	1,235

KANTISHNA DISTRICT.[31]

The mining of galena ores carrying much silver at the Quigley mine, in the Kantishna district, has greatly stimulated prospecting for both lodes and placers in the district. Mining was probably more active in the Kantishna than in any other district of the Yukon region. The production from placer mining was, however, about the same as in previous years. About 20 mines, employing about 55 men, were operated in the summer of 1920. The largest output of gold was made on Glenn Creek; the next creeks in order were Eureka, Moose, Little Moose, and Wickersham. The placers of the district are not rich, the value of the average gold recovery from them in 1920 being about $1 a cubic yard. This district, however, contains some considerable bodies of low-grade gravel, which should give profitable returns if worked on a large scale.

Placer gold and silver produced in the Kantishna district, 1903-1920.

Year.	Gold.		Silver.	
	Quantity (fine ounces).	Value.	Quantity (fine ounces).	Value.
1903-1906	8,465.62	$175,000	1,325	$795
1907	725.62	15,000	114	75
1908	725.62	15,000	114	60
1909	241.87	5,000	38	20
1910	483.75	10,000	76	41
1911	1,451.25	30,000	227	120
1912	1,451.25	30,000	227	140
1913	1,451.25	30,000	227	137
1914	967.50	20,000	152	84
1915	967.50	20,000	152	77
1916	1,451.25	30,000	227	149
1917	725.63	15,000	120	99
1918	1,451.25	30,000	227	227
1919	725.63	15,000	114	128
1920	1,209.37	25,000	320	349
	22,494.36	465,000	3,660	2,501

Stewart[32] has summarized the lode mining developments in the district during 1920 as follows:

Aitken property (*Quigley mine*).—The twenty-odd claims comprising this property, owned by Quigley & Dalton, are being worked under option by Mr. Thos. P. Aitken. The group practically covers the ridge forming the divide between Friday and Eureka creeks (known as Quigley Mountain) and extends from the low bench bordering Moose Creek to the summit of Quigley Mountain.

Work under this option has continued throughout the past two seasons, and a considerable amount of high-grade ore has been shipped to the Selby smelter, at San Francisco.

Mining and shipping costs under present conditions make shipment of ore running less than 200 ounces in silver to the ton prohibitive. The ore consists principally of silver-bearing galena and gray copper (tetrahedrite).

[31] Capps, S. R., The Kantishna region, Alaska: U. S. Geol. Survey Bull. 687, 1919.

[32] Stewart, B. D., Annual report of the Territorial mine inspector to the governor of Alaska, 1920, pp. 12-14, 1921.

The mine equipment at the Aitken camp consists of a blacksmith shop, ore-assorting table and grizzly, and a combined bunkhouse and boarding house with bunks for fifteen men. Eleven men were employed at the time of visit.

Shipments have been made from two distinct ore shoots. These are practically parallel, running northeasterly and southwesterly and separated by a distance of a few hundred feet.

During the season of 1919 work was confined to the upper or southerly one of these two ore bodies. The workings consist of a shaft 100 feet in depth, from which drifts were run at the 30 and 60 foot levels below the collar. As mined, this shoot has been shown to be over 200 feet in length. A crosscut tunnel was run, at the elevation of the bottom of the shaft, having a length of approximately 300 feet, and from this a drift was run to connect with the bottom of the shaft. No work was being done on this shoot, and the workings were obstructed by ice at the time of visit, in October, 1920.

The ore body now being exploited is opened by a shaft 40 feet deep, connection with the bottom of which is made by a crosscut tunnel, known as the main tunnel, 130 feet long, and a drift on the ore shoot approximately 75 feet in length. A second crosscut 90 feet long has been driven at a distance of about 40 feet from the main tunnel and parallel to it, from which a drift has been run westerly, almost connecting with the main tunnel.

At the time of visit stoping was in progress in the vicinity of the shaft above the main level. A shaft located on the strike of the above-described ore body and about 150 feet east of the main tunnel had been started on the outcrop and was down about 20 feet, with work still proceeding in it. Very good ore was being secured from this shaft.

Galena lode.—The Galena lode prospect is described in United States Geological Survey Bulletin No. 687, pp. 105–106.

This property is now controlled by Mr. James Haney, who has established a camp on the ground and has outlined a systematic program of development, which is being put through this winter.

A sled road has been built to the workings and a season's supplies laid in at the camp.

At the time of visit (October, 1920) approximately 50 tons of high-grade ore had been taken out and sacked for shipment, and it was estimated that at least an additional 100 tons would be sacked during the winter. Surface prospecting had been carried on at numerous places with encouraging results.

During the present winter it is planned to drive a 75-foot crosscut on the ground and then sink a winze on the ore zone in order to prospect the deposit at greater depth. If conditions prove favorable, a lower tunnel is proposed. With a length of 507 feet this tunnel would give a depth of 228 feet below the present tunnel.

As at the Aitken property, the ore on the Galena prospect is steel galena and gray copper, both carrying high silver content.

Red Top lode.—The Red Top lode, owned by Joseph Quigley, lies at the foot of Quigley Mountain, on the bench a short distance south of Friday Creek near its confluence with Moose Creek, and adjoins the Aitken group on the west. Numerous well-constructed and well-planned open cuts expose the outcrop of the ore shoot over a strike length of about 300 feet. The average width of the ore body appears to be about 9 feet.

The work done reveals a very encouraging showing of galena and gray copper ore which is deserving of thorough exploration.

Apex lode.—O. M. Grant has located the Apex lode, adjoining the Galena lode on the west, and lying on the bench between the Galena lode and Moose Creek. An open cut was driven during the 1920 season.

Dalton claims.—Northwest of the Apex lode and lying southwesterly from the Red Top lode are the Star, Jumbo, and Caribou lodes, located by Joseph Dalton, who has done some open-cut work upon them.

RUBY DISTRICT.

The Ruby district has the distinction among the larger Yukon camps of having slightly increased its gold output in 1920 over that of 1919. (See subjoined table.) In this district 30 mines, employing 95 men, were operated in the summer, and 8 mines, employing 34 men, in the previous winter. The largest output of gold was obtained from 6 mines on Long Creek. Greenstone, Poorman, and Birch creeks were next in output of gold. Much the larger part of the mining was done on deep placers, and this work was confined chiefly to deposits rich in gold. Returns that were complete enough to allow the computation of the recoveries of gold were received from 14 mines, in which the value of the gold recovered per cubic yard ranged from $2.14 to $11.80 and averaged $4.85. The value of the average recovery of gold for the entire district, including all forms of mining, is estimated at $3.90 per cubic yard.

Placer gold and silver produced in the Ruby district, 1907–1920.

Year.	Gold.		Silver.	
	Quantity (fine ounces).	Value.	Quantity (fine ounces).	Value.
1907-8	48.38	$1,000	7	$4
1909				
1910				
1911				
1912	8,465.63	175,000	1,157	712
1913	37,974.37	785,000	5,188	3,134
1914	48,375.00	1,000,000	6,609	3,655
1915	33,862.50	700,000	4,626	2,345
1916	41,118.75	850,000	5,618	3,697
1917	42,811.88	885,000	6,073	5,046
1918	19,350.00	400,000	3,000	3,000
1919	7,981.88	165,000	1,255	1,406
1920	8,223.75	170,000	1,113	1,213
	248,212.14	5,131,000	34,646	24,212

In the summer of 1920 a galena deposit was discovered 13 miles south of Ruby, on the north side of Beaver Creek, near the mouth of Dome Creek and a mile and a half east of the wagon road from Ruby to Long. The rocks in the vicinity are quartzites and quartzitic schists, which are part of the "Paleozoic or older undifferentiated metamorphic rocks" described by Mertie and Harrington.[33] The locality was visited early in August by G. C. Martin, who reports that several deep trenches and pits and short tunnels had been dug into the hillside. Part of the exposures in these openings may be in place, but it is doubtful whether any rock that is wholly undisturbed had been revealed in them. Most of the galena occurs in narrow

[33] Mertie, J. B., jr., and Harrington, G. L., Mineral resources of the Ruby-Kuskokwim region: U. S. Geol. Survey Bull. 642, pp. 230-231, pl. 11, 1916.

veins and stringers in the schist. The veins seem to cut the bedding planes at a low angle. A vein about 2 feet wide was indicated by the material exposed in one cut, but there was some doubt as to its actual width. In the frozen talus on the lower slope of the hillside blocks of ore, some as much as 2 feet square, lie scattered for at least half a mile up and down the creek. These blocks may have been derived from one lode, but there are indications of the existence of several veins. The ore seen in the talus and in the prospect openings is much oxidized and iron-stained and was apparently derived from a heavy gossan.

INNOKO DISTRICT.

During the summer of 1920 there was an unusually large supply of water for sluicing in the Innoko district, but unfortunately the camp was short of supplies, for the rivers had frozen up early in the fall of 1919 and provisions had to be brought in from the Kuskokwim at a cost of 10 cents a pound for transportation. There was also some shortage of labor.

In all 21 mines, employing 50 men, were operated during the summer of 1920, and 7 mines, employing 36 men, during the previous winter. Of the total gold output (see subjoined table) about $7,000 was won from the placers of the Tolstoi region, chiefly from those of the Madison Creek basin. The largest placer-mining operations in the district were those on Ophir Creek; next in order of production were those on Spruce, Victor, and Ganes creeks. The largest gold output has come from open-cut summer mining. Returns received from six of the large open-cut workings in this district showed that the value of the gold recovery ranged from 74 cents to $1.90 and averaged $1.28 to the cubic yard. These returns are well above the minimum required for profitable dredging. The information at hand indicates that the district includes large areas of dredging ground. Separate plans are now under way to install four dredges. The two dredges for Yankee Creek were frozen in on Kuskokwim River in the fall of 1920. A project for moving the Greenstone dredge in the Iditarod district to Ganes Creek in 1920 failed on account of the early freeze-up. These three dredges may be installed before the end of 1921.

Placer gold and silver produced in the Innoko and Tolstoi districts, 1907–1920.

Year.	Gold.		Silver.	
	Quantity (fine ounces).	Value.	Quantity (fine ounces).	Value.
1907	628.87	$13,000	67	$44
1908	3,483.00	72,000	370	196
1909	16,447.50	340,000	1,746	908
1910	15,721.87	325,000	1,669	901
1911	12,093.75	250,000	1,284	681
1912	12,093.75	250,000	1,284	681
1913	13,545.00	280,000	1,438	869
1914	9,675.00	200,000	1,027	568
1915	9,191.25	190,000	976	495
1916	10,642.50	220,000	1,130	744
1917	8,465.63	175,000	1,113	917
1918	5,805.00	120,000	608	608
1919	6,772.50	140,000	717	803
1920	4,982.62	103,000	529	577
	129,548.24	2,678,000	13,958	8,992

IDITAROD DISTRICT.

Twelve open-cut mines and two dredges were operated in the Iditarod district in the summer of 1920 and employed a total of 176 men. The dredges were operated on Otter Creek, and most of the other mining was done on Flat Creek, but some was done on Chicken, Happy, and Willow creeks. Both the dredges were operated from early in May until about the middle of November and worked on ground about 13 feet deep. Other mines were operated for an average of about 120 days. The average value of the gold recovery for all workings, including the dredges, was 90 cents a cubic yard. Returns from 7 open-cut mines were complete enough to permit computation of the gold recovery, which ranged from 56 cents to $2.40 a cubic yard and averaged $1.45. These returns came from ground ranging from 3 to 15 feet deep. These 7 open-cut mines were worked in part by the hydraulic method, in part by steam scrapers, and in part by pick and shovel.

Placer gold and silver produced in the Iditarod district, 1910–1920.

Year.	Gold.		Silver.	
	Quantity (fine ounces).	Value.	Quantity (fine ounces).	Value.
1910	24,187.50	$500,000	4,254	$2,297
1911	120,937.50	2,500,000	21,270	11,273
1912	169,312.50	3,500,000	29,778	18,313
1913	89,977.50	1,860,000	9,551	5,769
1914	99,652.50	2,060,000	10,578	5,849
1915	99,168.75	2,050,000	10,526	5,337
1916	94,331.25	1,950,000	10,013	6,589
1917	72,562.50	1,500,000	11,050	9,105
1918	59,985.00	1,240,000	9,000	9,000
1919	35,071.88	725,000	5,300	5,937
1920	24,429.37	505,000	3,628	3,954
	889,616.25	18,390,000	124,948	83,423

It is reported that a cinnabar-bearing lode on Montana Creek, tributary to upper Iditarod River, is being developed. (See p. 24.) A galena prospect in the Kaiyuk Range, about 20 miles south of the Yukon below Louden, which was discovered several years ago, was being developed in the summer of 1920. This locality has not been visited by any member of the Geological Survey, but uncertain evidence indicates that areas in the vicinity contain schist and diabase.[34] It was reported in the summer of 1920 that a vein containing 18 inches of solid galena had been discovered, and later that 175 tons of ore was mined from the prospect in the winter of 1920–21.

MARSHALL DISTRICT.

The Marshall district, which lies in the Wade Hampton recording precinct, has been described by Harrington.[35] About 8 mines, employing 30 men, were operated in the district during the summer of 1920. Most of the gold obtained was taken from the Willow Creek placers, which are from 2 to 3 feet deep and from which the gold recovery is $4 to $6 a cubic yard.

Some new placer ground is said to have been developed on Stuyak Creek, which enters Yukon River from the west about 8 miles above the Russian Mission, and some on Kato Creek, which is in the immediate vicinity.

Placer gold and silver produced in the Marshall district, 1914–1920.

Year.	Gold.		Silver.	
	Quantity (fine ounces).	Value.	Quantity (fine ounces).	Value.
1914	725.62	$15,000	94	$52
1915	1,209.37	25,000	156	79
1916	13,061.25	270,000	1,686	1,109
1917	20,559.37	425,000	3,300	2,719
1918	7,256.25	150,000	940	940
1919	4,837.50	100,000	624	699
1920	4,353.75	90,000	552	602
	52,003.11	1,075,000	7,352	6,200

INDIAN RIVER AND GOLD HILL DISTRICTS.

Some mining has been done in the Indian River and Gold Hill districts of the middle Yukon, but it has practically ceased. During 1920 only three mines were operated in these two districts, employing eight men in all, and the value of their total output of gold was only $2,000.

[34] Maddren, A. G., The Innoko gold-placer district, Alaska: U. S. Geol. Survey Bull. 410, pp. 43–44, pl. 2, 1910.

[35] Harrington, G. L., The Anvik-Andreafski region, Alaska: U. S. Geol. Survey Bull. 683, 1918.

Placer gold and silver produced in the Indian River and Gold Hill districts, 1911–1920.

Year.	Gold.		Silver.	
	Quantity (fine ounces).	Value.	Quantity (fine ounces).	Value.
1911	483.75	$10,000	69	$37
1912	1,185.19	24,500	170	105
1913	1,548.00	32,000	221	133
1914	1,209.37	25,000	173	96
1915	725.63	15,000	104	53
1916	483.75	10,000	69	45
1917	241.88	5,000	27	22
1918	193.50	4,000	29	29
1919	338.62	7,000	52	58
1920	96.74	2,000	2	2
	6,506.43	134,500	916	580

CHANDALAR DISTRICT.

The Chandalar district,[36] lying north of the Yukon, is one of the isolated camps in which a little placer gold has been mined for a number of years (see subjoined table) and in which a little gold-lode mining has been attempted. Up to 1919 no rich placers had been found in the district, and the mining amounted to little more than getting out a "grub stake" by a few men. In 1919 some promising deposits were discovered on Squaw and Big creeks, and these were systematically developed in 1920, yielding good returns. The principal part of the output of gold has come from these two creeks. These deposits, which include some deep ground, seem to be valuable enough to justify further prospecting. It is said that nearly 50 men are prospecting the district. The gravels mined in 1920 yielded about $5.50 to the cubic yard.

Placer gold and silver produced in the Chandalar district, 1906–1920.

Year.	Gold.		Silver.	
	Quantity (fine ounces).	Value.	Quantity (fine ounces).	Value.
1906–1912	2,902.50	$60,000	416	$241
1913	266.06	5,500	38	23
1914	241.87	5,000	35	19
1915	241.87	5,000	35	18
1916	435.37	9,000	62	41
1917	725.63	15,000	104	86
1918	628.88	13,000	96	96
1919	453.75	10,000	79	88
1920	870.75	18,000	125	136
	5,895.93	122,500	990	748

[36] Maddren, A. G., The Koyukuk-Chandalar region: U. S. Geol. Survey Bull. 532, 1913.

KOYUKUK DISTRICT.

About 20 mines, employing 55 men, were operated in the Koyukuk district in the summer and 5 mines, employing 15 men, during the winter of 1920. The average gold recovery for all mining was about $2.50 a cubic yard. The annual gold output of the district has heretofore been chiefly maintained by the exploitation of very rich deep placers, whose gold content was from $4 to $12 a yard and averaged much more than $5. These bonanza deposits have been of no great extent, but their richness has made their exploitation very profitable. Most of them, however, are very irregularly distributed, and their discovery involves much expensive dead work. The present relatively low average gold recovery is due to the fact that mining now includes a much greater percentage of open-cut work than it did in the past. The mines are now operating on placers which, though of greater bulk than the deep bonanzas, have a much smaller gold content per cubic yard. A number of small hydraulic plants are being successfully operated in the district. Most of the gold output of the district in 1920 came from Myrtle, Nolan, Jay, and Smith creeks.

Placer gold and silver produced in the Koyukuk district, 1900–1920.

Year.	Gold.		Silver.	
	Quantity (fine ounces).	Value.	Quantity (fine ounces).	Value.
1900–1909	106,454.02	$2,200,600	15,242	$8,993
1910	7,740.00	160,000	1,108	598
1911	6,772.50	140,000	970	514
1912	9,675.00	200,000	1,385	852
1913	19,350.00	400,000	2,770	1,673
1914	12,577.50	260,000	1,800	995
1915	13,303.12	275,000	1,902	964
1916	14,996.25	310,000	2,147	1,413
1917	12,093.75	250,000	1,700	1,401
1918	7,256.25	150,000	860	860
1919	5,321.25	110,000	760	851
1920	4,353.75	90,000	146	159
	219,893.39	4,545,600	30,790	19,273

KUSKOKWIM REGION.

The value of the placer gold output of the Kuskokwim region in 1919 was about $350,000 and in 1920 was about $305,000. These figures are only approximate, for many of the mine operators failed to report their output. About 32 placer mines, employing about 125 men, were operated in the summer of 1920, and there was no winter mining. More prospecting, both lode and placer, was done in the Kuskokwim region than in any other part of Alaska. This activity was largely stimulated by the large-scale prospecting of the Treadwell lode property in the Nixon Fork basin, first opened up in 1919.

G. C. Martin has prepared the following statement concerning mining in the McKinley district, of which McGrath is the post office and supply point:

So far as known, only two large and three small placer mines were operated in the McGrath district in 1920. The large operations are the dredge on Candle Creek and a hydraulic mine on Moore Creek, a tributary of Tacotna River. One of the small mines is on Hidden Creek and two are on Ruby Creek, all in the basin of Nixon Fork. The Kuskokwim Dredging Co. operated its dredge on Candle Creek from May 24 to October 13, except during an interruption in September on account of a broken shaft. It employed an average of 22 men and handled 74,597 cubic yards of gravel. The Moore Creek hydraulic plant is mining gravel about 14 feet in depth. The mine on Hidden Creek is exploiting a deposit 75 to 125 feet wide and about 4 feet deep. One of the mines on Ruby Creek is deep, and the other is a small open cut.

Much prospecting for gold lode veins was done in the Nixon Fork region during the summer of 1920. During the previous winter several hundred tons of ore was taken from the Crystal shaft, which was shipped during the summer. Early in the spring the property from which this shipment was made and the other neighboring claims passed into the control of the Alaska Treadwell Gold Mining Co. Actual mining thereupon ceased, but active prospecting to determine the quantity of ore available was continued throughout the year. Several shafts, 50 to 100 feet deep, and numerous trenches and open cuts were dug, buildings were erected, and a large quantity of mining supplies was shipped up Kuskokwim River. B. D. Stewart, Territorial mine inspector,[37] reports that in September, 1920, three shafts, aggregating 200 feet in depth, drifts totaling 215 feet, and crosscuts totaling 110 feet were run and that 25 men were employed. Wages were $6 a day and board. Underground exploration was continued actively during the winter of 1920–21, with the hope of determining whether the quantity of ore available is sufficient to justify the installation of facilities for shipping or treating the ore.

It is believed that about 7 mines, employing about 12 men, were operated in the Georgetown district of the middle Kuskokwim during the summer of 1920. Reports of production have been received from Donlon and New York creeks, in this district, and of drilling in prospective dredging ground on Holitna River.

About 16 mines, employing 60 men, were operated in the Aniak district during the summer of 1920. The largest gold output was made on Canyon Creek, but gold was mined also on Bear, Crooked, Mary, George, and Marvel creeks and on George River. It is reported that hydraulic plants are being installed on Spruce Creek and Tiny Gulch, both tributary to Bear Creek. Some developments have been continued on a copper and gold bearing lode in the Russian Mountains 12 miles north of Kolmakof, on the Kuskokwim.[38] It is reported that a 50-foot shaft has been sunk on the lode.

The Parks quicksilver mine, on the lower Kuskokwim, was operated in a small way during 1920. E. W. Parks reports the discovery of a stibnite-realgar lode in the vicinity of Barometer Mountain. This mountain lies almost due south of the Parks mine and 5 miles

[37] Op. cit., p. 18.

[38] Maddren, A. G., Gold placers of the lower Kuskokwim: U. S. Geol. Survey Bull. 622, pp. 304–305, 1915.

from the Kuskokwim. Specimens said to have come from this deposit contain stibnite and realgar. The specimens received indicate that the country rocks in which the deposits occur are Mesozoic sandstones and shales, probably of Upper Cretaceous age, and that the geologic relations are probably similar to those of the Parks cinnabar deposit, which have been described by Smith,[39] but no cinnabar was found in the ore. Smith's geologic map [40] shows that the upper part of Barometer Mountain is made up of granite, which is intruded into Mesozoic sediments. This deposit is said to have been opened up by a 100-foot adit.

Mining in the Goodnews Bay district during 1920 was confined to Watermuse, Bear, and Cow Cow creeks. One placer mine was operated on each of these creeks, and a total of 12 men were employed.

SEWARD PENINSULA.[41]

GENERAL CONDITIONS.

The value of the total mineral output of Seward Peninsula in 1920 was $1,331,017, of which $1,300,000 is the value of the placer gold and the rest that of silver, platinum, tin, and coal. In 1919 the total value of the mineral output was $1,423,449, and that of placer gold was $1,360,000. A little platinum was recovered from the gold placers of the Koyuk and Fairhaven districts. (See p. 23.) Tin ore was mined in the York district on a reduced scale as compared with previous years, only one dredge and one small open-cut mine being operated on tin placers. (See p. 22.) A small output of coal was made from a lignite mine in the Fairhaven district. In the aggregate, there was considerable prospecting of lode deposits during the year. An experimental shipment of garnet sand to be used as abrasive was made from Nome in the summer of 1920. (See p. 33.)

The present insufficient steamship service to Nome is a great handicap to all forms of mining. This and the increased cost of transportation and supplies have prevented the development of new mining enterprises. No new mineral deposits were discovered in Seward Peninsula during the year.

PLACER MINING.

About 112 mines, employing 540 men, were operated on Seward Peninsula in the summer of 1920, and 8 mines, employing 60 men, during the previous winter. In 1919 there were about 103 summer mines, employing 555 men, and 10 winter mines, employing about 60 men. This increase in the number of mines does not indicate a

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[39] Smith, P. S., The Lake Clark-central Kuskokwim region, Alaska: U. S. Geol. Survey Bull. 655, pp. 139-148, 1917.

[40] Op. cit., pl. 5.

[41] A part of the information here presented is taken from a longer report by S. H. Cathcart, which, because of a shortage of printing funds it has seemed best not to publish in complete form.

growth of the mining industry, because nearly all were very small operations, and many were worked solely because the unusual abundance of water for sluicing gave opportunity for exploiting placers which under more normal conditions could not be worked. The small scale of the operations is indicated by the fact that returns from 19 of the mines showed a total value of gold output of only $10,870, and a total personnel of only 30 men. Moreover, many of these mines were worked for only a part of the mining season. It is estimated that 1,790,000 cubic yards of gold-bearing gravel were mined and sluiced on Seward Peninsula in 1920. The value of the average gold content of this gravel was about 73 cents to the cubic yard. In 1919 about 2,165,000 cubic yards of gravel was mined and the average gold content was 63 cents to the cubic yard. The decrease in 1920 is due to a decrease in the number of dredges operated.

The sources of the placer-gold output of Seward Peninsula, both by districts and by methods of mining, is shown in the following tables. The figures presented are in part based on estimates, but their possible error is believed to be not over 8 per cent.

Placer gold produced in Seward Peninsula in 1920, by districts.

District.	Value of gold output.	Summer.		Winter.	
		Mines.	Miners.	Mines.	Miners.
Nome	$540,000	30	216	5	20
Solomon and Casadepaga	50,000	8	32		
Koyuk	160,000	14	55	3	33
Council	360,000	17	70		
Kougarok	55,000	14	52		
Fairhaven	135,000	23	90	2	8
Port Clarence, etc		6	25		
	1,300,000	112	540	10	61

Placer gold produced in Seward Peninsula in 1920, by methods of mining.

Method.	Number of mines.	Number of miners.	Value of gold.
Dredging	17	145	$475,000
Hydraulic (includes all operations where any water is used to move gravel to sluice boxes)	28	200	500,000
Underground	14	65	155,000
Open-cut (other than hydraulic)	53	130	170,000
	112	540	1,300,000

In the Inmachuk region, as in other parts of the peninsula, gravels occur underneath basaltic volcanic flows.[42] During the last two years some of these buried gravels have been prospected with reported favorable results. In 1920 a considerable body of gravel on Candle Creek, in the Fairhaven district, was thawed by the cold-water method, with a view of dredging it in 1921. Some systematic investigations of

[42] Moffit, F. H., The Fairhaven gold-placer district, Alaska: U. S. Geol. Survey Bull. 247, pp. 31-35, 1905.

placer gravel were made in different districts of the peninsula during the summer of 1920, but on the whole not many projects looking to future large-scale operations were under way.

Dredging.—In 1920 17 gold dredges operating on the peninsula produced $475,000 worth of gold; in 1919 24 dredges produced $450,000 worth. In 1920 the dredges mined about 930,000 cubic yards of gravel containing about 51 cents worth of gold to the cubic yard; in 1919 the dredges mined only 865,000 cubic yards of gravel containing gold worth 52 cents to the yard. This greater efficiency of the dredges in 1920 lies in the fact that many of the small and comparatively inefficient dredges that contributed to the total yardage mined in 1919 were not operated in 1920 because of greater costs. Though the season of 1920 was not particularly favorable for dredging because the seasonal frost stayed in the ground rather far into the summer, the average length of operation was nearly 70 days in 1920, as compared with 50 days in 1919. The low average of 1919 was due entirely to the inefficiency of the small dredges, some of which were operated for less than 30 days. The longest operating season reported for any one dredge in 1920 was 96 days, and the longest in 1919 was 110 days.

Gold dredges operated on Seward Peninsula in 1920.

Nome district:
- Dexter Dredging Co., Dexter Creek.
- Center Creek Dredging Co., Center Creek.
- Dry Creek Dredging Co., Dry Creek.
- Arctic Creek Dredging Co., Arctic Creek.
- Alaska Mines Corporation, Flat Creek.
- Julian Dredge, Osburn Creek.

Solomon district:
- Esquimo Dredging Co., Solomon River.
- Shovel Creek Gold Dredging Co., Shovel Creek.
- Burness-Iverson-Johnson Dredge, Big Hurrah Creek.

Council district:
- Northern Light Mining Co., Ophir Creek.
- Wild Goose Mining & Trading Co., Ophir Creek.
- Crooked Creek Dredging Co., Crooked Creek.
- Flume Dredge Co., Melsing Creek.
- Flume Dredge Co., Basin Creek.

Kougarok district:
- Bering Dredging Co., Taylor Creek.
- Kelliher Dredging Co., Kougarok River.

Port Clarence district:
- Budd Creek Dredging Co., Budd Creek.

Deep mining.—Of the 14 mines working deep placers covered by a heavy overburden and carrying little or no gold that were operated in 1920 there were five each in the Nome and Koyuk districts, three in the Fairhaven, and one in the Kougarok. The deep mines of the Koyuk district produced about $86,000 and those of the Nome district about

$40,000 worth of gold. Of the total number of deep mines, seven were operated for a part of both the winter and the summer, one during the winter only and six during the summer only. The returns from 12 of these mines are sufficiently complete to permit the following analysis. These mines were operated from 30 to 307 days and an average of 146 days. They averaged nearly six employees per mine and hoisted and sluiced about 39,950 cubic yards of gravel, the value of whose gold content ranged from $2.86 to $12.62 a cubic yard. The richer of the deposits were those exploited by small miners, who were evidently working on rich pockets of placers. The average gold tenor for all the mines was $3.87 a cubic yard. An average of 3.8 cubic yards of gravel was mined per man per day, this average including all men employed both on the surface and underground.

Hydraulic and other open-cut mines.—Many of the operations classed as hydraulic were those in which only a part of the work of moving the granite to the sluice box is done by water under head. Water is not abundant enough nor are the grades steep enough in most of Seward Peninsula to permit ordinary hydraulic mining. Six hydraulic elevators were operated in 1920. The abundant rainfall during 1920, except in the Fairhaven district, favored hydraulic mining. The value of the gold recovery from the open-cut mines ranged from 45 cents to $2.40 to the cubic yard. Seventeen large open-cut mines, most of which did much hydraulic work, showed an average gold recovery of 70 cents to the cubic yard.

Gold and silver produced on Seward Peninsula, 1897–1920.

Year.	Gold.		Silver.	
	Quantity (fine ounces).	Value.	Quantity (fine ounces).	Value.
1897	725.63	$15,000	87	$52
1898	3,628.12	75,000	435	256
1899	135,450.00	2,800,000	16,254	9,752
1900	229,781.25	4,750,000	27,574	17,097
1901	199,822.61	4,130,700	24,579	14,747
1902	220,677.07	4,561,800	26,481	14,035
1903	215,994.38	4,465,000	24,171	13,052
1904	201,462.52	4,164,600	24,175	14,021
1905	232,200.00	4,800,000	27,864	16,997
1906	352,812.50	7,500,000	43,537	29,605
1907	338,625.00	7,000,000	25,497	16,828
1908	247,680.00	5,120,000	20,577	10,905
1909	207,077.50	4,260,000	20,871	10,853
1910	169,312.50	3,500,000	20,317	10,971
1911	149,962.50	3,100,000	17,996	9,718
1912	145,125.00	3,000,000	17,415	10,710
1913	120,937.50	2,500,000	12,094	7,305
1914	130,612.50	2,700,000	15,673	8,667
1915	140,287.50	2,900,000	17,510	8,878
1916	142,706.25	2.950,000	14,271	9,391
1917	125,775.00	2,600,000	13,770	11,346
1918	53,599.50	1,108,000	6,022	6,022
1919	65,790.00	1,360,000	6,940	7,773
1920	62,887.49	1,300,000	6,813	7,426
	3,892,932.32	80,660,100	430,923	266,407

LODE MINING AND PROSPECTING.

Little work was done on the lodes of Seward Peninsula in 1920. Explorations that were in progress at several localities have been discontinued for the present. The necessity of resuming annual assessment work occasioned some prospecting, but it was very desultory. About 50 men were engaged in lode prospecting for a part of the year.

The only production from lode mining in 1920 was that made by the gold-quartz property of Megan, Somerville & Megan, at Bluff. A dump mined during the winter was milled in the spring. Mr. Tom Ward worked three men for part of the summer on his copper property near Kougarok Mountain. He planned to sink on and crosscut the ledge in the winter of 1920–21. During the winter of 1920 a force of about 20 men was employed in exploring the tin lode on Cassiterite Creek. A 250-foot inclined shaft was sunk on the dike from a station on the lower tunnel. Work was discontinued in May.

Twenty men were employed during the winter and eight during the summer in prospecting the lead-silver property on Kugruk River. The developments on the property now consist of a 140-foot shaft and of 250 feet of drift on the 40-foot and 150 feet of drift on the 140-foot levels. The showing is considered favorable by the owners. Work was discontinued in September.

COMMERCIAL CONDITIONS.

There was some shortage of labor on Seward Peninsula during the summer of 1920, but it was not serious. Most of the dredging companies brought their crews with them, so that the dredges could not be operated until after navigation opened, about the end of June. The summer wage for common labor was $6 and board for an 8-hour day, but many of the larger companies insisted on a longer day. The winter wage in the Koyuk district was $5 and board for an 8-hour day. The average dredge wage for engineers and winchmen was $9 and board, the men working in 12-hour shifts. Many of the men were brought in and taken out during the summer, and probably most of them were paid for the entire season, including time spent in travel.

Board at Nome cost $2.50 to $3.50 a day, and it probably cost the mining companies at least $2 a day to feed their men. The cost of provisions at Nome in the summer of 1919 is indicated by the following retail prices per pound: Bacon, 75 cents; butter, 85 cents; sugar, 30 cents; flour, 10 cents; beans, 20 cents; potatoes, 15 cents; rice, 20 cents; eggs, 85 cents a dozen.

The price of coal per ton at Nome in 1920 was $39 in summer and $45 in winter. Fuel oil sold at $6 a barrel, gasoline at 60 cents a gallon, and distillate at 49 cents a gallon. At Dime Creek, in the Koyuk district, where there is timber, the price of wood was $16 a cord.

In 1920 the first of the summer fleet arrived at Nome on June 13, but shore ice prevented landing of freight until June 23. Storms began July 4, and tied up all coastwise shipping for three weeks and seriously interfered with the unloading of the vessels. The last of the freighters did not leave Nome until August 4, so that their return trips were delayed until September, a delay that seriously hampered mining. Three dredges did not receive their supplies and provisions until September and lost practically the whole season.

The freight rates vary, of course, with the classification, but the ordinary freight rate from Seattle to Nome and Anchorage was about $19 a ton l. c. l.[43] To this rate must be added the lighterage charge paid on all freight for transportation from shipside to beach. In 1920 the lighterage at Nome for ordinary freight was $10 a ton.[44] It is to be hoped that the completion of the jetty at the mouth of Snake River, which is now being built by the Government and which will give a safe harbor for barges and small craft, will lead to a reduction of the lighterage charges.

Even after the freight is landed on the beach at Nome or other settlement the miner may still have to meet the heavier cost of overland transportation. For the mines that are reached by the good local roads leading out from Nome the cost of transportation is only about $3 a ton. On the other hand, the price charged for hauling freight from Nome to Boulder Creek (10 miles) was $50, to Goldbottom Creek (16 miles) $66, and to Manila Creek (20 miles) $94 a ton. In the Koyuk district freight rates from steamer landing on Norton Sound to Dime Creek, a distance of 20 miles, are $50 a ton in summer and $30 a ton in winter. The above rates show that the placer miner, unless he is on the good system tributary to Nome, must pay from $2.50 to $5 a ton per mile for the land transportation of his freight, which has already cost him $30 to $50 landed on the beach. This is one of the best arguments for more road construction in the Alaska placer camps.

All this goes to show that cost of transportation is the heaviest drain on mining. The total cost of delivering freight to the camps on Seward Peninsula[45] is estimated as follows: Ocean freight,

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[43] Examples of freight rates are coal (c.l.), $13.65; explosives, $35.50; automobiles, $64.50 to $109 per ton. The freight rate to Golovin in 1920 was $21; Teller, $23.50; Lost River, $26.25; York and Kotzbue settlement, $29.

[44] Examples of lighterage on different classes of freight at Nome are as follows: Coal, $8; machinery, $10; explosives, $14 a ton. Lighterage at Bonanza, $15; at Teller, $7.50; and at Kotzebue, $8. The following coastwise freight rates were in effect in 1920: Nome to Dime Landing, $20; Nome to Solomon, $12; Teller to York, $10; Teller to Kotzebue, $40.

[45] According to report of R. W. J. Reed, customs collector of the port of Nome, dated October 21, 1920, the following freight was landed in 1920: General merchandise, 7,599 tons; coal (domestic), 2,511 tons; (foreign), 315 tons; lumber, 734,574 feet b. m.; live stock, 16 head.

Seattle to Nome, $200,000; lighterage at Nome, $106,000; local distribution, $170,000. These figures include freight landed by coastwise, river, and land transportation and are based on the costs considered on preceding pages and on estimates of percentages of total freight delivered to each district. The figures are only approximate, but they are underestimates rather than overestimates. They amount to $476,000, equal to about 29 per cent of the value of the total gold output of the peninsula in 1920. This cost of transportation has to be met by the mining industry, for except for the production of a little salt fish and reindeer meat, Seward Peninsula has no other industries.

KOBUK REGION.

As a result of the high cost of transportation and supplies mining has almost ceased in the Kobuk region. Three small mines, however, were operated on Dahl Creek, and four on Kleary Creek, and in all 10 men were employed for a short time in winter and summer. The value of the total gold output of these mines was about $8,000. Plans have been made to install a hydraulic plant on Dahl Creek.

The coastal port for this district is Kotzebue, to which the freight rates from Seattle, including lighterage, are about $40. From Kotzebue the freight is taken by boat up the Kobuk to Shungnak, the local supply point of the Dahl Creek region. The cost of this river transportation is $40 a ton. Therefore, the miner in the Dahl Creek region pays freight amounting to at least $80 a ton on all his supplies.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT.

By Alfred H. Brooks.

During 1920 eight parties were engaged in surveys and investigations in Alaska. These parties included 7 geologists, 2 topographers, 1 hydraulic engineer, and 14 packers, cooks, and other auxiliaries. Five parties were engaged in geologic work, one in topographic survey, one in investigations of water powers in southeastern Alaska in cooperation with the Forest Service, and one was a combined geologic and topographic party.

The funds available for field and office work for the season of 1920 included an appropriation of $75,000 and an unexpended balance of $10,400 from the appropriation for the previous year. The subjoined tables show the allotments of these funds geographically by types of work and by salaries and field expenses. A balance of $13,800 will be used for the field work of 1921. In these tables the money devoted purely to office work has not been allocated to the several projects, as in previous administrative reports. These overhead charges, including administration, amount to about 23 per cent of the total and may be properly allocated to the projects at this ratio.

Approximate general distribution of appropriations for investigations in Alaska, field season of 1920.

	1919-20	1920-21
General geologic investigation		$2,700
Southeastern Alaska		9,240
Prince William Sound		1,400
Cook Inlet	$3,500	8,910
Southwestern Alaska		1,000
Susitna region	3,750	5,610
Yukon basin	1,600	4,420
Kuskokwin basin	300	5,380
Seward Peninsula	1,150	3,200
Administrative		4,250
Collection of mineral statistics		1,900
Miscellaneous expenses, including clerical work, office supplies, etc	100	13,190
Balance to be allotted to field work, 1921		13,800
	10,400	75,000

Approximate allotments to different kinds of surveys and investigations, field season of 1920.

	1919-20	1920-21
Reconnaissance geologic surveys	$3,400	$13,820
Special geologic investigations	1,150	13,825
Topographic reconnaissance surveys	5,750	9,870
Investigation of water resources		4,345
Administrative		4,250
Collection of mineral statistics		1,900
Miscellaneous expenses, including clerical work, office supplies, map compilation, etc.	100	13,190
To be allotted to field work, 1921		13,800
	10,400	75,000

Allotments for salaries and field expenses, field season, 1920.

	1919-20	1920-21
Scientific salaries		$29,395
Field expenses	$10,300	16,115
Clerical salaries and miscellaneous expenses	100	15,690
To be allotted to field work		13,800
	10,400	75,000

The following table shows the progress of investigations in Alaska and the annual grants of funds since systematic surveys were begun, in 1898.[1] It should be noted that a varying amount is spent each year on special investigations that yield results which can not be expressed in terms of area. In 1917, when the war broke out, nearly all the Alaska funds were allotted to the investigation of minerals such as platinum, sulphur, antimony, etc., which were then of special importance, and few areal surveys were made. Since then the reduction of the annual appropriation and the increased cost of all field work has not permitted extensive geologic and topographic surveys. Little progress has therefore been made in extending the topographic and geologic surveys which are essential to obtain an adequate knowledge of the mineral resources of the Territory.

[1] The Geological Survey made some investigations of the gold and coal deposits of the Pacific seaboard region in 1895 and of the Yukon region in 1896.

Progress of surveys in Alaska, 1898–1920.

Year.	Appropriation.	Areas covered by geologic surveys.			Areas covered by topographic surveys.[a]					Investigations of water resources.	
		Exploratory (scale 1:625,000 or 1:1,000,000).	Reconnaissance (scale 1:250,000).	Detailed (scale 1:62,500).	Exploratory (scale 1:625,000 or 1:1,000,000).	Reconnaissance (scale 1:250,000; 200-foot contours).	Detailed (scale 1:62,500; 25, 50, or 100 foot contours).	Lines of levels.	Bench marks set.	Gaging stations maintained part of year.	Stream-volume measurements.
		Sq. m.	*Sq. m.*	*Sq. m.*	*Sq. m.*	*Sq. m.*	*Sq. m.*	*Miles*			
1898	$46,189	9,500	......	......	12,840	2,070	......	......	......	......	......
1899	25,000	6,000	......	......	8,690	......	......	......	......	......	......
1900	60,000	3,300	6,700	......	630	11,150	......	......	......	......	......
1901	60,000	6,200	5,800	......	10,200	5,450	......	......	......	......	......
1902	60,000	6,950	10,050	......	8,330	11,970	96	......	......	......	......
1903	60,000	5,000	8,000	96	......	15,000	......	......	......	......	......
1904	60,000	4,050	3,500	......	800	6,480	480	86	19	......	......
1905	80,000	4,000	4,100	536	......	4,880	787	202	28	......	......
1906	80,000	5,000	4,000	421	......	13,500	40	......	......	14	286
1907	80,000	2,600	1,400	442	......	6,120	501	95	16	48	457
1908	80,000	2,000	2,850	604	......	3,980	427	76	9	53	556
1909	90,000	6,100	5,500	450	6,190	5,170	444	......	......	81	703
1910	90,000	......	8,635	321	......	13,815	36	......	......	69	429
1911	100,000	8,000	10,550	496	......	14,460	246	......	......	68	309
1912	90,000	......	2,000	525	......	......	298	......	......	69	381
1913	100,000	3,500	2,950	180	3,400	2,535	287	......	......	......	......
1914	100,000	1,000	7,700	325	600	10,300	10	......	......	......	......
1915	100,000	......	10,700	200	......	10,400	12	3	2	9	......
1916	100,000	......	5,100	636	......	9,700	67	......	......	20	......
1917	100,000	......	1,750	275	......	1,050	......	......	......	19	......
1918	77,000	......	3,500	......	......	1,200	......	......	......	......	......
1919	75,000	......	2,700	......	......	2,300	......	......	......	19	......
1920	75,000	......	1,480	......	......	770	......	......	......	19	......
1921	......	......	......	......	......	......	......	......	......	......	......
1922	......	......	......	......	......	......	......	......	......	......	......
	1,788,189	73,200	108,965	5,507	51,680	152,300	3,731	462	74	......	......
Percentage of total area of Alaska	......	12.48	18.58	0.94	8.81	25.97	0.64	......	......	......	......

[a] The Coast and Geodetic and International Boundary surveys have also made topographic surveys in Alaska. The areas covered by these surveys are of course not included in these totals.

The writer was engaged in office work until July 4, when he accompanied Hon. John Barton Payne, Secretary of the Interior, and Hon. Josephus Daniels, Secretary of the Navy, to Alaska. In the course of this journey a part of the Matanuska coal field and the Government railroad were examined. Through the courtesy of Admiral Hugh Rodman the writer was later enabled to visit Cold Bay, on the Alaska Peninsula. This part of the journey was made on the United States destroyer *McCullough*, commanded by Capt. H. W. Sears. Through the courtesy of Captain Sears the writer was transported to Juneau and later went to Cordova by passenger steamer. A visit was then made to the Bering River coal field and the Katalla oil field. The time from August 24 to September 13 was spent in examining the copper and gold lodes of Prince William Sound and in studying the local geology. A part of this work was done in company with O. C. Ralston, metallurgist of the United States Bureau of Mines.

Later, again in company with Mr. Ralston, the writer devoted 10 days to an examination of some of the copper deposits of the Ketchikan district. Returning, the writer reached Washington October 4. Of the nine months devoted to office work during the year 1920, 51 days were devoted to progress report, 8 days to preparation of annual press bulletin, 11 days to field plans, 7 days to reading manuscript, 22 days to military geology, 9 days to geologic studies, and 43 days to preparation of a report on conditions in Alaska, for the Secretary of the Interior.[2]

R. H. Sargent was on furlough for about three-fourths of the year. While on duty he was occupied chiefly in the administration of the Alaska topographic surveys and map compilation.

S. R. Capps was on furlough until February 21, 1921. While on duty he was engaged chiefly in continuing his report on the geology and mineral resources of the region tributary to the railroad.

G. L. Harrington was on furlough all but about one week in the year and while on duty devoted his time chiefly to the report on the Ruby-Iditarod district.

J. B. Mertie, jr., was on furlough until March 31, 1921, and gave the rest of the fiscal year to continuation of the report on the Ruby-Iditarod district.

C. P. McKinley devoted about two months to the compilation of a topographic map of the Katmai region from photographs furnished by the National Geographic Society.

Miss Lucy M. Graves, chief clerk, has continued to carry much of the burden of the administration of the Alaska division and has acted as chief during the absence of the geologist in charge and of the senior geologist, G. C. Martin. The details of collecting the statistics of the mineral production of Alaska have been in the hands of T. R. Burch.

G. H. Canfield continued water-power investigations in southeastern Alaska up to April 1, when the work was suspended on account of lack of funds. A record of five years of stream flow has now been obtained for about 19 of the best of the water-power sites in southeastern Alaska. In view of the demands for other investigations in Alaska the continuation of the stream gaging does not appear to be justified under the present reduced appropriation. This work could not have been done without the cordial cooperation of the Forest Service, which has rendered much valuable assistance in providing local transportation, office space, and gage readers. The great importance of this water-power investigation, both to the pulp-wood and mining industry, is generally recognized, and it is hoped that funds will be available for its continuation at an early date.

[2] Report of Alaska Advisory Committee, Alfred H. Brooks, chairman: Appendix H of Report of the governor of Alaska to the Secretary of the Interior, pp. 103-114, Washington, 1921.

Lewis G. Westgate completed the geologic reconnaissance survey of the Portland Canal region of the Ketchikan district between July 19 and September 24. A summary report of his results is given in another part of this volume.

F. H. Moffit, with Herbert Insley as geologic assistant and C. P. McKinley as topographer, made a geologic and topographic reconnaisance survey covering 380 square miles in the Tuxedni Bay region of Cook Inlet between June 10 and September 10. It was originally planned to extend this survey southward to include the Iliamna Bay oil field, but this extension proved impossible on account of the almost unprecedented rainfall of the summer, which both retarded the field work and swelled the rivers and swamps so much as to make a part of the region impassable for a pack train. Mr. Moffit's report is contained in another part of this report.

J. R. Eakin made topographic reconnaissance surveys of an area of 390 square miles on the southern slope of the Alaska Range, in the headwater region of the Susitna basin. The field work, which was carried on from June 27 to August 28, was greatly retarded by rainy weather, which made it impossible to carry the survey across the range as had been planned.

Philip S. Smith devoted the time from July 17 to September 22 to a continuation and revision of the geologic reconnnaissance mapping of the Salcha-Goodpaster region. His survey, which included the investigation of mineral resources, covered a total area of 1,200 square miles, of which about 500 had been previously unmapped.

G. C. Martin continued the study of the geology and mineral resources of the Ruby, Iditarod, and Innoko districts. He also made a special investigation of the auriferous lodes of the Nixon Fork basin of the Mount McKinley district, in the upper Kuskokwim basin. The results of this work are presented in another part of this volume. The field work was carried on from July 1 to August 29.

S. H. Cathcart devoted from July 3 to September 19 to a geologic study of some of the mineral deposits of Seward Peninsula. This study is a part of a project for an intensive investigation of the mineral bearing lodes of the peninsula, which unfortunately, because of lack of funds, could not be continued in 1921. A statement of Mr. Cathcart's results is given in another part of this volume.

During 1920 the Survey issued two bulletins relating to Alaska—Bulletin 682, The marble resources of southeastern Alaska, by E. F. Burchard, and Bulletin 712, Mineral resources of Alaska, 1918, by G. C. Martin and others. A report on the mining industry of Alaska for 1920, with estimates of mineral output, was issued on January 1, 1921. On December 31, 1920, there were in press Bulletin 719, "Preliminary report on petroleum in Alaska," by G. C. Martin (issued February, 1921); Bulletin 714, Mineral resources of Alaska, by Alfred H. Brooks and others (separate chapters issued between February and April, 1921). Two reports, including topographic maps ("The geology of the York tin deposits, Alaska," by Edward Steidtmann and S. H. Cathcart, and "The Kotsina-Kuskulana district, Alaska," by F. H. Moffit and J. B. Mertie, jr.), were transmitted in 1920 but have not yet been sent forward for printing, owing to shortage of funds for publication. As this shortage makes it impossible to foresee when reports and maps can be published, it does not seem desirable to list some 10 manuscripts and 7 topographic maps that are in various stages of preparation.

WATER-POWER INVESTIGATIONS IN SOUTHEASTERN ALASKA.

By George H. Canfield.

INTRODUCTION.

Systematic investigation of the water resources of Alaska was begun by the United States Geological Survey in 1906 and has been carried on in different parts of the Territory to the present time. This investigation was undertaken in response to the need for definite information in regard to water available for many uses, among which the most important are hydraulicking, dredging, and supplying power for mines, canneries, and sawmills.

The investigation of the water resources of southeastern Alaska was begun by the Geological Survey in cooperation with the Forest Service in 1915 and was designed to determine both the location and the possibilities of water-power sites. The results of previous years' work have already been published. A table showing water-power possibilities in southeastern Alaska is given on page 184, Bulletin 714–B.

The Geological Survey maintained a number of gaging stations in southeastern Alaska throughout the year, and other stations were installed in cooperation with individuals and corporations. The records obtained at these stations are contained in this paper. Acknowledgment is made to those who have assisted in this work, particularly to Mr. W. G. Weigle and Mr. Charles H. Flory, supervisors of the Forest Service at Ketchikan, and to Mr. Philip H. Dater, district engineer at Portland, Oreg.

The following list shows the stations which have been maintained in southeastern Alaska and the date of establishment. A dash after the date indicates that the station was in operation after December 31, 1920. The location of the stations is shown on Plate I (p. 76).

1. Myrtle Creek at Niblack, Prince of Wales Island, 1917—
2. Karta River at Karta Bay, Prince of Wales Island, 1915—
3. Ketchikan Creek at Ketchikan 1909–1912; 1915–1919.
4. Beaver Falls Creek at George Inlet, Revillagigedo Island, 1917—
5. Mahoney Creek at George Inlet, Revillagigedo Island, 1920—
6. Fish Creek near Sea Level, Revillagigedo Island, 1915—
7. Swan Lake outlet at Carroll Inlet, Revillagigedo Island, 1916—

8. Orchard Lake outlet at Shrimp Bay, Revillagigedo Island, 1915—
9. Shelockum Lake outlet at Bailey Bay, 1915—
10. Mill Creek on mainland near Wrangell, 1915–1917.
11. Cascade Creek at Thomas Bay, near Petersburg, 1917—
12. Green Lake outlet at Silver Bay, near Sitka, 1915—
13. Baranof Lake outlet at Baranof, Baranof Island, 1915—
14. Falls Creek at Nickel, near Chichagof, 1918–1920.
15. Porcupine Creek near Nickel, 1918–1920.
16. Sweetheart Falls Creek near Snettisham, 1915—
17. Crater Lake outlet at Speel River, Port Snettisham, 1913—
18. Long Lake outlet at Port Snettisham, 1913–1915.
19. Long River below Second Lake, at Port Snettisham, 1915—
20. Speel River at Port Snettisham, 1916–1918.
21. Grindstone Creek at Taku Inlet, 1916—
22. Carlson Creek at Sunny Cove, Taku Inlet, 1916—
23. Sheep Creek near Thane, 1916—
24. Gold Creek at Juneau, 1916—
25. Sherman Creek at Kensington mine, 1914–1916.

STATION RECORDS.

MYRTLE CREEK AT NIBLACK, PRINCE OF WALES ISLAND.

Location.—Halfway between beach and Myrtle Lake outlet, which is one-third mile from tidewater, 1 mile from Niblack, in north arm of Moira Sound, Prince of Wales Island, and 35 miles by water from Ketchikan.

Drainage area.—Not measured.

Records available.—July 30, 1917, to December 31, 1920.

Gage.—Stevens continuous water-stage recorder on right bank; reached by a trail which leaves beach near the mouth of the creek.

Discharge Measurements.—At medium and high stages made from a cable across creek at outlet of lake; at low stages made by wading.

Channel and control.—The gage is in a pool 10 feet upstream from a contracted portion of the channel, at a rocky riffle that forms a well-defined and permanent control. At the cable section the bed is smooth, the water deep, and the current uniform and sluggish.

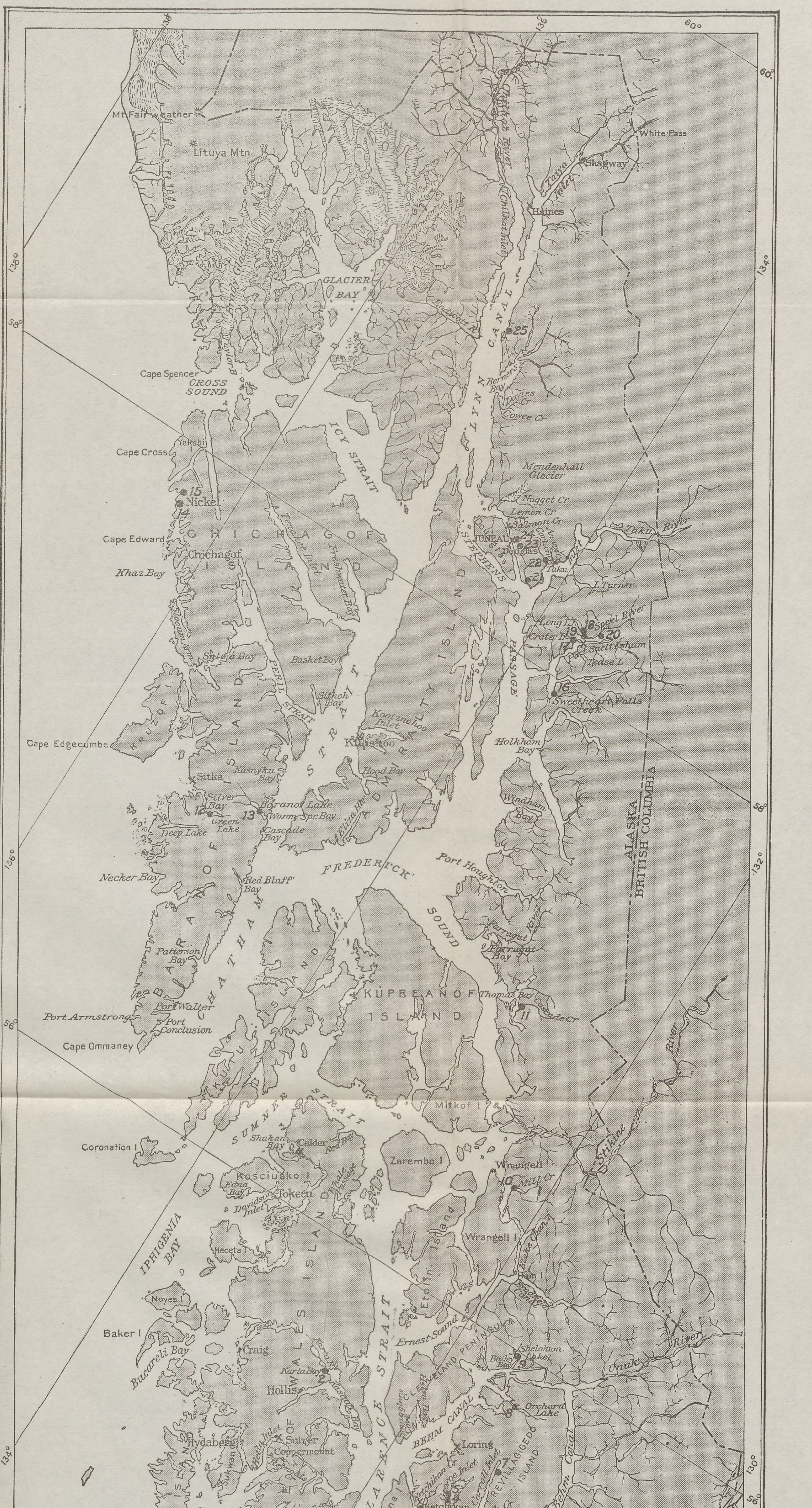
Extremes of discharge.—Maximum stage recorded during year, 2.85 feet, at 1 a. m. August 6 (discharge, 169 second-feet); minimum stage, 0.95 foot, at 4 p. m. July 29 (discharge, 24 second-feet).

1917–1920: Maximum stage recorded, 4.4 feet at 5 p. m. November 18, 1917 (discharge from extension of rating curve, 387 second-feet); minimum stage, 0.95 foot, at 4 p. m. July 29, 1920 (discharge, 24 second-feet).

Ice.—Stage-discharge relation not affected by ice.

Accuracy.—Stage-discharge relation permanent. Rating curve well defined between 25 and 220 second-feet. Operation of water-stage recorder satisfactory, except for periods indicated in footnote to daily discharge table. Daily discharge ascertained by applying to rating table mean gage heights determined by inspecting gage-height graph, or, for days of considerable fluctuation, by averaging results obtained by applying to rating table gage heights for regular intervals of day. Records excellent, except for periods of break in record, for which they are fair.

Myrtle Lake, the outlet of which is 800 feet from Niblack Anchorage, is 95 feet above high tide and covers 122 acres. Niblack Lake, the outlet of which is 5,700 feet from Niblack Anchorage, is 450 feet above high tide and covers 383 acres. Mary Lake,



MAP OF SOUTHEASTERN ALASKA SHOWING LOCATION OF GAGING STATIONS.

unsurveyed, is about 600 feet above sea level and is a mile long and one-fourth to one-half mile wide. The large lake area in this small drainage basin is the cause of the well-maintained flow during the winter and periods of little rainfall.

A tunnel about 200 feet long through the low ridge separating the outlet of Myrtle Lake from the Niblack Anchorage was practically completed in 1920 by the G. M. Wakefield Mineral Lands Co. At the lake end, the upper 2 feet only of the tunnel section was broken through, because the bottom of the tunnel is at about the same elevation as Myrtle Lake.

No discharge measurements were made at this station during the year.

Daily discharge, in second-feet, of Myrtle Creek at Niblack, for 1920.

Day.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May.	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1	......	......	34	44	46	43	31	67	83	157	76
2	......	......	32	42	46	40	43	64	95	175	70
3	......	......	32	41	46	38	46	56	93	157	88
4	......	......	32	40	46	36	102	53	90	140	100
5	......	......	32	47	46	35	157	50	88	121	118
6	......	......	32	53	46	34	157	46	79	111	140
7	......	......	31	54	44	33	100	52	72	103	134
8	......	......	31	54	44	31	73	82	67	96	114
9	......	......	30	52	46	31	58	67	86	89	99
10	......	......	30	48	46	30	54	56	100	84	92
11	......	50	54	46	44	29	102	65	86	77	86
12	......	50	71	46	42	29	109	70	80	73	84
13	53	47	57	45	40	28	91	62	105	68	88
14	50	......	48	42	40	27	77	56	95	63	89
15	48	......	41	50	42	27	68	71	86	60	80
16	48	......	37	54	40	27	64	71	79	60	73
17	60	......	37	55	40	26	59	64	73	62	89
18	80	......	47	54	42	26	56	57	68	61	92
19	60	34	44	50	40	25	52	54	67	63	81
20	52	34	40	47	40	25	50	68	94	65	75
21	48	33	37	44	40	25	48	80	89	73	70
22	46	33	36	44	42	25	47	98	92	71	67
23	......	32	35	44	43	25	46	83	106	73	63
24	......	32	35	43	44	25	44	70	114	84	58
25	......	31	42	50	44	25	41	63	104	111	56
26	......	31	60	61	47	25	52	61	92	101	63
27	......	32	60	56	46	25	61	64	96	96	134
28	......	37	55	51	47	24	55	106	87	98	124
29	......	40	50	48	48	24	50	92	78	89	99
30	......	40	46	48	45	24	46	77	83	81	91
31	......	36	......	46	......	25	56	......	114	......	103

NOTE.—Water-stage recorder not operating; discharge estimated from maximum and minimum stages indicated by recorder and comparison with climatic data for Ketchikan and hydrographs for Fish Creek and Karta River: Jan. 1–31, 100 second-feet; Feb. 1–12, 85 second-feet; Feb. 17–19, daily discharge; Feb. 23–29, 40 second-feet; Mar. 1–10, 35 second-feet; Mar. 14–18, 40 second-feet; Apr. 19 and 20, as shown in table.

Monthly discharge of Myrtle Creek at Niblack, for 1920.

Month.	Discharge in second-feet.			Run-off in acre-feet.	Month.	Discharge in second-feet.			Run-off in acre-feet.
	Maximum.	Minimum.	Mean.			Maximum.	Minimum.	Mean.	
January	....	....	100	6,150	August	157	31	67.6	4,160
February	....	....	63.6	3,660	September	106	46	67.5	4,020
March	....	....	36.8	2,260	October	114	67	88.4	5,430
April	60	30	41.6	2,480	November	175	60	92.1	5,480
May	61	40	48.4	2,980	December	140	56	90.2	5,550
June	48	40	43.7	2,600					
July	43	24	28.8	1,770	The year	....	24	64.1	46,500

KARTA RIVER AT KARTA BAY, PRINCE OF WALES ISLAND.

LOCATION.—In latitude 55° 34′ N., longitude 132° 37′ W., at head of Karta Bay, an arm of Kasaan Bay, on east coast of Prince of Wales Island, 42 miles by water across Clarence Strait from Ketchikan.

DRAINAGE AREA.—49.5 square miles (U. S. Forest Service reconnaissance map of Prince of Wales Island, 1914).

RECORDS AVAILABLE.—July 1, 1915, to December 31, 1920.

GAGE.—Stevens continuous water-stage recorder on left bank, half a mile above tidewater, at head of Karta Bay and 1¼ miles below outlet of Little Salmon Lake. Two per cent of total drainage of Karta River enters between outlet of lake and gage.

DISCHARGE MEASUREMENTS.—At medium and high stages made from cable across river 50 feet upstream from gage; at low stages by wading at cable section.

CHANNEL AND CONTROL.—From Little Salmon Lake, 1½ miles from tidewater, the river descends 105 feet in a series of rapids in a wide, shallow channel, the banks of which are low but do not overflow. The bed is of coarse gravel and boulders; rock crops out only at outlet of lake. Gage and cable are at a pool of still water formed by a riffle of coarse gravel that makes a well-defined and permanent control.

EXTREMES OF DISCHARGE.—1915–1920: Maximum stage, 5.5 feet November 1, 1917 (discharge, 5,070 second-feet); minimum flow, 21 second-feet, February 11, 1916.

ACCURACY.—Stage-discharge relation permanent. Rating curve well defined between 80 and 1,500 second-feet; extended below 80 second-feet to the point of zero flow and above 1,500 second-feet by estimation. Daily discharge ascertained by applying to rating table mean daily gage height determined by inspecting gage-height graph, or, for days of considerable fluctuation, by averaging results obtained by applying gage heights for regular intervals to rating table. Records excellent, except for periods of breaks in record and for discharge above 1,500 second-feet, for which they are fair.

The combined area of Little Salmon Lake at an elevation of 105 feet and Salmon Lake at an elevation of 110 feet is 1,600 acres. The slopes along the right shore of lakes and at head of Salmon Lake are gentle, and the area included by the 250-foot contour above outlet of lake is 5,500 acres. The drainage area below an elevation of 2,000 feet is heavily covered with timber and dense undergrowth of ferns, brush, and alders. The upper parts of the mountains are covered with thin soil and brush. Only a few peaks at an elevation of 3,500 feet are bare. This large lake and flat area and thick vegetal cover afford considerable natural storage, which, after heavy precipitation, maintains a good run-off. The snow usually melts by the end of June, and the run-off becomes very low during a dry, hot summer.

The Forest Service in the summer of 1916 constructed a pack trail from tidewater to outlet of Little Salmon Lake and ran a line of levels to outlet of Little Salmon Lake, the elevation of which was found to be 105 feet above high tide.

No discharge measurements were made at this station during the year.

Daily discharge, in second-feet, of Karta River at Karta Bay, for 1920.

Day.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May.	Aug.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1	454		106	180				1,000	448
2	1,110		97	160				1,940	350
3	2,430		88	142				1,820	364
4	1,570		83	132				1,250	468
5	980		78	128				860	705
6	714		78	128				625	835
7	860		81	125				501	748
8	2,060		88	118				396	588
9	1,390		100	109				326	460
10	916		106	103				269	362
11	609		142	152				233	302
12	536		180	238			565	192	264
13	494		180	254			705	172	274
14	681	238	172	238			880	152	280
15	681	224	160	215			748	132	254
16	543	228	142	192			588	121	192
17	454	565	142				467	118	248
18	356	765	132				382	118	382
19	296	684	118			238	308	135	396
20	243	515	109				350	160	350
21	201	402	100				422	238	308
22		320	88				460	302	262
23		264	83				572	356	229
24		220	83				588	501	199
25		188	81				665	748	172
26		160	78		550		550	722	192
27		145	78				501	588	950
28		128	118				480	705	1,420
29		115	164				415	665	970
30			206				338	550	665
31			201				764		665

NOTE.—Water-stage recorder not operating; discharge for following periods estimated from maximum and minimum stages indicated by recorder and by comparison with hydrographs of other stations: Jan. 22–31, 110 second-feet; and Feb. 1–13, 420 second-feet.

Monthly discharge of Karta River at Karta Bay, for 1920.

Month.	Discharge in second-feet.			Run-off in acre-feet.	Month.	Discharge in second-feet.			Run-off in acre-feet.
	Maximum.	Minimum.	Mean.			Maximum.	Minimum.	Mean.	
January	2,430		603	37,100	October 12–31	880	308	537	21,300
February			366	21,100	November	1,940	118	530	31,500
March	206	78	118	7,260	December	1,420	172	461	28,300
April 1–16	254	103	163	5,170					

BEAVER FALLS CREEK AT GEORGE INLET, REVILLAGIGEDO ISLAND.

Location.—About 200 feet above diversion dam and flume for shingle mill and salmon cannery; 800 feet from beach on west shore of George Inlet; 10 miles by water from Ketchikan.

Drainage area.—5.9 square miles (United States Forest Service survey made in 1917).

Records available.—August 3 to October 10, 1917; September 5 to December 31, 1920.

Gage.—Stevens continuous water-stage recorder on left bank, a quarter of a mile from tidewater; reached by a corduroy trail which leaves beach back of cannery buildings. The gage was washed out by high water in November, 1917. A new recorder was installed on September 5, 1920, at a point 8 feet downstream from site of first recorder at datum of August 3, 1917.

Discharge measurements.—At medium and high stages, made from log gaging bridge across stream a quarter of a mile upstream from gage; at low stages made by wading under bridge.

Channel and control.—The gage is in a partly sheltered pool in a narrow, deep, rocky canyon, 15 feet upstream from a small rocky fall, which forms a well-defined and permanent control.

Diversion.—A small quantity of water is diverted about 200 yards below station into a flume for use of shingle mill and cannery.

Accuracy.—Stage-discharge relation permanent, but gage well was disturbed by logs and settled probably during high water on August 20, 1917. Rating curve used August 3–19, 1917, and September 5 to December 31, 1920, determined by four discharge measurements and point of zero flow, is well defined below 500 second-feet; curve used August 20 to October 10, 1917, based on two discharge measurements which indicate the amount of change in gage datum caused by settlement of gage well. Operation of water-stage recorder satisfactory except for periods indicated in footnote to daily-discharge table. Daily discharge ascertained by applying to rating table mean daily gage height determined by inspecting gage-height graph, or, for days of considerable fluctuation, by averaging results obtained by applying to rating table mean gage heights for intervals of the day. Records good, except those for periods when gage did not operate satisfactorily, which are fair.

Lower Silvis Lake, whose elevation is 790 feet above high tide, is 1½ miles from the beach, and its area is 62 acres. The elevation of upper Silvis Lake, whose outlet is only 1,100 feet from the upper end of the lower lake, is 1,100 feet above high tide and its area is 234 acres. Drainage area above outlet of lower lake is 4.9 square miles; above outlet of upper lake, 3.6 square miles.

Discharge measurements of Beaver Falls Creek at George Inlet during 1920.

[Made by G. H. Canfield.]

Date.	Gage height.	Discharge.
	Feet.	*Sec.-ft.*
Sept. 6	0.76	28
Sept. 8	3.54	366

Daily discharge, in second-feet, of Beaver Falls Creek at George Inlet for the periods Aug. 1 to Oct. 10, 1917, and Sept. 6 to Dec. 31, 1920.

Day.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Day.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Day.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.
1917.											
1	75	34	142	11	64	14	......	21	247	175	......
2	80	28	283	12	59	48	......	22	371	132	......
3	88	26	223	13	51	97	......	23	224	86	......
4	69	21	352	14	59	193	......	24	175	168	......
5	58	18	183	15	182	234	......	25	140	244	......
6	49	16	97	16	298	164	......	26	100	144	......
7	46	15	69	17	304	97	......	27	265	323	......
8	42	14	52	18	437	152	......	28	276	305	......
9	38	12	76	19	525	90	......	29	158	212	......
10	42	11	152	20	386	97	......	30	78	107	......
								31	47	......	......

Day.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Day.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Day.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1920.					1920.					1920.				
1	......	232	300	85	11	194	152	13	19	21	325	......	......	11
2	......	188	500	40	12	176	185	11	20	22	200	......	......	9
3	......	162	300	40	13	100	246	10	25	23	134	......	......	8
4	......	105	200	70	14	105	146	9	25	24	78	......	......	7
5	......	75	100	72	15	170	72	8	19	25	56	......	......	7
6	30	51	50	61	16	105	46	8	14	26	56	......	......	7
7	140	33	32	56	17	64	32	7	15	27	63	......	......	266
8	336	119	26	38	18	45	26	6	18	28	292	......	......	278
9	170	432	21	24	19	38	33	7	15	29	164	......	......	152
10	92	291	16	20	20	178	......	......	13	30	107	......	......	94
										31	......	......	......	100

NOTE.—Discharge for following periods estimated, because of unsatisfactory operation of water-stage recorder, by comparison with records of flow for other stations: Aug. 1, 2, and 24–26, 1917, as shown in table; Oct. 20–31, 1920, 180 second-feet; Nov. 1–7, 13–19, and Dec. 1–4, 1920, as shown in table; Nov. 20–30, 1920, 80 second-feet.

Monthly discharge of Beaver Falls at George Inlet for the periods Aug. 1 to Oct. 10, 1917, and Sept. 6 to Dec. 31, 1920.

Month.	Discharge in second-feet.			Run-off in acre-feet.
	Maximum.	Minimum.	Mean.	
1917.				
August	525	38	162	9,960
September	323	11	109	6,490
October 1-10	352	52	163	3,230
1920.				
September 6-30	336	30	137	6,790
October	....	26	154	9,470
November	500	....	83.5	4,970
December	278	7	52.5	3,230
The period	....	....	....	24,500

MAHONEY CREEK AT GEORGE INLET, REVILLAGIGEDO ISLAND.

LOCATION.—One-fourth mile below outlet of Surprise Lake and one-fourth mile above tidewater on west shore of George Inlet, Revillagigedo Island, 3 miles north of Beaver Falls Creek, and 13 miles by water from Ketchikan.

DRAINAGE AREA.—Not measured.

RECORDS AVAILABLE.—September 10 to December 31, 1920.

GAGE.—Stevens continuous water-stage recorder on right bank of stream one-fourth mile above beach.

DISCHARGE MEASUREMENTS.—At high stages, made from cable across creek 100 yards above gage; at medium and low stages, by wading at cable section or at channel on beach exposed at low tide.

63963°—22——6

CHANNEL AND CONTROL.—The gage is at edge of pool between two riffles the lower of which forms a well-defined and permanent control.

ICE.—Stage-discharge relation not affected by ice.

ACCURACY.—Stage-discharge relation permanent. Rating curve well defined below but poorly defined above 150 second-feet. Daily discharge ascertained by applying to rating table mean daily gage height determined by inspecting gage-height graph or, for days of considerable fluctuation, by averaging results obtained by applying to rating table mean gage heights for intervals of the day. Records good, except for periods of break in record and discharge above 150 second-feet, for which they are poor.

The Forest Service topographic map of Beaver Falls drainage basin shows the approximate location, outline, and elevation of two important lakes in the Mahoney Creek basin. They are Lower Mahoney Lake, the outlet of which is half a mile from the beach at an elevation of 75 feet above high tide, and Upper Mahoney Lake, the outlet of which is three-fourths mile above head of Lower Mahoney Lake. This lake is about 2,000 feet above high tide and has area of about 180 acres. The discharge at outlet of Upper Mahoney Lake is roughly estimated as 65 per cent of the flow at the gaging station.

Discharge measurements of Mahoney Creek at George Inlet during 1920.

[Made by G. H. Canfield.]

Date.	Gage height.	Discharge.
	Feet.	*Sec.-ft.*
Sept. 10	1.42	84
Dec. 3	.95	35
4	1.18	56

Daily discharge, in second-feet, of Mahoney Creek at George Inlet, for the period Sept. 10 to Dec. 31, 1920.

Day.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Day.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Day.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1	......	182	250	70	11	152	127	18	21	21	212	122	......	14
2	......	173	400	30	12	157	94	17	22	22	159	104	......	16
3	......	127	250	33	13	94	192	16	22	23	105	146	......	15
4	......	92	150	55	14	80	130	15	24	24	68	......	......	15
5	......	68	75	58	15	152	82	14	22	25	50	......	......	14
6	......	50	40	54	16	104	53	13	22	26	42	......	......	21
7	......	37	28	56	17	62	37	12	19	27	48	......	......	184
8	......	30	24	47	18	43	28	12	20	28	181	......	......	202
9	......	224	21	35	19	33	26	15	18	29	143	......	......	115
10	82	260	19	25	20	76	33	......	17	30	94	......	......	82
										31	......	......	......	88

NOTE.—Discharge for following periods estimated, because of unsatisfactory operation of water-stage recorder, from maximum and minimum stages indicated by recorder and by comparison with records of flow for other stations: Oct. 25–31, 140 second-feet; Nov. 1–6 and 10–19, as shown in table; Nov. 20–30, 70 second-feet; Dec. 1–2, as shown in table.

Monthly discharge of Mahoney Creek at George Inlet for the period Sept. 10 to Dec. 31, 1920.

Month.	Discharge in second-feet.			Run-off in acre-feet.	Month.	Discharge in second-feet.			Run-off in acre-feet.
	Maximum.	Minimum.	Mean.			Maximum.	Minimum.	Mean.	
September 10–30	212	33	102	4,250	December	202	14	46.3	2,850
October	....	26	114	7,010					
November	400	12	72.0	4,280	The period	....	....	....	18,400

FISH CREEK NEAR SEA LEVEL, REVILLAGIGEDO ISLAND.

Location.—In latitude 55° 24′ W., near outlet of Lower Lake on Fish Creek, 600 feet from tidewater at head of Thorne Arm, 2 miles northwest of mine at Sea Level, and 25 miles by water from Ketchikan.

Drainage area.—Not measured.

Records available.—May 19, 1915, to December 31, 1920.

Gage.—Stevens water-stage recorder on right shore of Lower Lake, 200 feet above outlet.

Discharge measurements.—At medium and high stages made from cable across creek, 1 mile upstream from gage and 500 feet above head of Lower Lake; at low stages made by wading at cable. Only one small creek enters Lower Lake, at point opposite gage, between the cable site and control.

Channel and control.—The lake is about 500 feet wide opposite the gage. Outlet consists of two channels, each about 60 feet wide, separated by an island 40 feet wide. From the lake to tidewater, 200 feet, the creek falls about 20 feet. Bedrock exposed at the outlet of the lake forms a well-defined and permanent control.

Extremes of discharge.—Maximum stage recorded during year, 4.9 feet about August 6 (discharge computed from extension of rating curve, 4,110 second-feet); minimum stage, 0.63 foot, March 5 (discharge, 40 second-feet).

1915–1920: Maximum stage recorded, 5.33 feet November 1, 1917 (discharge, 4,600 second-feet); minimum stage, 0.50 foot, February 11, 1916 (discharge, 22 second-feet).

Ice.—Lower Lake freezes over, but as gage is set back in the bank ice does not form in well, and the relatively warm water from the lake and the swift current keep the control open.

Accuracy.—Stage-discharge relation permanent. Rating curve well defined below and extended above 1,500 second-feet. Operation of water-stage recorder satisfactory except for periods shown in footnote to daily-discharge table. Daily discharge ascertained by applying to rating table mean daily gage heights determined by inspecting gage-height graph, or, for days of considerable fluctuation, by averaging results obtained by applying to rating table mean gage heights for regular intervals of day. Records good, except for periods of break in record for which they are fair.

A map of the lakes on the drainage basin of this stream was made by the United States Geological Survey in April, 1921. Lower Lake is at an elevation of 15 feet above high tide and has an area of 55 acres; Big Lake is at an elevation of 277 feet and has an area (including lagoon at approximately same elevation) of 358 acres; Third Lake is at an elevation of 324 feet and has an area of 180 acres; Mirror Lake is at an elevation of 377 feet and has an area of about 250 acres; Basin Lake (draining into Big Lake from the east) is at an elevation of 456 feet and has an area of 240 acres.

The following discharge measurement was made by G. H. Canfield:

December 5, 1920: Gage height, 1.32 feet; discharge, 290 second-feet.

Daily discharge, in second-feet, of Fish Creek near Sea Level for 1920.

Day.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May.	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Dec.
1	285	64	74	130	429	......	605	120	......	250
2	368	60	67	114	368	......	562	......	......	225
3	750	78	64	102	346	......	500	......	......	200
4	750	225	60	94	346	......	436	......	......	200
5	506	455	57	89	335	......	390	......	......	291
6	378	756	62	87	680	......	379	......	......	302
7	324	665	74	85	937	......	379	......	......	302
8	581	455	85	80	796	......	368	......	......	265
9	694	357	85	76	650	......	374	......	390	220
10	532	275	89	74	488	......	379	......	362	193
11	414	225	109	130	379	403	374	......	320	176
12	318	200	127	225	335	390	357	......	280	165
13	296	175	130	216	324	379	340	......	260	169
14	553	150	120	170	308	374	324	......	240	172
15	686	120	109	176	291	390	302	569	254	157
16	525	150	96	154	346	403	291	422	......	140
17	395	225	94	140	436	390	275	324	......	140
18	312	297	94	184	......	422	264	264	......	146
19	259	296	92	229	......	436	234	206	......	140
20	217	260	130	234	......	403	220	165	......	133
21	184	216	165	220	......	374	184	154	......	124
22	153	176	140	198	......	379	173	146	......	109
23	136	150	120	184	......	422	157	......	......	96
24	123	130	114	176	......	462	146	......	......	94
25	104	112	107	180	......	436	130	......	......	87
26	97	96	96	335	......	442	120	......	......	99
27	90	89	94	660	......	455	120	......	......	335
28	83	85	109	725	......	483	109	......	......	665
29	76	80	124	628	......	598	102	......	......	628
30	65	......	140	520	......	658	102	......	......	488
31	65	......	140	......	......	......	106	......	......	520

NOTE.—Discharge for following periods estimated, because of unsatisfactory operation of water-stage recorder, from records of flow for other stations: Jan. 26–28, discharge interpolated; Feb. 11–17, daily discharge as given in table (maximum and minimum stages indicated by recorder); May 18–31, 375 second-feet; and June 1–10, 600 second-feet (maximum and minimum stages for the period indicated by the recorder); Aug. 2–14, 1,100 second-feet; Aug. 23–31, 150 second-feet; Sept. 1–8, 240 second-feet; Sept. 11–14, daily discharge Sept. 16–30, 310 second-feet; Oct. 1–31, 460 second-feet; Nov. 1–30, 400 second-feet; Dec. 1–4, daily discharge

Monthly discharge of Fish Creek near Sea Level for 1920.

Month.	Discharge in second-feet.			Run-off in acre-feet.	Month.	Discharge in second-feet.			Run-off in acre-feet.
	Maximum.	Minimum.	Mean.			Maximum.	Minimum.	Mean.	
January	750	65	333	20,500	August	......	......	581	35,700
February	756	60	228	13,100	September	......	......	289	17,200
March	165	57	102	6,270	October	......	......	460	28,300
April	725	74	220	13,100	November	......	......	400	23,800
May	937	......	421	25,900	December	665	87	233	14,300
June	......	......	490	29,200					
July	605	102	284	17,500	The year	......	......	337	245,000

SWAN LAKE OUTLET AT CARROLL INLET, REVILLAGIGEDO ISLAND.

LOCATION.—Halfway between Swan Lake and tidewater, on east shore of Carroll Inlet 1 mile from its head, 30 miles by water from Ketchikan.

DRAINAGE AREA.—Not measured.

RECORDS AVAILABLE.—August 24, 1916, to December 31, 1920.

GAGE.—Stevens water-stage recorder on left bank, half a mile from tidewater; reached by a trail which leaves beach back of old cabin one-fourth mile south of mouth of creek. Gage was washed out by extreme high water in November, 1917. New gage installed 10 feet farther back in bank at old datum, but with a new control, on May 5, 1918.

DISCHARGE MEASUREMENTS.—At medium and high stages, made from a cable across stream 100 feet downstream from gage; at low stages, made by wading.

CHANNEL AND CONTROL.—The gage well is in a deep pool 25 feet upstream from a contracted portion of the channel, where a fall of 1 foot over bedrock forms a permanent control. The effect of the violent fluctuation of the water surface outside of the gage well is decreased in the inner float well, because the intake holes at the bottom are very small. At the cable section the bed is rough, the water shallow, and the current very swift. Point of zero flow is at gage height —1.0 foot.

EXTREMES OF DISCHARGE.—Maximum stage during year, from water-stage recorder, 5.50 feet at noon, August 6 (discharge, computed from extension of rating curve, 2,800 second-feet); minimum stage, 0.23 foot April 10 (discharge, 62 second-feet).

1915–1920: Maximum stage occurred probably on November 1, 1917 (discharge, estimated by comparison with Fish Creek, 5,500 second-feet); minimum discharge, 36 second-feet, March 19–20, 1919.

ICE.—Stage-discharge relation not affected by ice.

ACCURACY.—Stage-discharge relation permanent. Rating curve, determined by six discharge measurements and point of zero flow, is fairly well defined below 2,000 second-feet. Water-stage recorder operated satisfactorily except for periods indicated in footnote to daily-discharge table. Daily discharge ascertained by applying to rating table mean daily gage heights determined by inspecting gage-height graph, or, for days of considerable fluctuation, by averaging discharges obtained by applying to rating table mean gage heights for regular intervals of day. Records good, except for periods of break in record, for which they are fair.

No maps of the entire drainage basin of this stream are available. The United States Forest Service in the fall of 1920 made a survey consisting of stadia traverse between the beach and Swan Lake, by which the elevation was determined as 220 feet above high tide; triangulation of lake, by which area of lake was determined as 1,325 acres; topography of lake shore below an elevation of 350 feet and of stream between lake and proposed dam site, two-thirds mile below outlet of lake, where elevation of bed of stream is 170 feet; cross section at dam site; and topography along proposed conduit about 300 feet long on south side of creek. Blue-print copies of the map of this survey may be obtained from the offices of the United States Forest Service at Portland, Oreg., or Ketchikan, Alaska.

No discharge measurements were made at this station during the year.

Daily discharge, in second-feet, of Swan Lake outlet at Carroll Inlet for 1920.

Day.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May.	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1	....	69	89	94	433	585	701	188	331	820	....	303
2	....	66	85	85	397	693	639	288	325	1,050	....	271
3	....	78	80	79	380	820	513	277	280	1,020	....	254
4	....	196	76	74	352	902	469	962	251	770	....	277
5	....	425	73	72	368	875	469	2,170	216	608	....	277
6	....	644	72	72	593	795	425	2,600	186	485	....	271
7	337	608	89	69	765	698	390	1,890	218	....	....	265
8	565	445	94	68	657	650	371	1,140	585	....	....	260
9	537	343	92	63	501	575	361	688	567	....	....	248
10	404	277	99	64	400	525	401	450	425	....	....	229
11	331	246	158	122	343	500	457	1,200	384	....	....	208
12	282	224	152	165	328	485	441	1,800	364	....	....	190
13	303	193	135	151	315	470	425	1,300	331	....	....	176
14	497	170	116	137	297	460	401	990	303	....	....	170
15	505	152	105	126	315	485	394	648	340	....	....	161
16	380	161	94	118	390	500	374	461	358	....	....	150
17	300	240	90	109	418	525	352	343	340	....	....	141
18	254	262	87	213	485	626	307	274	300	....	....	139
19	213	254	84	213	473	603	280	210	271	....	....	132
20	176	226	99	193	384	485	235	172	282	....	....	128
21	156	193	105	181	328	449	213	156	565	....	183	124
22	139	172	94	170	303	422	193	145	585	....	181	116
23	122	154	89	165	291	453	170	145	485	....	218	111
24	111	137	89	170	297	437	150	143	390	....	243	103
25	101	122	85	226	322	418	135	139	328	....	309	96
26	94	111	80	448	343	505	126	145	282	....	343	130
27	85	103	82	790	364	545	122	174	254	....	337	141
28	79	98	145	745	346	648	112	172	374	....	331	621
29	76	94	122	630	358	765	111	165	489	....	328	541
30	73	....	120	513	445	795	128	154	461	....	322	422
31	72	....	103	....	537	....	161	246	....	....	....	368

NOTE.—Discharge for following periods estimated, because of unsatisfactory operation of water-stage recorder, from maximum and minimum stages indicated by recorder and by comparison with hydrographs and records of flow for other stations: Jan. 1–6, 450 second-feet; Apr. 13, June 8–16, and Aug. 10–13, as given in table; Oct. 7–31, 550 second-feet; Nov. 1–20, 500 second-feet.

Monthly discharge of Swan Lake outlet at Carroll Inlet for 1920.

Month.	Discharge in second-feet.			Run-off in acre-feet.	Month.	Discharge in second-feet.			Run-off in acre-feet.
	Maximum.	Minimum.	Mean.			Maximum.	Minimum.	Mean.	
January	....	72	287	17,600	August	2,600	139	640	39,400
February	644	66	223	12,800	September	585	186	362	21,500
March	158	72	99.5	6,120	October	....	....	597	36,700
April	790	63	211	12,600	November	....	....	426	25,300
May	765	291	404	24,800	December	621	96	227	14,000
June	902	422	590	35,100					
July	701	111	323	19,900	The year	2,600	63	366	266,000

ORCHARD LAKE OUTLET AT SHRIMP BAY, REVILLAGIGEDO ISLAND.

LOCATION.—In latitude 55° 50′ N., longitude 131° 27′ W., at outlet of Orchard Lake one-third mile from tidewater at head of Shrimp Bay, an arm of Behm canal, 46 miles by water from Ketchikan.

DRAINAGE AREA.—Not measured.

RECORDS AVAILABLE.—May 28, 1915, to December 31, 1920.

GAGE.—Stevens continuous water-stage recorder on right bank 300 feet below Orchard Lake and 100 feet above site of timber-crib dam, which was built in 1914 for proposed pulp mill and washed out by high water August 10, 1915. Datum of gage lowered 2 feet September 15, 1915. Gage heights May 29 to August 10 referred to first datum; August 11, 1915, to August 17, 1916, to second datum. Datum of gage lowered 1 foot August 17, 1916. Gage heights August 18 to December 31, 1916, referred to this datum. Gage washed out probably during high water on November 1, 1917. New gage installed on April 28, 1918, at old site at the datum of August 17, 1916.

Discharge measurements.—At medium and high stages made from cable 5 feet upstream from gage; at low stages by wading one-fourth mile below gage.

Channel and control.—From Orchard Lake, at elevation 134 feet above high tide, the stream descends in a series of rapids for 1,000 feet through a narrow gorge, then divides into two channels and enters the bay in two cascades of 100-foot vertical fall. Opposite the gage the water is deep and the current sluggish. At the site of the old dam bedrock is exposed, but for 30 feet upstream the channel is filled in with loose rock and brush placed during construction of dam. This material forms a riffle, which acts as a control for water surface at gage at low and medium stages and is scoured down when ice goes out of lake; the rock outcrop at site of old dam acts as a control at high stages and is permanent.

Extremes of discharge.—Maximum stage recorded during year, 8.0 feet at 2 p. m. August 6 (discharge 4,780 second-feet); minimum stage, 0.31 foot March 9 (discharge, 67 second-feet).

1915–1920: Maximum stage probably occurred on November 1, 1917 (discharge estimated by multiplying maximum discharge at Fish Creek on that date by 1.55, which is the ratio between the maximum discharges of Orchard Lake outlet and Fish Creek on October 15 and 16, 1915, 7,100 second-feet); minimum discharge, estimated, 20 second-feet, February 11, 1916.

Ice.—Stage-discharge relation not affected by ice.

Accuracy.—Stage-discharge relation changes occasionally during high water. Rating curve, determined by seven discharge measurements made since new gage was installed, point of zero flow, and form of upper portion of old rating curve, is well defined below 4,000 second-feet. Operation of water-stage recorder satisfactory except for periods indicated in footnote to daily-discharge table. Daily discharge ascertained by applying to rating table mean daily gage heights determined by inspecting gage-height graph, or, for days of considerable fluctuation, by averaging discharges obtained by applying to rating table mean gage heights for regular intervals of day. Records good, except for period of break in record, for which they are fair.

The highest mountains on this drainage basin are only 3,500 feet above sea level and are covered to an elevation of 2,500 feet by a heavy stand of timber and a thick undergrowth of brush, ferns, alders, and devil's club. The topography is not so rugged as that of the area surrounding Shelockum Lake, and the proportion of vegetation, soil cover, and lake area is greater, so that more water is stored in the Orchard Lake drainage basin and the flow is better sustained.

A survey of Orchard Lake was made by an engineering company in September, 1920. From this survey the area of the lake was determined as 965 acres and the elevation of lake above high tide as 128 feet. A dam at the outlet of the lake would flood part of the valley, at the head of the lake, which extends upstream a few miles at a small gradient.

Discharge measurements of Orchard Lake outlet at Shrimp Bay during 1920.

[Made by G. H. Canfield.]

Date.	Gage height.	Discharge.
	Feet.	*Sec.-ft.*
Feb. 16	0.72	135
Dec. 8	1.48	285

Daily discharge, in second-feet of Orchard Lake outlet at Shrimp Bay, for 1920.

Day.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May.	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Dec.
1	259	....	85	....	680	1,080	1,030	314	400	350
2	422	....	81	....	640	1,250	880	447	410	275
3	700	....	79	....	624	1,430	740	560	368	300
4	514	....	74	....	560	1,460	708	1,210	338	300
5	362	....	75	....	572	1,400	724	3,290	280	290
6	270	....	75	....	870	1,220	762	4,560	242	285
7	394	....	72	....	1,060	1,030	808	2,900	242	280
8	808	....	68	....	905	905	808	1,370	680	275
9	616	....	67	....	700	855	785	785	762	225
10	430	....	....	....	572	808	785	522	560	190
11	320	....	....	....	492	740	762	1,240	450	162
12	252	....	....	....	485	740	700	2,410	390	140
13	335	....	....	....	485	740	660	2,100	308	134
14	640	....	....	....	467	785	620	1,160	275	130
15	533	....	....	....	510	855	592	700	332	120
16	387	119	....	....	680	785	572	474	362	109
17	288	166	....	....	700	808	511	350	338	105
18	218	275	....	....	740	930	450	272	280	119
19	186	286	....	....	740	720	487	225	280	134
20	176	254	....	....	612	612	326	196	384	138
21	....	199	....	....	507	596	297	176	600	136
22	....	166	....	....	481	680	270	209	540	125
23	....	141	....	....	500	680	232	314	407	110
24	....	119	....	267	588	640	212	297	286	102
25	....	109	....	329	640	640	190	247	230	92
26	....	100	....	955	640	785	190	267	190	105
27	....	93	....	1,280	660	855	190	350	170	810
28	....	89	....	1,160	640	930	184	329	340	1,000
29	....	87	....	980	680	1,110	186	262	650	660
30	....	....	....	785	920	1,160	192	218	500	457
31	....	....	....	....	1,000	....	280	280	....	433

NOTE.—Discharge estimated for following periods, because water-stage recorder was run down or not operating satisfactorily: Jan. 21–31, 105 second-feet; Feb. 1–15, 350 second-feet; Mar. 10–31, 100 second-feet; Apr. 1–23, 160 second-feet. Discharge for following periods estimated from maximum and minimum stages indicated by recorder and comparison with hydrographs for streams in near-by drainage basins and climatic data for Ketchikan; May 27–28, June 18–22, and Sept. 26–30, daily discharge as shown in table; Oct. 1–31, 630 second-feet; Nov. 1–30, 520 second-feet; Dec. 1–8 by comparison with record of flow for the outlet of Shelockum Lake.

Monthly discharge of Orchard Lake outlet at Shrimp Bay, for 1920.

Month.	Discharge in second-feet.			Run-off in acre-feet.	Month.	Discharge in second-feet.			Run-off in acre-feet.
	Maximum.	Minimum.	Mean.			Maximum.	Minimum.	Mean.	
January	....	....	299	18,400	August	4,560	176	904	55,600
February	....	87	257	14,800	September	762	170	386	23,000
March	....	....	92.8	5,710	October	....	....	630	38,700
April	1,280	....	315	18,700	November	....	....	520	30,900
May	1,060	467	656	40,300	December	1,000	92	261	16,000
June	1,460	596	908	54,000					
July	1,030	184	520	32,000	The year	4,560	....	480	348,000

SHELOCKUM LAKE OUTLET AT BAILEY BAY.

Location.—In latitude 56° 00′ N., longitude 131° 36′ W., on mainland near outlet of Shelockum Lake, three-fourths mile by Forest Service trail from tidewater at north end of Bailey Bay and 52 miles by water north of Ketchikan.

Drainage area.—18 square miles (measured on sheets Nos. 5 and 8 of the Alaska Boundary Tribunal, edition of 1895).

Records available.—June 1, 1915, to December 31, 1920.

Gage.—Stevens continuous water-stage recorder on right shore of lake, 250 feet above outlet.

Discharge measurements.—Made from cable across outlet of lake, 200 feet below gage and 50 feet upstream from crest of falls.

Channel and control.—Opposite the gage the lake is 600 feet wide; at the outlet bedrock is exposed and the water makes a nearly perpendicular fall of 150 feet. This fall forms an excellent and permanent control for the gage. At extremely high stages the lake has another outlet about 200 feet to left of main outlet. Point of zero flow is at gage height 0.6 foot.

Extremes of discharge.—Maximum stage recorded during year, 6.65 feet, at 9 a. m. August 6 (discharge, 2,580 second-feet); minimum discharge (estimated from hydrograph for Fish Creek to have occurred March 9), 15 second-feet.

1915–1920: Maximum stage, 6.84 feet at 8 a. m. November 1, 1917 (discharge, 2,780 second-feet); minimum discharge, estimated from climatic records, 2.5 second-feet.

Ice.—Stage-discharge relation not affected by ice.

Accuracy.—Stage-discharge relation permanent. Rating curve well defined. Operation of water-stage recorder satisfactory except for periods of break in record, as shown in footnote to daily-discharge table. Daily discharge ascertained by applying to rating table mean daily gage heights determined by inspection of gage-height graph, or, for days of considerable fluctuation, by averaging discharges obtained by applying to rating table mean gage heights for regular intervals of day. Records excellent, except for periods of break in record, for which they are fair.

An outline survey of Shelockum Lake was made in 1914 by the United States Forest Service, and blue-print copies of the survey can be obtained from their district office at Ketchikan. This survey ascertained the lake to be 344 feet above high tide and 350 acres in area. The drainage basin above the lake is rough, precipitous, and covered with little soil or vegetation. There are no glaciers or ice fields at the source of the tributary streams. Therefore, because of little natural storage, the run-off after a heavy rainfall is rapid and not well sustained, and during a dry summer or winter the flow becomes very low. The large amount of snow that accumulates on the drainage basin during the winter maintains a good flow in May and June.

No discharge measurements were made at this station during the year.

Daily discharge, in second-feet, of Shelockum Lake outlet at Bailey Bay for 1920.

Day.	Jan.	Apr.	May.	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1	106	....	230	472	422	273	363	263	761	94
2	134	....	224	525	336	321	304	314	1,320	76
3	206	....	226	600	292	282	233	336	660	82
4	170	....	216	600	297	748	214	243	350	82
5	127	....	204	580	350	1,640	166	172	241	80
6	111	....	230	508	392	2,300	128	125	164	76
7	164	....	230	438	407	950	150	92	123	76
8	316	....	210	405	407	392	525	72	97	75
9	252	....	174	377	407	237	392	280	78	69
10	190	....	154	377	392	166	241	525	67	59
11	150	....	147	358	363	736	182	324	58	55
12	123	....	196	377	350	1,250	160	210	50	50
13	134	....	204	350	318	660	128	210	43	53
14	289	....	194	363	309	336	112	239	38	55
15	297	....	220	392	292	214	117	210	34	52
16	208	....	331	392	275	145	104	156	31	47
17	158	....	306	363	252	112	94	120	30	43
18	121	....	336	472	220	84	91	94	29	43
19	92	....	306	363	190	71	115	78	31	44
20	76	....	241	311	164	60	141	170	59	44
21	58	....	200	287	149	71	252	275	88	43
22	53	....	192	324	136	123	235	263	100	41
23	48	....	210	336	120	145	174	270	98	37
24	43	85	241	297	110	123	127	275	109	35
25	40	123	273	292	98	98	94	268	123	31
26	38	342	270	336	98	154	80	230	152	33
27	35	422	268	363	96	299	72	378	132	194
28	33	378	245	490	92	241	143	363	127	392
29	31	311	280	580	94	170	265	252	136	268
30	30	263	378	542	115	123	212	186	117	184
31	28	....	455	....	230	210	....	275	....	145

NOTE.—Record traced by recording pencil Jan. 22, 23, 25-27, 30, and 31, too faint to be seen; discharge estimated. No record Feb. 1 to Apr. 23, except maximum stage; discharge estimated from records of flow for streams in near-by drainage basins: Feb. 1-28, 65 second-feet; Mar. 1-31, 30 second-feet; Apr. 1-23, 40 second-feet.

Monthly discharge of Shelockum Lake outlet at Bailey Bay for 1920.

Month.	Discharge in second-feet.			Run-off in acre-feet.	Month.	Discharge in second-feet.			Run-off in acre-feet.
	Maximum.	Minimum.	Mean.			Maximum.	Minimum.	Mean.	
January	316	28	125	7,690	August	2,300	60	411	25,300
February	....	....	65	3,740	September	525	72	187	11,100
March	....	....	30	1,840	October	525	72	234	14,400
April	422	....	94.8	5,640	November	1,320	29	182	10,800
May	455	147	245	15,100	December	392	31	85.7	5,270
June	600	287	416	24,800					
July	422	92	251	15,400	The year	2,300	....	194	141,000

CASCADE CREEK AT THOMAS BAY, NEAR PETERSBURG.

LOCATION.—One-fourth mile above tidewater on east shore of south arm of Thomas Bay, 22 miles by water from Petersburg. One small tributary enters the river from the left half a mile above gage and 2 miles below outlet of lake.

DRAINAGE AREA.—21.4 square miles (measured on the United States Geological Survey geologic reconnaissance map of the Wrangell mining district, edition of 1907).

RECORDS AVAILABLE.—October 27, 1917, to December 31, 1920.

GAGE.—Stevens water-stage recorder on left bank, one-fourth mile from tidewater; reached by trail which leaves beach back of old cabin at mouth of creek.

DISCHARGE MEASUREMENTS.—At medium and high stages, made from log footbridge across stream one-fourth mile upstream from gage; at low stages, made by wading

CHANNEL AND CONTROL.—Gage is in a protected eddy above a natural rock weir, which forms a well-defined and permanent control. The bed of river under the footbridge is rough and the current swift and irregular, but this section is the only place on the whole river where even at low and medium stages there are no boils and eddies.

EXTREMES OF STAGE.—Maximum stage recorded during period of records, 8.4 feet at 6 a. m. August 6, 1920 (discharge computed from extension of rating curve, 2,540 second-feet); minimum stage, 0.80 foot about April 6, 1918 (discharge, 17 second-feet).

ICE.—Stage-discharge relation not affected by ice.

ACCURACY.—Stage-discharge relation permanent. Rating curve well defined below 1,200 second-feet. Operation of water-stage recorder satisfactory except for periods indicated in footnote to daily-discharge table. Daily discharge ascertained by applying to rating table mean daily gage heights determined by inspecting gage-height graph, or, for days of considerable fluctuation, by averaging discharge for equal intervals of day. Records good, except for periods when recorder did not operate satisfactorily, for which they are fair.

The first site on this stream for a storage reservoir is at a small lake 3 miles from tidewater, at an elevation of 1,200 feet above sea level. The drainage area above the gaging station is 21 square miles and above the outlet of the lake 17 square miles. Flow during summer is augmented by melting ice from glaciers on upper part of drainage area.

The only maps available, showing the drainage basin of this stream, are sheet 10 (scale, 1: 160,000) of the Alaska Boundary Tribunal, edition of 1895; topographic map of the Wrangell mining district (scale, 1: 250,000) of the United States Geological Survey, edition of 1907 (topography compiled from sheets of the Alaska Boundary Tribunal). A rough map, made for J. T. Martin who has mining claims near the mouth of the stream, shows a very small lake, 1.7 miles upstream from beach at an elevation of 1,250 feet; a small flat, 2.1 miles upstream from beach, at an elevation of 1,600 feet; and a lake (not surveyed but estimated to be 2 miles long by three-fourths mile wide) 2.5 miles upstream from beach, at an elevation of 1,950 feet.

The first lake and the flat are too small for storage reservoirs. A storage reservoir having a capacity sufficient to equalize the flow could probably be created by a tunnel or dam at the outlet of the large lake. The drainage area between the outlet of this lake and the gaging station is 4.5 square miles.

No discharge measurements were made at this station during the year.

Daily discharge, in second-feet, of Cascade Creek at Thomas Bay for 1920.

Day.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May.	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1	70	....	....	24	48	365	640	518	380	160	455	40
2	99	....	....	25	52	440	552	500	395	153	622	39
3	131	....	....	24	55	518	470	470	500	144	425	38
4	107	....	....	24	48	570	485	775	570	129	292	37
5	93	....	....	24	48	600	535	1,720	535	119	210	37
6	86	....	....	24	52	600	570	2,460	440	144	192	36
7	130	....	....	24	51	550	622	1,370	305	124	153	35
8	192	....	....	24	48	530	675	870	210	119	129	33
9	134	....	....	24	48	500	675	570	160	200	114	32
10	117	....	....	23	49	470	675	425	150	160	104	31
11	103	....	....	25	57	450	675	1,160	150	134	92	30
12	88	....	....	39	76	420	675	1,810	119	119	79	29
13	93	....	....	31	65	395	622	1,370	111	129	70	28
14	109	....	....	27	65	404	605	932	109	124	65	27
15	90	....	....	26	86	455	622	622	111	111	62	26
16	77	....	....	26	113	440	675	440	250	94	56	26
17	67	....	....	25	112	425	658	342	455	81	53	26
18	....	....	....	27	119	425	605	280	368	70	52	29
19	....	....	....	26	108	355	570	260	368	72	50	29
20	....	....	....	26	100	305	535	280	500	122	55	27
21	....	....	....	28	95	280	500	395	470	119	70	26
22	....	....	....	29	99	318	470	410	380	114	54	26
23	....	....	....	29	105	292	425	342	342	206	52	25
24	....	....	....	32	112	250	368	250	355	153	53	26
25	....	....	25	80	114	250	355	220	440	127	54	24
26	....	....	25	86	121	318	395	440	588	167	48	30
27	....	....	25	68	136	395	440	535	470	355	45	114
28	....	....	25	56	153	518	440	410	318	260	48	53
29	....	....	25	50	192	675	470	292	230	192	47	46
30	....	....	25	48	250	710	470	230	183	318	42	44
31	....	....	25	....	305	....	552	270	....	368	....	31

NOTE.—Discharge estimated for following periods, because of unsatisfactory operation of water-stage recorder, by comparison with hydrograph and record of flow for Sweetheart Falls Creek: Jan. 1, 70 second-feet; Jan. 18–31, 45 second-feet; Feb. 1–29, 60 second-feet; Mar. 1–24, 35 second-feet; and June 5–12, as shown in table.

Monthly discharge of Cascade Creek at Thomas Bay for 1920.

Month.	Discharge in second-feet.			Run-off in acre-feet.
	Maximum.	Minimum.	Mean.	
January	192	....	77.9	4,790
February	....	....	60	3,450
March	....	....	32.7	2,010
April	86	23	34.1	2,030
May	305	48	99.4	6,110
June	710	250	441	26,200
July	675	355	549	33,800
August	2,460	220	676	41,600
September	588	109	332	19,800
October	368	70	158	9,720
November	622	42	128	7,620
December	114	24	34.8	2,140
The year	2,460	23	219	159,000

GREEN LAKE OUTLET AT SILVER BAY, NEAR SITKA.

Location.—In latitude 56° 59′ N., longitude 135° 5′ W., at outlet of Green Lake, head of Silver Bay, 10½ miles by water south of Sitka.

Drainage area.—Not measured.

Records available.—August 22, 1915, to December 31, 1920.

Gage.—Stevens water-stage recorder on right bank, at outlet of lake, reached by trail which leaves the beach one-fourth mile north of mouth of stream, ascends a 600-foot ridge, and then drops down to the outlet of the lake. Gage datum lowered 1 foot December 27, 1916.

Discharge measurements.—Made from cable across outlet 30 feet below gage.

Channel and control.—From Green Lake, 240 feet above sea level and 1,800 feet from tidewater, the stream descends in a series of falls and rapids through a narrow canyon whose exposed rock walls rise vertically more than 100 feet.

Extremes of discharge.—Maximum stage recorded during year, 10.0 feet, at 11 a. m. August 5 (discharge, computed from extension of rating curve, 1,900 second-feet); minimum stage recorded, −0.05 foot, estimated from hydrographs for other stations to have occurred April 10 (discharge, 10 second-feet).

1915–1920: Maximum stage recorded, 13.0 feet, September 26, 1918 (discharge, estimated from extension of rating curve, 3,300 second-feet); minimum stage recorded, −0.05 foot, estimated from hydrographs for other stations to have occurred April 10, 1920 (discharge, 10 second-feet).

Ice.—Ice forms on lake and at gage, but because of current and flow of relatively warm weather from the lake the control remains open.

Accuracy.—Stage-discharge relation permanent. Rating curve well defined between 10 and 1,300 second-feet. Operation of water-stage recorder satisfactory except for periods indicated by breaks in record, as shown in the footnote to the daily-discharge table. Daily discharge ascertained by applying to the rating table mean daily gage height, determined by inspecting gage-height graph, or, for days of considerable fluctuation, by averaging results obtained by applying to rating table gage heights for regular intervals of day. Records good, except those for periods when gage was not operating satisfactorily, which are fair.

No maps have been made of the drainage basin. The elevation of Green Lake above high tide, measured by aneroid barometer, is 240 feet; the area of the lake is 175 acres, according to the best available estimates. At the upper end of lake is a low flat, reported to be 2 or 3 miles long, which would be flooded by a dam at outlet of lake.

The following discharge measurement was made by G. H. Canfield:

June 18, 1920: Gage height, 4.36 feet; discharge, 466 second-feet.

Daily discharge, in second-feet, of Green Lake outlet at Silver Bay, for 1920.

Day.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May.	June.	July.	Aug.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1			38	16		406	547	452		820	100
2			30	14		499	452	442		1,480	90
3			26	12		695	397	397		751	90
4			20	16		889	397	470		380	90
5			20			706	424	1,640		320	80
6	212		20			518	461	1,220		774	73
7	1,590		26			442	547	672		461	70
8	1,350		26			490	588	442		278	65
9	464		26			528	568	320		200	60
10	254		30			461	537	328		161	55
11	206		40			397	518	706		134	50
12	147		42			406	557	599		116	50
13	118		40			388	518	673		106	50
14	118		36			424	490	518		93	50
15	107		30			518	499	354		86	40
16	90		30		303	461	461	270		76	40
17	72		33		247	433	424	240		75	40
18	60		28		206	461	406	210		71	40
19	54		26		166	397	406	200		72	35
20	53		20		134	328	415	215		82	35
21	48		18		118	294	406	260	240	90	30
22	46	72	16		114	461	371	294	200	80	30
23		60	16		122	499	320		337	80	30
24		54	16		126	371	270		270	90	25
25		49	16		161	328	270		188	80	25
26		48	16		303	433	320		303	70	50
27		44	23		262	499	354		424	65	150
28		42	40		262	537	415		286	175	275
29		40	38		328	547	499		194	200	212
30			30		380	568	490		885	140	134
31			20		371		480		620		118

NOTE.—Discharge for following periods when water-stage recorder was run down or not operating satisfactorily estimated by comparison with hydrographs of streams in near-by drainage basins and climatic data for Juneau: Jan. 1-5, 280 second-feet; Jan. 23-31, 38 second-feet; Apr. 5-30, 45 second-feet; May 1-15, 115 second-feet. Discharge for following periods estimated by comparison with record of flow for Sweetheart Falls Creek near Snettisham: Aug. 18-21, daily discharge; Aug. 23-31, 290 second-feet; Sept. 1-30 330 second-feet; Oct. 1-20, 240 second-feet; Nov. 21-30, Dec. 1-5, and 7-28, daily discharge.

Monthly discharge of Green Lake outlet at Silver Bay for 1920.

Month.	Discharge in second-feet.			Run-off in acre-feet.	Month.	Discharge in second-feet.			Run-off in acre-feet.
	Maximum.	Minimum.	Mean.			Maximum.	Minimum.	Mean.	
January	1,590		217	13,300	August	1,640		437	26,900
February			82.9	4,770	September			330	19,600
March	42	16	27.0	1,660	October	885	188	282	17,300
April			40.9	2,430	November	1,480	65	254	15,100
May	380		172	10,600	December	275	25	73.6	4,530
June	889	294	479	28,500					
July	588	270	445	27,400	The year	1,640		237	172,000

BARANOF LAKE OUTLET AT BARANOF, BARANOF ISLAND.

LOCATION.—In latitude 57° 5′ N., longitude 134° 54′ W., at townsite of Baranof, at head of Warm Spring Bay, east coast of Baranof Island, 18 miles east of Sitka across island, but 96 miles from Sitka by water through Peril Strait.

DRAINAGE AREA.—Not measured.

RECORDS AVAILABLE.—June 28, 1915, to December 31, 1920.

GAGE.—Stevens water-stage recorder on right bank 700 feet below Baranof Lake and 800 feet above tidewater at head of Warm Spring Bay.

Discharge measurements.—At medium and high stages, from cable across stream 100 feet below lake and 600 feet above gage; at low stages, by wading 100 feet below cable.

Channel and control.—From Baranof Lake, at elevation 130 feet above sea level and 1,500 feet from tidewater, the stream descends in a series of rapids and small falls and enters the bay in a cascade of about 100-foot concentrated fall. The bed is of glacial drift, boulders, and rock outcrop. The gage is in an eddy 50 feet downstream from the foot of a small fall and 100 feet upstream from a riffle which forms a well-defined control.

Extremes of discharge.—Maximum stage recorded during year, 4.3 feet at noon, November 2 (discharge, 2,000 second-feet); minimum discharge, estimated, 32 second-feet, April 14.

1915–1920: Maximum stage recorded during period, 5.3 feet August 10, 1915 (discharge, computed from extension of rating curve, 3,350 second-feet); minimum discharge, estimated by discharge measurement and climatic data, 28 second-feet, February 13, 1915.

Ice.—Because of the swift current and flow of relatively warm water from the lake, the stream remains open except during extremely cold periods.

Diversions.—The flume to Olsen's sawmill diverts from the stream 200 feet below gage only sufficient water to operate a 25-horsepower Pelton water wheel.

Accuracy.—Stage-discharge relation permanent; slightly affected by ice March 29 to April 19. Rating curve well defined below 2,000 second-feet. Operation of water-stage recorder satisfactory except for periods indicated in footnote to daily-discharge table. Daily discharge ascertained by applying to rating table mean daily gage heights determined by inspecting gage-height graph, or, for days of considerable fluctuation, by averaging discharge for equal intervals of day. Records good, except for periods when recorder did not operate satisfactorily and for periods when water was frozen in well, for which they are fair.

The drainage area is rough and precipitous, and the vegetable and soil cover is thin, even on the foothills of the mountains. The run-off is rapid, and the ground storage is small. During a hot, dry period, however, the flow is greatly augmented by melting ice from several small glaciers and ice-capped mountains.

The drainage basin of this stream has not been surveyed, but Baranof Lake and the region between lake and tidewater at head of Warm Spring Bay was surveyed and map drawn in 1914 by the United States Forest Service. Blue-print copies can be obtained from the district office of the Forest Service at Juneau, Alaska. The elevation of Baranof Lake above high tide as determined by the survey was 134 feet and the area of the lake 700 acres.

It would be necessary to raise the elevation of the lake 100 feet in order to create a reservoir having a capacity of 90,000 acre-feet, the storage required to equalize the flow.

No discharge measurements were made at this station during the year.

Daily discharge, in second-feet, Baranof Lake outlet at Baranof, for 1920.

Day.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May.	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.
1			52	33	205	695	788	680	590	668	1,330
2			51	33	189	755	695	660	522	545	1,940
3			48	33	210	855	615	590	615	436	
4			47	32	235	1,010	640	668	640	362	
5			43	34	220	1,010	725	1,330	500	303	
6			45	35	203	890	788	1,380	432	255	
7		165	45	37	195	788	970	890	890	208	
8		149	47	39	185	820	1,010	695	930	189	
9		129	49	40	181	820	970	545	640	348	
10		118	49	43	183	725	930	480	500	400	
11	309	145	49	43	203	695	930	668	500	324	
12	255	137	51	43	220	668	1,050	725	420	273	
13	218	118	56	43	238	615	1,010	640	460	267	
14	195	106	57	42	248	640	930	590	336	250	
15	169	95	54	42	291	725	855	492	270	225	
16	145	102	53	42	327	695	820	420	225	195	
17	125	125	52	47	339	668	755	370	191	171	
18	110	129	52	84	336	668	695	352	185	155	
19	95	118	51	90	309	615	668	408	230	141	
20		102	49	84	285	545	668	460	205	199	
21		89	46	82	261	522	640	452	177	264	
22		80	44	80	242	640	568	420	173	300	
23		70	40	83	242	615	500	362	169	366	
24		64	39	100	250	545	460	321	167	359	
25		61	39	114	315	545	500	291	155	270	
26		59	36	141	568	615	600	362	147	345	
27		55	36	167	568	695	650	678	137	488	
28		53	36	187	568	820	725	615	324	400	
29		53	34	195	615	820	850	444	1,100	330	
30			34	208	695	855	800	392	392	772	
31			34		695		750	640		930	

NOTE.—Discharge for following periods estimated, because of ice effect or unsatisfactory operation of water-stage recorder, by comparison with hydrographs for streams in near-by drainage basins and climatic data for Juneau: Jan. 1–10, 455 second-feet; Jan. 20–31, 70 second-feet; Feb. 1–6, 90 second-feet; and Mar. 29 to Apr. 9, daily discharge. Daily discharge, July 25 to Aug. 2, estimated by comparison with record of flow for outlet of Green Lake; discharge for following periods estimated from records for Sweetheart Falls Creek: Sept. 12–20, daily discharge; Nov. 3–30, 290 second-feet; Dec. 1–31, 55 second-feet.

Monthly discharge of Baranof Lake outlet at Baranof for 1920.

Month.	Discharge in second-feet.			Run-off in acre-feet.	Month.	Discharge in second-feet.			Run-off in acre-feet.
	Maximum.	Minimum.	Mean.			Maximum.	Minimum.	Mean.	
January			226	13,900	August	1,380	291	581	35,700
February	165	53	98.7	5,680	September	1,100	137	407	24,200
March	57	34	45.7	2,810	October	930	141	346	21,300
April	208	32	75.9	4,520	November	1,940		380	22,600
May	695	181	317	19,500	December			55	3,380
June	1,010	522	719	42,800					
July	1,050	460	760	46,700	The year	1,940	32	335	243,000

FALLS CREEK AT NICKEL, NEAR CHICHAGOF.

LOCATION.—One-eighth mile above beach, on stream that enters tidewater half a mile northeast of camp of Alaska Nickel Mines Co., 20 miles by water northwest of Chichagof, on west coast of Chichagof Island.

DRAINAGE AREA.—Not measured.

RECORDS AVAILABLE.—May 6, 1918, to June 13, 1920.

GAGE.—Stevens water-stage recorder on left bank one-eighth mile above beach.

Discharge measurements.—At medium and high stages, made from cable across stream 500 feet above gage; at low stages, made by wading in channel exposed at beach at low tide.

Channel and control.—The gage is 20 feet upstream from rectangular weir, the crest of which is 2 feet above bed of stream, 2 inches wide, and 40 feet long. At the cable section the bed is smooth, the water is deep, and the current is regular and sluggish.

Extremes of discharge.—1918–1920: Maximum stage recorded during period, 3.45 feet at 3 p. m. September 26, 1918 (discharge, 665 second-feet); minimum stage recorded, 0.18 foot March 12, 1919 (discharge, 3.2 second-feet).

Ice.—Stage-discharge relation affected by ice forming on crest of weir for short periods during extremely cold weather.

Accuracy.—Stage-discharge relation changed February 17, 1920, when the river was disturbed by ice, the average elevation of crest of weir being raised about 0.11 foot. Rating curves used before and after the change fairly well defined between 30 and 100 second-feet; extended beyond those limits by use of formula the coefficient for which was based on results of current-meter measurements. Operation of water-stage recorder satisfactory except for periods shown in footnote to daily-discharge table. Daily discharge ascertained by applying to rating table mean daily gage height obtained by inspection of gage-height graph or for days of considerable variation in stage by averaging discharge for intervals of the day. Records fair.

Cooperation.—Station maintained in cooperation with the Alaska Nickel Mines Co.

The following discharge measurement was made by G. H. Canfield:

June 14, 1920: Gage-height, 0.66 foot; discharge, 45 second-feet.

Daily discharge, in second-feet, of Falls Creek at Nickel for the period May 6, 1918, to June 13, 1920.

Day.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May.	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1918.												
1						115	106	49	215	52	128	235
2						95	83	44	120	50	88	179
3						83	71	40	62	70	66	115
4						76	63	37	44	72	85	85
5						76	56	35	39	61	465	74
6					120	81	49	42	34	52	358	101
7					92	90	46	58	31	58	191	62
8					85	102	43	50	28	50	115	51
9					84	104	41	54	79	56	81	47
10					85	94	38	42	60	41	62	41
11					95	96	57	39	50	39	66	37
12					101	94	60	37	44	96	86	34
13					101	85	50	52	41	85	68	30
14					100	79	44	100	37	120	62	31
15					92	76	40	68	50	86	50	29
16					86	68	37	68	62	68	49	58
17					78	62	35	92	174	86	43	68
18					79	58	32	72	235	101	35	60
19					71	54	30	68	156	75	31	52
20					62	58	30	72	100	72	47	43
21					68	56	28	109	72	65	68	143
22					62	51	26	137	56	52	79	137
23					62	50	25	162	94	49	82	156
24					62	57	25	217	68	56		117
25					66	63	24	181	166	52		130
26					70	66	23	128	414	115		115
27					71	68	35	104	271	86		82
28					203	68	54	150	150	156		62
29					258	115	39	156	96	134		54
30					197	162	44	360	66	152		46
31					164		57	408		137		41

Daily discharge, in second-feet, of Falls Creek at Nickel for the period May 6, 1918, to June 13, 1920—Continued.

Day.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May.	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1919.												
1	47	....	9	....	....	40	23	15	60	37	42	17
2	115	....	9	....	....	46	22	14	41	241	29	15
3	89	....	9	....	....	49	26	14	32	420	24	15
4	78	....	8	51	31	47	30	14	26	345	21	16
5	92	....	8	56	....	46	30	20	20	345	17	23
6	229	....	11	56	....	44	42	16	17	465	14	44
7	209	....	12	48	....	41	39	14	17	278	13	27
8	185	....	13	44	....	37	36	34	15	141	18	25
9	128	25	23	43	....	37	39	56	96	82	13	50
10	98	25	16	36	....	36	57	44	96	81	11	52
11	83	25	13	34	....	36	60	....	62	58	11	39
12	63	22	6	30	....	36	57	....	197	48	13	28
13	56	23	....	30	....	39	72	....	458	43	43	22
14	50	27	....	30	....	41	72	....	267	35	30	14
15	41	26	....	27	....	41	57	....	128	28	47	34
16	37	24	....	24	....	37	46	60	89	34	51	122
17	36	25	....	38	....	35	41	50	134	31	89	....
18	....	41	....	47	63	34	42	62	156	52	183	....
19	....	46	....	56	83	35	38	120	96	50	145	....
20	....	30	....	56	127	39	40	112	82	135	175	....
21	....	24	....	52	95	39	42	68	206	114	102	....
22	....	23	....	46	74	39	....	50	118	72	71	....
23	....	17	....	55	60	39	....	39	101	52	50	....
24	....	14	....	51	62	37	....	34	278	43	38	....
25	....	14	....	158	72	35	....	24	195	36	30	....
26	....	10	....	211	62	31	....	20	109	38	26	....
27	....	10	....	205	55	29	....	37	68	41	24	....
28	....	10	....	....	55	29	18	56	68	35	23	....
29	....	....	....	....	49	27	16	92	56	36	24	46
30	....	....	....	....	43	25	15	101	46	104	19	39
31	....	....	....	....	40	....	15	86	....	50	....	145

Day.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May.	June.	Day.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May.	June.
1920.							1920.						
1	227	....	25	21	58	75	16	35	205	38	....	225	....
2	221	....	24	21	57	78	17	35	211	30	....	166	....
3	143	....	19	20	57	89	18	34	150	28	....	146	....
4	89	....	20	20	66	101	19	....	92	28	....	101	....
5	117	....	20	23	60	96	20	....	65	25	....	75	....
6	258	....	20	23	46	90	21	....	58	23	....	65	....
7	570	0	20	22	44	81	22	....	54	20	....	60	....
8	342	146	20	21	41	75	23	....	51	19	....	56	....
9	175	112	19	21	37	79	24	....	44	18	....	55	....
10	120	146	22	23	35	75	25	....	43	18	....	55	....
11	78	175	38	42	39	60	26	....	38	18	89	56	....
12	56	137	42	28	48	55	27	....	34	20	107	65	....
13	56	128	32	....	50	44	28	....	30	25	83	68	....
14	50	109	32	....	51	....	29	....	28	25	72	72	....
15	40	109	27	....	89	....	30	....	....	23	65	72	....
							31	....	....	22	....	75	....

NOTE.—Discharge for following periods when gage did not operate satisfactorily estimated by comparison with records of Porcupine Creek near Nickel: Nov. 24–30, 1918, 87 second-feet; Jan. 18–31, 1919, 30 second-feet; Feb. 1–8, 27 second-feet; Mar. 13–19, 10 second-feet; Mar. 20–31, 28 second-feet; Apr. 1–3, 50 second-feet; Apr. 28–30, 125 second-feet, May 1–3, 65 second-feet; May 5–17, 55 second-feet; July 22–27, 30 second-feet; Aug. 11–15, 46 second-feet; Dec. 17–28, 77 second-feet; Apr. 13–25, 1920, 34 second-feet. Discharge for following periods estimated because stage-discharge relation was affected by ice: Feb. 10 and Feb. 27 to Mar. 4, 1919, Jan. 14, 15; Mar. 5–8, and Mar. 27 to Apr. 8, 1920, as shown in table; Jan. 19–31, 1920, 26 second-feet and Feb. 1–7, 85 second-feet.

Monthly discharge of Falls Creek at Nickel for the period May 6, 1918, to June 13, 1920.

Month.	Discharge in second-feet.			Run-off in acre-feet.
	Maximum.	Minimum.	Mean.	
1918.				
May 6-31	258	62	101	5,210
June	162	50	80.1	4,770
July	106	23	44.9	2,760
August	408	35	104	6,400
September	414	28	104	6,190
October	156	39	78.8	4,850
November	465	31	103	6,130
December	235	30	81.1	4,990
The period	....	....	....	41,300
1919.				
January	229	....	66.3	4,080
February	....	10	24.2	1,340
March	....	6	17.5	1,080
April	211	24	67.0	3,990
May	127	....	60.7	3,730
June	49	25	37.5	2,230
July	72	15	37.3	2,290
August	120	14	47.8	2,940
September	458	15	111	6,600
October	465	28	115	7,070
November	183	11	46.5	2,770
December	....	14	54.7	3,360
The year	465	6	57.3	41,500
1920.				
January	570	....	96.3	5,920
February	....	28	95.2	5,480
March	42	18	24.5	1,510
April	107	....	38.1	2,270
May	225	35	70.6	4,340
June 1-13	101	44	76.8	1,980
The period	....	....	....	21,500

PORCUPINE CREEK NEAR NICKEL.

Location.—Half a mile above beach, on stream that enters tidewater at head of Porcupine Harbor, 4 miles northwest of camp of Alaska Nickel Mines Co., which is 20 miles by water northwest of Chichagof, on west coast of Chichagof Island.

Drainage area.—Not measured.

Records available.—May 20, 1918, to August 22, 1920.

Gage.—Stevens water-stage recorder on left bank of stream half a mile above beach.

Discharge measurements.—At medium and high stages, made from cable across stream 150 feet above gage; at low stages, made by wading near control.

Channel and control.—The gage is located at edge of deep pool formed by contraction of channel where stream passes over exposed bedrock and descends in a series of small falls. The head of these falls forms a well-defined and permanent control. At the cable section the bed is rough, the water is deep, and the current is sluggish and irregular, because 15 feet above cable the stream widens into a small lake.

Extremes of discharge.—1918–1290: Maximum stage during period from water-stage recorder, 4.25 feet at 11 p. m. January 7, 1920 (discharge, from extension of rating curve, 1,180 second-feet); minimum stage, 0.37 foot March 19 and 28, 1919 (discharge, 24 second-feet).

Ice.—Stage-discharge relation not seriously affected by ice.

Accuracy.—Stage-discharge relation practically permanent. Rating curve fairly well defined between 30 and 200 second-feet; extended beyond these limits. Operation of water-stage recorder satisfactory except for periods indicated in footnote to daily discharge table. Daily discharge ascertained by applying to rating table mean daily gage heights obtained by inspection of gage-height graph, or, for days of considerable fluctuation, by averaging discharge for intervals of the day. Records fair.

The following discharge measurement was made by G. H. Canfield:

June 13, 1920: Gage height, 1.24 feet; discharge, 84 second-feet.

Daily discharge, in second-feet, of Porcupine Creek near Nickel for the period May 21, 1918, to Aug. 21, 1920.

Day.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May.	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1918.												
1						191	139	75	305	157	181	....
2						171	132	65	228	140	162	....
3						157	126	60	183	143	140	....
4						147	120	60	155	143	130	....
5						139	113	65	136	133	365	....
6						139	106	67	122	123	658	....
7						139	104	75	109	118	465	....
8						145	100	78	99	117	320	....
9						147	96	76	93	110	240	....
10						143	94	74	106	103	185	....
11						143	98	71	101	98	161	....
12						140	100	76	100	114	152	....
13						133	95	94	94	122	137	....
14						131	90	90	88	130	129	....
15						129	88	90	82	127	120	....
16						123	86	103	92	120	113	....
17						118	83	103	126	120	104	....
18						114	81	99	175	133	94	....
19						109	78	103	175	129	88	....
20						108	76	113	154	123	90	....
21					93	105	73	133	136	117	96	....
22					92	100	65	148	123	106	110	....
23					90	98	60	187	129	100	110	....
24					88	98	60	197	120	100	116	121
25					88	100	60	185	157	96	117	125
26					88	100	58	166	420	109	136	136
27					89	100	65	177	505	112	145	125
28					126	103	75	195	338	129	143	116
29					197	120	60	311	252	140	179	105
30					224	147	65	545	195	161	185	99
31					208	....	80	445	....	175	....	90
1919.												
1	88	52	32	43	112	92	75	65	126	145	104	....
2	108	50	31	45	104	92	73	64	120	228	103	....
3	109	48	31	47	98	94	73	62	109	499	104	....
4	104	46	29	46	92	90	75	61	100	626	98	....
5	110	44	28	50	89	88	75	62	93	635	98	....
6	152	43	29	53	89	86	77	62	84	650	92	....
7	195	42	29	53	90	84	81	52	80	500	86	....
8	206	41	30	53	92	82	81	56	76	400	74	....
9	197	41	33	53	95	80	82	67	94	355	81	....
10	175	42	31	52	94	80	85	69	113	285	79	....
11	159	41	30	52	92	79	96	69	103	222	73	....
12	140	40	30	53	90	79	98	67	120	181	70	....
13	126	39	29	53	89	78	105	76	445	155	77	....
14	120	39	28	53	92	78	112	86	537	142	74	....
15	109	39	26	52	99	79	110	84	362	132	79	....
16	99	38	26	51	104	78	108	95	272	121	79	....
17	92	36	26	53	101	78	104	92	252	113	93	....
18	84	44	26	54	100	78	101	90	305	110	122	118
19	78	48	25	58	106	78	98	117	252	109	140	112
20	74	43	27	60	126	79	95	126	206	136	161	108
21	74	42	32	62	126	81	95	121	305	159	157	108
22	72	40	30	62	123	81	94	113	252	162	148	114
23	67	40	29	64	118	83	89	104	240	137	191	117
24	64	38	28	64	114	83	87	96	368	121	....	137
25	64	36	27	87	118	83	82	88	425	117	....	150
26	58	35	26	109	116	81	79	84	305	103	....	177
27	60	34	26	133	110	80	76	86	235	99	....	171
28	58	33	25	132	105	79	73	94	208	96	....	155
29	58		27	125	103	79	70	108	191	93	....	142
30	56	....	30	118	95	77	68	126	157	118	....	127
31	54		39	....	90	....	66	133	....	106	....	142

Daily discharge, in second-feet, of Porcupine Creek near Nickel for the period May 21, 1918, to Aug. 21, 1920—Continued.

Day.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May.	June.	July.	Aug.
1920.								
1	217	....	70	35	57	81	92	59
2	245	....	68	35	55	86	90	58
3	265	....	66	36	53	93	93	62
4	222	....	64	38	53	94	92	68
5	210	....	62	42	56	93	88	120
6	266	80	62	41	59	90	87	126
7	912	74	58	40	58	94	83	123
8	930	85	60	40	58	98	81	129
9	590	81	58	39	60	100	81	129
10	408	112	52	38	64	96	78	121
11	296	125	55	37	67	93	74	157
12	235	122	54	39	64	89	70	162
13	206	123	50	42	64	92	73	161
14	175	123	50	44	66	94	69	154
15	157	129	52	43	64	88	67	143
16	....	147	52	45	61	92	63	137
17	....	175	49	43	63	90	64	125
18	....	185	52	43	64	87	61	113
19	....	157	50	47	68	88	58	127
20	....	140	48	48	71	86	56	133
21	....	122	48	49	72	87	55	143
22	....	113	48	49	71	83	54	....
23	....	104	43	51	72	86	54	....
24	....	98	44	52	73	83	54	....
25	....	89	44	50	80	79	54	....
26	....	85	41	49	80	74	51	....
27	....	79	42	50	79	77	47	....
28	....	75	41	51	81	77	54	....
29	....	71	39	55	79	80	55	....
30	....	....	38	56	80	83	50	....
31	....	....	36	....	80	....	53	....

NOTE.—Discharge for following periods estimated because of unsatisfactory operation of water-stage recorder, by comparison with records of flow for near-by streams: July 22 to Aug. 4, 1918, as shown in table; Dec. 1–23, 135 second-feet; May 10–12, July 26–30, and Oct. 6–8, 1919, as shown in table; Nov. 24–30, 53 second-feet; Dec. 1–17, 71 second-feet; Jan. 16–31, 1920, 80 second-feet; discharge for following periods estimated because stage-discharge relation was affected by ice: Feb. 25 and Mar. 12, 1919, Mar. 1–6, and Mar. 28 to Apr. 4, 1920, as shown in table; Feb. 1–5, 1920, 50 second-feet.

Monthly discharge of Porcupine Creek near Nickel for the period May 21, 1918, to Aug. 21, 1920.

Month.	Discharge in second-feet.			Run-off in acre-feet.	Month.	Discharge in second-feet.			Run-off in acre-feet.
	Maximum.	Minimum.	Mean.			Maximum.	Minimum.	Mean.	
1918.					1919.				
May 21–31	224	88	126	2,750	August	133	52	86.3	5,310
June	191	98	128	7,620	September	537	76	218	13,000
July	139	58	87.9	5,400	October	650	93	228	14,000
August	545	60	140	8,610	November	....	....	91.8	5,460
September	505	82	170	10,100	December	....	....	99.5	6,120
October	175	96	124	7,620					
November	658	88	179	10,700	The year	650	25	103	74,800
December	....	....	130	7,990					
The period	....	....	....	60,800	1920.				
					January	930	....	213	13,100
					February	185	....	102	5,870
1919.					March	70	36	51.5	3,170
January	206	54	104	6,400	April	56	35	44.2	2,630
February	52	33	41.2	2,290	May	81	53	66.8	4,110
March	39	25	28.9	1,780	June	100	74	87.8	5,220
April	133	43	66.3	3,950	July	93	47	67.8	4,170
May	126	89	102	6,270	August 1–21	162	58	121	5,040
June	94	77	82.0	4,880					
July	112	66	86.5	5,320	The period	....	....	....	43,300

SWEETHEART FALLS CREEK NEAR SNETTISHAM.

Location.—In latitude 57° 56½′ N., longitude 133° 41′ W., on east shore 1 mile from head of south arm of Port Snettisham, 3 miles south of mouth of Whiting River, 7 miles by water from Snettisham, and 42 miles by water from Juneau. No large tributaries enter river between gaging station and outlet of large lake, 2½ miles upstream.

Drainage area.—27 square miles (measured on United States Geological Survey topographic map of the Juneau gold belt, edition of 1905).

Records available.—July 31, 1915, to March 31, 1917; May 21, 1918, to December 31, 1920.

Gage.—Stevens water-stage recorder on right bank, 300 feet upstream from tidewater on east shore of Port Snettisham.

Discharge measurements.—At medium and high stages, made from cable across river one-fourth mile upstream from gage; at low stages, made by wading in channel at mouth of creek exposed at low tide.

Channel and control.—From the outlet of the lake at an elevation of 520 feet above sea level and 2½ miles from tidewater the water descends in a series of rapids and falls through a narrow, deep canyon. Gage is in a pool at foot of two falls, each 25 feet high, which are known as Sweetheart Falls; outlet of pool is a natural rock weir, which forms a well-defined and permanent control for gage.

Extremes of discharge.—Maximum stage recorded during year, 4.7 feet, at 10 a. m. August 6 (discharge computed from an extension of rating curve, 1,620 second-feet); minimum stage, 0.15 foot, April 10 (discharge, 28 second-feet).

1915–1920: Maximum stage recorded, 7.15 feet at midnight, September 26, 1918 (discharge computed from an extension of the rating curve, 2,880 second-feet); minimum discharge, estimated by current-meter measurement and climatic data, 15 second-feet, February 11, 1916.

Ice.—Stage-discharge affected by ice, April 5–7 and December 14–19.

Accuracy.—Stage-discharge relation permanent. Rating curve well defined between 40 and 1,300 second-feet; extended beyond these limits by estimation. Operation of water-stage recorder satisfactory except for periods indicated in footnote to daily-discharge table. Daily discharge ascertained by applying to rating table mean daily gage heights determined by inspecting gage-height graph, or, for days of considerable fluctuation, by averaging results obtained by applying to rating table gage heights for regular intervals of day. Records excellent, except for period of break in record and for discharge above 1,300 second-feet, for which they are fair.

The only maps available, showing the lake and the drainage basin of this stream, are sheets 11 and 12 (scale 1:160,000) of the Alaska Boundary Tribunal, edition of 1895; topographic map of the Juneau gold belt (scale 1:250,000), United States Geological Survey, edition of 1905 (topography compiled from sheets of the Alaska Boundary Tribunal). From these maps, the following determinations have been made: Area of drainage basin above gaging station, 27 square miles, and above outlet of lake, 26 square miles; area of lake, 1,500 acres; distance from lake outlet to tidewater, 1¾ miles. The elevation of lake above high tide, measured by aneroid barometer, is 520 feet. An unpublished map of part of Port Snettisham (scale 1:31,680), made in 1920 by the United States Geological Survey in cooperation with the United States Forest Service, shows the topography, by a 100-foot contour interval, from the shore to a point about half a mile from outlet of lake.

The following discharge measurement was made by G. H. Canfield:

October 7, 1920: Gage height, 101 feet; discharge, 178 second-feet.

Daily discharge, in second-feet, of Sweetheart Falls Creek near Snettisham for 1920.

Day.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May.	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1	159	58	47	....	133	565	865	470	805	765	785	79
2	249	58	44	....	137	645	805	442	685	505	1,150	72
3	428	58	43	....	144	705	685	432	645	418	1,040	67
4	351	74	41	....	146	785	605	470	765	321	705	67
5	264	113	40	37	144	845	625	846	665	255	505	64
6	240	121	47	35	135	845	645	1,530	505	205	685	58
7	628	119	53	34	131	765	665	1,350	765	166	545	57
8	1,040	102	44	32	121	725	705	1,240	1,190	183	407	53
9	725	96	39	29	115	685	745	845	945	505	312	49
10	470	92	40	28	113	665	765	565	645	470	243	46
11	348	125	42	37	125	605	725	922	435	365	196	42
12	258	108	53	52	183	565	705	1,330	330	300	155	40
13	202	90	52	50	199	545	665	1,330	261	276	129	39
14	183	78	48	44	191	545	625	1,080	210	249	113	38
15	152	79	44	41	210	585	625	745	183	219	106	38
16	131	88	40	39	318	605	625	505	164	183	95	38
17	....	146	41	38	318	565	585	400	148	155	85	38
18	....	109	38	38	340	565	545	330	137	131	80	38
19	....	178	36	38	309	505	525	324	152	117	74	38
20	....	150	33	37	273	452	505	340	150	148	79	37
21	....	123	32	37	249	424	470	418	137	228	80	36
22	....	98	....	37	249	585	452	435	129	231	78	33
23	....	85	....	36	261	605	418	365	123	382	76	30
24	....	73	....	37	279	505	372	306	111	414	74	29
25	....	67	....	47	282	460	348	255	113	321	72	29
26	....	60	....	85	282	505	358	300	98	288	72	30
27	....	57	....	119	297	565	386	585	90	625	64	82
28	....	54	....	131	334	625	386	505	159	625	73	127
29	....	50	....	135	386	745	382	393	682	452	88	90
30	....	....	....	133	452	865	382	315	1,120	545	88	70
31	....	....	....	....	505	....	418	452	....	777	....	90

NOTE.—Discharge for following periods estimated, because of ice or unsatisfactory operation of water-stage recorder, by comparison with climatic data for Juneau and hydrographs for streams in near-by drainage basins: Jan. 17–31, 80 second-feet; Mar. 22–31, 32 second-feet; Apr. 1–4, 30 second-feet; Feb. 1, 2, Apr. 5–7, Dec. 14–19, and Dec. 29–31, daily discharge.

Monthly discharge of Sweetheart Falls Creek near Snettisham, for 1920.

Month.	Discharge in second-feet.			Run-off in acre-feet.	Month.	Discharge in second-feet.			Run-off in acre-feet.
	Maximum.	Minimum.	Mean.			Maximum.	Minimum.	Mean.	
January	1,040	....	227	14,000	August	1,530	255	640	39,400
February	178	50	93.4	5,370	September	1,190	90	418	24,900
March	53	....	39.3	2,420	October	777	117	349	21,500
April	135	28	50.9	3,030	November	1,150	64	275	16,400
May	505	113	237	14,600	December	127	29	53.0	3,260
June	865	424	622	37,000					
July	865	348	568	34,900	The year	1,530	28	298	217,000

CRATER LAKE OUTLET AT SPEEL RIVER, PORT SNETTISHAM.

LOCATION.—At outlet of Crater Lake, 1 mile upstream from edge of tide flats at head of north arm of Port Snettisham, 2 miles by trail from cabins of Speel River project, which are 42 miles by water from Juneau.

DRAINAGE AREA.—11.9 square miles above water-stage recorder at lake outlet, and 13 square miles above staff gage at beach (measured on topographic maps of the Alaska Boundary Tribunal, edition of 1895).

RECORDS AVAILABLE.—January 23, 1913, to December 31, 1920.

GAGE.—Stevens water-stage recorder on left shore of lake 100 feet upstream from outlet. A locally made water-stage recorder having a natural vertical scale and a time scale of 7 inches to 24 hours was used until replaced by Stevens gage June 29, 1916. The gage datum remained the same during the period. During the winter, because of inaccessible location and deep snow, the operation of the gage at the lake was discontinued, and the stage read at staff gage in channel exposed at low tide at beach. The first gage at beach was set at an unknown datum and washed out in winter of 1915–16. Another staff gage was set at about the same location November 24, 1916. Other staff gages were set at about the same location January 11 and November 13, 1918.

DISCHARGE MEASUREMENTS.—Made from cable across outlet of lake, 100 feet downstream from gage and 10 feet upstream from crest of first falls. The rope sling from which discharge measurements were first made was replaced in fall of 1915 by a standard United States Geological Survey gaging car, making more reliable measurements possible.

CHANNEL AND CONTROL.—The gage is on left shore of lake, 100 feet upstream from outlet, where the stream becomes constricted into a narrow channel, the bed of which is composed of large boulders and rock outcrops that form a well-defined and permanent control.

EXTREMES OF DISCHARGE.—Maximum stage recorded during the year, 6.75 feet at 2 a. m. August 6 (discharge computed from an extension of rating curve, 2,100 second-feet); minimum discharge, estimated, 10 second-feet about March 31.

1913–1920: Maximum stage occurred probably on September 26, 1918 (discharge estimated at 2,300 second-feet by multiplying maximum discharge at Long River on September 27, 1918, by 0.44, which is the ratio between the maximum discharges of Crater Lake outlet and Long River on August 19 and 20, 1917); minimum discharge, 5.0 second-feet, February 4, 1916, and February 13, 1919.

ACCURACY.—Stage-discharge relation permanent. Rating curve well-defined below and extended above 1,000 second-feet. Operation of water-stage recorder satisfactory except for periods indicated by breaks in record as shown in footnote to daily-discharge table. Daily discharge ascertained by applying to rating table daily gage height determined by inspecting gage-height graph, or, for days of considerable fluctuation, by averaging results obtained by applying to rating table mean gage heights for regular intervals of the day.

Crater Lake is 1,010 feet above sea level and covers 1.1 square miles. The sides of the mountains surrounding the lake are steep and barren, and the tops are covered by glaciers.

Discharge measurements of Crater Lake outlet at Port Snettisham during 1920.

[Made by G. H. Canfield.]

Date.	Gage height.	Discharge.	Date.	Gage height.	Discharge.
	Feet.	*Sec.-ft.*		*Feet.*	*Sec.-ft.*
Feb. 4	....	[a] 12	May 14	0.26	[b] 52
Apr. 6	....	[b] 11.5	Nov. 11	.48	[b] 52

[a] Estimated discharge at beach.
[b] Estimated inflow between the outlet of Crater Lake and the beach subtracted from the discharge measured at the beach.

Daily discharge, in second-feet, of Crater Lake outlet at Speel River, Port Snettisham, for the period Oct. 1919, to Nov. 11, 1920.

Day.	Oct.	Nov.	May.	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.
1	....	50	....	95	532	517	251	350	251
2	....	43	....	103	416	416	327	212	402
3	....	33	....	108	327	362	532	171	350
4	....	34	....	114	304	443	594	125	221
5	....	....	....	118	338	1,440	375	93	153
6	....	....	....	121	388	1,720	350	74	241
7	....	....	....	122	429	1,230	675	62	186
8	....	....	....	125	472	610	798	151	126
9	282	....	....	126	502	402	798	304	98
10	194	....	....	127	502	304	280	217	78
11	139	....	....	130	502	1,080	186	150	62
12	116	....	....	131	472	1,090	138	120	....
13	98	....	....	132	443	762	115	108	....
14	82	....	....	134	443	502	101	94	....
15	70	....	....	135	443	338	95	78	....
16	63	....	....	136	472	259	98	64	....
17	62	56	....	138	443	221	90	52	....
18	67	194	....	140	402	219	98	43	....
19	100	241	....	142	402	302	142	40	....
20	246	221	....	143	388	375	122	55	....
21	338	251	....	146	388	532	100	78	....
22	203	161	....	146	375	429	89	79	....
23	132	108	64	161	327	304	81	122	....
24	98	78	66	180	293	221	74	126	....
25	78	60	68	198	293	178	67	98	....
26	66	49	68	241	327	287	61	108	....
27	63	....	70	304	362	762	54	327	....
28	62	....	75	362	362	472	79	251	....
29	55	....	78	472	375	282	472	158	....
30	55	....	84	594	388	208	626	203	....
31	52	....	90	....	472	223	....	231	....

NOTE.—Discharge for following periods estimated, because of ice or unsatisfactory operation of water-stage recorder, by comparison with hydrograph and record of flow for Sweetheart Falls Creek: Oct. 1–8, 1919, 470 second-feet; Nov. 5–16, 22 second-feet; Nov. 27–30, 40 second-feet; Dec. 1–31, 45 second-feet; Jan. 1–31, 1920, 100 second-feet; Feb. 1–29, 35 second-feet; Mar. 1–31, 16 second-feet; Apr. 30, 20 second-feet; and May 1–22, 45 second-feet; June 24 and Aug. 6–10, daily discharge. Figures for October, November, and December, 1919, supersede those published in previous report.

Monthly discharge of Crater Lake outlet at Speel River, Port Snettisham, for the period Oct. 1, 1919, to Nov. 11, 1920.

Month.	Discharge in second-feet.			Run-off in acre-feet.
	Maximum.	Minimum.	Mean.	
1919.				
October	....	52	209	12,900
November	251	....	67	3,990
December	....	....	45	2,770
The period	....	....	107	19,700
1920.				
January	....	....	100	6,150
February	....	....	35	2,010
March	....	....	16	984
April	....	....	20	1,190
May	....	....	53.4	3,280
June	594	95	177	10,500
July	532	293	406	25,000
August	1,720	178	532	32,700
September	798	54	262	15,600
October	350	40	140	8,610
November 1–11	402	62	197	4,300
The period	....	....	....	110,000

NOTE.—Figures for October, November, and December, 1919, supersede those published in previous report.

LONG RIVER BELOW SECOND LAKE, AT PORT SNETTISHAM.

LOCATION.—Half a mile downstream from outlet of Second Lake, 1 mile downstream from outlet of Long Lake, half a mile upstream from head of Indian Lake; 2½ miles by trail and boat across Second Lake from cabins of the Speel River project at head of the North Arm of Port Snettisham, 45 miles by water from Juneau.

DRAINAGE AREA.—33.2 square miles (measured on sheet No. 12 of the Alaska Boundary Tribunal maps, edition of 1895).

RECORDS AVAILABLE.—November 11, 1915, to December 31, 1920.

GAGE.—Stevens continuous water-stage recorder on right bank half a mile below outlet of Second Lake.

DISCHARGE MEASUREMENTS.—At medium and high stages made from cable across river at gage; at low stages made by wading one-fourth mile downstream.

CHANNEL AND CONTROL.—At the gage the channel is deep and the current sluggish; banks are low and are overflowed at extremely high stages; bed smooth except for one large boulder. A rapid, 500 feet downstream, forms a well-defined and permanent control.

EXTREMES OF DISCHARGE.—Maximum stage during year, 9.2 feet at about 5 a. m. August 6 (discharge, estimated from extension of rating curve, 4,300 second-feet); minimum discharge, estimated, 30 second-feet, April 9–10. 1916–1920: Maximum stage, 10.2 feet September 27, 1918 (discharge, estimated from extension of rating curve, 5,300 second-feet); minimum discharge, 23 second-feet, February 13, 1916.

ICE.—Stage-discharge relation affected by ice during January, February, March, April, and December.

ACCURACY.—Stage-discharge relation permanent; affected by ice or poor connection between well and river January 1 to February 8, March 23 to May 15, and November 29 to December 31. Rating curve fairly well defined between 50 and 400 second-feet and well defined between 400 and 2,000 second-feet. Operation of water-stage recorder satisfactory except for periods indicated in footnote to daily discharge table. Daily discharge ascertained by applying to the rating table daily gage heights determined by inspecting the gage-height graph. Records good, except for stages below 400 second-feet and for periods of break in record, for which they are fair.

Long Lake is at an elevation of 803 feet above sea level, is 2,000 acres in area, and is about 2 miles, by line of possible water conduit, from tidewater at cabins of the Speel River project.

The area of the drainage basin above the outlet of Long Lake is 31.9 square miles. The area draining to Long River between the outlet of Long Lake and this station comprises only 1.3 square miles, including First Lake and Second Lake. Because this area is at a low altitude and has no glaciers the run-off per square mile from it is greater early in the spring but much less in summer than that from the area above Long Lake, which is partly covered by glaciers.

Discharge measurements of Long River below Second Lake, at Port Snettisham, during 1920.

[Made by G. H. Canfield.]

Date.	Gage height.	Discharge.	Date.	Gage height.	Discharge.
	Feet.	*Sec.-feet.*		*Feet.*	*Sec.-feet.*
Apr. 6	*a* 0.84	38	Nov. 11	1.71	181
May 13	....	140			

a River partly frozen over at control.

Daily discharge, in second-feet, of Long River below Second Lake, at Port Snettisham, for 1920.

Day.	Feb.	Mar.	May.	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.
1	50	51	....	465	900	998	740	1,040	620
2	50	50	....	512	800	930	840	740	1,190
3	55	49	....	582	750	840	1,160	582	952
4	60	48	....	620	700	908	1,310	426	600
5	100	48	....	680	760	2,360	998	330	468
6	160	48	....	680	820	3,760	885	239	582
7	130	46	....	640	908	2,340	1,490	194	487
8	110	45	....	600	1,020	1,510	1,690	337	357
9	93	44	....	600	1,060	1,090	1,240	565	264
10	108	42	....	600	1,110	885	840	468	202
11	180	45	....	582	1,110	1,900	600	375	173
12	120	50	....	565	1,110	2,480	468	339	157
13	89	54	....	530	1,060	1,780	387	341	138
14	81	50	....	530	1,060	1,310	339	293	123
15	82	50	....	548	1,060	975	301	239	113
16	95	48	390	565	1,090	780	331	181	105
17	204	47	325	548	1,040	660	295	149	101
18	204	46	354	600	998	620	351	130	98
19	134	49	312	565	975	740	402	117	86
20	98	45	295	523	952	840	314	220	94
21	77	45	298	471	930	1,130	262	357	95
22	68	45	339	600	908	1,020	234	312	94
23	63	....	341	548	820	800	211	435	92
24	62	....	325	465	740	640	190	282	91
25	58	....	301	426	700	530	177	220	89
26	56	....	298	465	760	756	166	259	88
27	54	....	325	530	820	1,380	152	620	87
28	53	....	334	800	820	1,110	306	548	89
29	52	....	354	750	862	800	1,090	414	110
30	....	....	390	800	885	620	1,460	540	110
31	....	....	420	....	930	660	....	523	....

NOTE.—Discharge estimated for following periods, because stage-discharge relation was affected by ice or obstructed connection between well and river, or because of unsatisfactory operation of water-stage recorder, by comparison with climatic data at Juneau and by hydrographs and records of flow for streams in near-by drainage basins: Jan. 1-31, 180 second-feet; Feb. 1-8, daily discharge; Mar. 23-31, 41 second-feet; Apr. 1-30, 52 second-feet; May 1-15, 125 second-feet; June 28 to July 3, Oct. 5, Nov. 29 and 30, daily discharge; Dec. 1-31, 60 second-feet.

Monthly discharge of Long River below Second Lake, at Port Snettisham, for 1920.

Month.	Discharge in second-feet.			Run-off in acre-feet.	Month.	Discharge in second-feet.			Run-off in acre-feet.
	Maximum.	Minimum.	Mean.			Maximum.	Minimum.	Mean.	
January	....	....	180	11,100	August	3,760	530	1,200	73,800
February	204	50	94.7	5,450	September	1,690	152	641	38,100
March	51	....	45.6	2,800	October	1,040	117	381	23,400
April	....	....	52	3,090	November	1,190	86	262	15,600
May	420	....	235	14,400	December	....	....	60	3,690
June	800	426	580	34,500					
July	1,110	700	918	56,400	The year	3,760	....	389	282,000

GRINDSTONE CREEK AT TAKU INLET.

Location.—On north shore of Taku Inlet, between Point Bishop and Point Salisbury, one-fourth mile west of mouth of Rhine Creek and 11 miles by water from Juneau.

Drainage area.—3.6 square miles (measured on general map of vicinity of Juneau prepared by Alaska Gastineau Mining Co., edition of 1916).

Records available.—May 6, 1916, to December 31, 1920.

Gage.—Stevens continuous water-stage recorder on left bank, 200 feet from tidewater, installed September 16, 1916. A Lietz seven-day graph water-stage recorder was used May 6 to June 17, 1916.

Discharge measurements.—At all stages made by wading either in the channel on the beach, which is exposed at low tide, or 100 feet below gage at high tide.

Channel and control.—For a distance of one-fourth mile from tidewater the stream descends in a series of rapids and falls through a narrow, rocky channel. The gage is at upper end of a turbulent pool between two falls, the lower of which forms a well-defined control. When gage was installed, logs were jammed in channel near upper end of pool.

Extremes of discharge.—Maximum stage during year from water-stage recorder, 3.4 feet at 4 a. m., August 6 (discharge, from extension of rating curve, 317 second-feet); minimum discharge estimated by comparison with hydrographs for streams in near-by drainage basins, 3.5 second-feet, April 6, December 24 and 25.

1916–1920: Maximum stage, 6 feet at 7 p. m. September 26, 1918 (discharge, estimated from an extension of the rating curve, 700 second-feet); minimum stage, −0.24 foot April 5–7, 1918 (discharge, 2.6 second-feet).

Ice.—Stage-discharge relation sometimes affected by ice.

Accuracy.—Stage-discharge relation permanent. Rating curve fairly well defined below 150 second-feet; extended above 150 second-feet by estimation. Operation of water-stage recorder satisfactory except for periods shown in the footnote to daily-discharge table. Discharge ascertained by applying to rating table mean daily gage heights determined by inspecting gage-height graph, or, for days of considerable fluctuation, by averaging results obtained by applying to rating table mean gage heights for regular intervals of day. Records fair, except those for periods of break in record and discharge above 150 second-feet, which are poor.

Discharge measurements of Grindstone Creek at Taku Inlet during 1920.

[Made by G. H. Canfield.]

Date.	Gage height.	Discharge.	Date.	Gage height.	Discharge.
	Feet.	*Sec.-ft.*		*Feet.*	*Sec.-ft.*
Apr. 5	−0.04	3.9	Oct. 4	0.74	28
July 10	1.17	55	Nov. 10	.81	30
Aug. 24	1.23	64			

Daily discharge, in second-feet, of Grindstone Creek at Taku Inlet for 1920.

Day.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May.	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1	17	6	7.5	4.4	21	67	120	48	24	35	63	13
2	24	5	7.0	4.2	24	84	92	34	24	30	66	12
3	22	5	6.3	4.1	24	97	77	38	32	25	57	12
4	17	8	7.8	4.0	20	91	72	43	24	22	47	12
5	16	12	7.9	3.9	19	102	72	174	24	21	42	12
6	21	15	8.0	3.5	18	92	72	168	40	19	48	11
7	83	14	8.0	3.6	18	80	72	80	73	18	40	11
8	49	11	8.0	3.7	16	77	72	55	81	21	33	10
9	26	11	6.9	3.7	16	77	70	45	52	29	31	8.4
10	21	12	6.8	3.7	17	75	67	41	43	26	27	......
11	18	15	7.2	7.5	21	72	60	102	36	24	24	......
12	......	11	7.2	12	25	72	59	65	31	22	22	......
13	......	10	6.4	8.1	35	68	50	55	26	24	20	......
14	......	12	6.3	6.2	35	70	49	46	24	29	19	......
15	......	13	5.9	5.8	45	77	48	41	22	24	19	......
16		20	5.9	5.7	60	77	45	37	24	22	17	......
17	......	32	5.8	5.4	50	74	45	32	21	19	17	......
18	......	24	5.8	6.0	40	77	42	39	24	18	16	......
19	......	16	5.6	7.2	32	66	38	60	24	17	16	......
20	......	14	5.4	7.5	26	57	34	48	21	21	16	......
21		12	5.4	7.8	26	55	32	67	20	21	16	......
22	......	11	5.1	7.8	34	74	30	44	19	23	15	......
23	......	10	5.1	8.4	36	72	26	38	19	24	14	......
24	......	9.0	4.8	9.2	36	61	24	32	19	22	14	......
25	......	9.0	4.8	16	37	55	26	29	18	20	14	......
26		8.7	5.2	45	41	82	26	38	17	28	14	......
27	......	8.4	5.0	62	49	92	30	39	16	49	13	......
28	......	8.2	5.0	34	55	88	30	31	40	35	15	......
29	......	8.2	4.6	25	62	133	28	26	60	30	15	......
30	......		4.5	20	68	186	26	24	45	61	13	......
31	......	......	4.5	......	72	......	60	25	......	49	......	......

NOTE.—Discharge estimated for following periods, because stage-discharge relation was affected by ice or water-stage recorder was not operating: Jan. 12–31 (10 second-feet), Feb. 1–5, Mar. 4–8, and Mar. 30 to Apr. 10, by comparison with hydrographs of streams in near-by drainage basins and climatic data for Juneau; May 12–18, from maximum and minimum stages indicated by recorder and comparison with record of flow for Sheep Creek; Aug. 16–20, from gage-height graph drawn by comparison with that for Sheep Creek; Sept. 27 to Oct. 3 (daily discharge) and Dec. 10–31 (6.3 second-feet), from maximum and minimum stages indicated by recorder and comparison with records of flow for Sheep Creek and Sweetheart Falls.

Monthly discharge of Grindstone Creek at Taku Inlet for 1920.

Month.	Discharge in second-feet.			Run-off in acre-feet.	Month.	Discharge in second-feet.			Run-off in acre-feet.
	Maximum.	Minimum.	Mean.			Maximum.	Minimum.	Mean.	
January	83	....	16.6	1,020	August	174	24	53.0	3,260
February	32	5.0	12.1	696	September	81	16	31.4	1,870
March	8.0	4.5	6.12	376	October	61	17	26.7	1,640
April	62	3.5	11.5	684	November	66	13	26.1	1,550
May	72	16	34.8	2,140	December	13	....	7.74	476
June	186	55	81.7	4,860					
July	120	24	51.4	3,160	The year	186	3.5	29.9	21,700

CARLSON CREEK AT SUNNY COVE, TAKU INLET.

Location.—At Sunny Cove, on west shore of Taku Inlet, 20 miles by water from Juneau.

Drainage area.—22.26 square miles (determined by engineering department of Alaska Gastineau Mining Co. from surveys made by that company).

Records available.—July 18, 1916, to December 31, 1920.

Gage.—Stevens water-stage recorder on left bank, 2 miles from tidewater.

Discharge measurements.—At high stages, made from cable across river half a mile downstream from gage; at medium and low stages, made by wading 500 feet upstream from gage.

Channel and control.—Above the gage the stream meanders in one main channel and several small channels through a flat, sandy basin about a mile long; just below the gage the channel contracts and the stream passes over rocky falls that form a well-defined and permanent control. The point of zero flow is at gage height −1.5 feet.

Extremes of discharge.—Maximum stage during year, 7.15 feet at 8 p. m. August 5 (discharge computed from extension of rating curve, 4,950 second-feet); minimum flow, estimated, 12 second-feet, April 3.

1916–1920: Maximum stage, 8.1 feet at 2 p. m. September 26, 1918 (discharge, computed from extension of rating curve, 6,200 second-feet); minimum flow, estimated from climatic data and hydrographs for streams in near-by drainage basins, 10 second-feet, April 1–7, 1918.

Ice.—Stage-discharge relation affected by ice January 1 to about May 1.

Accuracy.—Stage-discharge relation permanent. Rating curve well defined between 70 and 2,000 second-feet, extended below 70 second-feet to point of zero flow and above 2,000 second-feet by estimation. Operation of water-stage recorder satisfactory except for periods of break in record as indicated in footnote to daily-discharge table. Daily discharge ascertained by applying to rating table mean daily gage heights determined by inspecting gage-height graph, or, for days of considerable fluctuation, by averaging results obtained by applying to rating table mean gage heights for regular intervals of the day. Records good, except for stages below 70 second-feet and above 2,000 second-feet, and for periods of break in record, for which they are fair.

A possible site for a dam is about 2 miles from tidewater at the outlet of a flat gravel basin. The elevation of the stream bed at this point is 350 feet above high tide. A dam 120 feet high would form a reservoir having a storage capacity of 30,000 acre-feet, which is less than half the capacity required to equalize the annual run-off.

Discharge measurements of Carlson Creek at Sunny Cove during 1920.

[Made by G. H. Canfield.]

Date.	Gage height.	Discharge.	Date.	Gage height.	Discharge.
	Feet.	*Sec.-ft.*		*Feet.*	*Sec.-ft.*
Feb. 6	....	a 49	May 29	1.46	a 425
Apr. 7	....	a 15	Nov. 10	.08	130

a Creek frozen over. Measurement made 2 miles below gage, and measured discharge reduced 5 per cent in order to give flow at gage.

Daily discharge, in second-feet, of Carlson Creek at Sunny Cove for 1920.

Day.	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.
1		882	640	318	308	390
2		675	470	500	250	1,000
3		590	455	975	258	545
4		658	561	658	172	265
5		762	3,950	425	124	196
6		800	2,090	545	108	396
7		882	745	1,690	102	300
8		928	545	1,180	337	230
9		928	396	485	812	175
10		905	354	302	308	124
11		860	2,440	243	227	108
12		800	905	196	227	102
13		762	710	167	247	
14		762	545	172	191	
15		745	396	188	144	
16		780	320	164	117	
17		675	328	124	98	
18	820	658	367	164	122	
19	658	640	590	234	108	
20	560	605	515	164	176	
21	485	605	742	144	214	
22	692	575	390	124	212	
23	545	485	285	117	396	
24	461	455	234	117	265	
25	515	470	210	118	172	
26	762	545	586	118	410	
27	820	560	1,360	119	710	
28	840	545	560	714	396	
29	1,080	545	338	1,440	223	
30	1,080	530	270	515	455	
31		675	421		340	

NOTE.—Discharge estimated for following periods from current-meter measurements and by comparison with records of flow for Sweetheart Falls Creek, because stage-discharge relation was affected by ice or water-stage recorder was not operating: Jan. 1–31, 110 second-feet; Feb. 1–28, 42 second-feet; Mar. 1–31, 18 second-feet; Apr. 1–30, 25 second-feet; May 1–31, 240 second-feet; June 1–17, 730 second-feet; Nov. 6–9, as shown in table; Nov. 13–30, 55 second-feet; and Dec. 1–31, 33 second-feet.

Monthly discharge of Carlson Creek at Sunny Cove for 1920.

Month.	Discharge in second-feet.			Run-off in acre-feet.
	Maximum.	Minimum.	Mean.	
January			110	6,760
February			42	2,420
March			18	1,110
April			25	1,490
May			240	14,800
June	1,080		724	43,100
July	928	455	687	42,200
August	3,950	210	733	45,100
September	1,690	117	414	24,600
October	812	98	265	16,300
November	1,000		161	9,580
December			33	2,030
The year	3,950		289	209,000

SHEEP CREEK NEAR THANE.

Location.—At lower end of flat basin, above diversion dam for flume leading to Treadwell power house at beach and 1 mile by tramway and ore railway from Thane.

Drainage area.—4.57 square miles above gaging bridge (measured on United States Geological Survey map of Juneau and vicinity, edition of 1917).

Records available.—July 26, 1916, to December 31, 1920.

Gage.—Stevens water-stage recorder on right bank, at pool formed by an artificial control just below small island three-tenths mile upstream from diversion dam. Recorder inspected by an employee of the Alaska Gastineau Mining Co.

Discharge measurements.—At extremely high stages, made from gaging bridge two-tenths mile downstream from gage; at low stages, made by wading near bridge section. No streams enter between gage and measuring section, but seepage inflow ranges from a small amount to 10 per cent of total flow, the percentage of inflow usually being large after periods of heavy precipitation.

Channel and control.—The station is near the lower end of a flat basin through which the stream meanders in a channel having low banks and a bed of sand and gravel. An artificial control was built 2 feet below the intake for the gage well, to confine the flow in one channel during high water and to insure a permanent stage-discharge relation. The spillway of the control at low stages consists of a timber, 16 feet long, set in the bed of the stream. During medium and high stages another timber, 8 feet long, bolted at the top near the right end, forms part of the control. A 3-foot cut-off wall is driven at the upstream face of the spillway. There are wing walls at each end, and an 8-foot apron extends downstream from the control.

Ice.—Control covered with ice and snow for short period. Flow passes through gravel bed under and around weir and enters creek again above gaging section one-fourth mile downstream.

Extremes of discharge.—Maximum stage during year, 2.41 feet at 12.30 a. m. August 6 (discharge, 458 second-feet); minimum stage, −0.35 foot, on April 13 and 14 (discharge, 5.6 second-feet).

1916–1920: Maximum stage during period, 3.5 feet, at 2 p. m. September 26, 1918 (discharge, estimated from extension of rating curve, 820 second-feet); minimum flow, 1.0 second-foot, April 6–8, 1917.

Accuracy.—Stage-discharge relation below 1.2 feet changed January 6 because of shifting of gravel bed above the artificial control. Rating curves used January 1–6 and January 7 to December 31 fairly well defined below 700 second-feet.

Operation of water-stage recorder satisfactory except for periods indicated in footnote to daily-discharge table. Daily discharge ascertained by applying to rating table mean daily gage heights determined by inspecting gage-height graph, or, for days of considerable fluctuation, by averaging discharges obtained by applying to rating table mean gage heights for regular intervals of the day. Records fair.

Discharge measurements of Sheep Creek near Thane during 1920.

[Made by G. H. Canfield.]

Date.	Gage height.	Discharge.	Date.	Gage height.	Discharge.
	Feet.	*Sec.-ft.*		*Feet.*	*Sec.-ft.*
Jan. 31	0.44	13	Aug. 9	0.96	66
Mar. 27	.07	7.6	Sept. 27	.64	23
Apr. 15	−.32	[a] 5.7	Oct. 25	.80	39
June 10	1.15	103	Nov. 23	.55	18

[a] Discharge at gaging section at bridge, two-tenths mile downstream from weir; no flow at weir section.

Daily discharge, in second-feet, of Sheep Creek near Thane for 1920.

Day.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May.	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1	30	13	....	6.8	22	108	151	84	47	50	113	16
2	50	13	....	6.7	25	121	121	61	53	45	134	16
3	40	13	....	6.6	25	144	108	58	77	45	101	15
4	30	13	....	6.5	25	146	108	72	61	35	82	14
5	22	13	....	6.4	24	151	108	238	53	32	74	14
6	30	13	....	6.2	22	138	108	226	77	28	121	13
7	175	14	....	6.1	22	126	108	115	151	26	82	13
8	108	15	....	6.0	20	121	113	86	136	53	68	13
9	72	15	....	5.9	22	113	108	68	96	96	60	12
10	53	15	....	5.8	25	108	100	70	77	56	50	12
11	44	16	....	5.8	35	108	96	216	63	51	41	12
12	34	15	11	5.7	39	108	92	115	54	50	36	12
13	29	15	10	5.7	41	103	88	91	47	50	30	12
14	25	15	9.8	5.6	39	105	84	77	43	48	28	12
15	25	14	9.6	5.7	53	115	88	61	43	41	28	11
16	23	15	9.3	5.8	74	113	82	53	39	39	25	11
17	22	16	9.1	5.9	63	108	79	48	39	33	24	10
18	20	19	9.1	6.1	68	126	77	53	45	30	22	10
19	19	19	8.9	6.2	56	101	70	82	45	29	22	11
20	18	19	8.8	6.2	47	88	70	72	39	41	22	11
21	18	19	8.7	6.4	45	84	70	101	34	39	21	10
22	17	18	8.5	6.6	48	98	61	60	30	43	19	10
23	17	18	8.4	6.8	48	86	58	50	28	53	18	10
24	16	17	8.2	7.2	54	77	53	44	26	43	18	9
25	16	17	8.0	7.7	56	79	53	43	24	39	17	9
26	15	16	8.0	8.6	56	115	56	72	24	84	17	8
27	15	16	7.7	11	63	118	61	74	23	101	17	9
28	14	15	7.5	14	77	126	61	63	56	72	17	9
29	14	14	7.3	19	86	166	61	53	77	60	17	9
30	14	....	7.2	22	96	192	58	48	60	121	16	10
31	13	....	6.9	....	101	....	98	51	....	84	....	10

Note.—Water-stage recorder not operating for following periods; discharge estimated by comparison with hydrographs and records of flow for streams in near-by drainage basins: Jan. 1–7, Jan. 18–30, and Feb. 22–29, as shown in table; Mar. 1–11, 112 second-feet; May 8-11, July 9–13, Sept. 18–26, and Dec. 17–31, as shown in table.

Monthly discharge of Sheep Creek near Thane for 1920.

Month.	Discharge in second-feet.			Run-off in acre-feet.	Month.	Discharge in second-feet.			Run-off in acre-feet.
	Maximum.	Minimum.	Mean.			Maximum.	Minimum.	Mean.	
January	175	13	33.5	2,060	August	238	43	84.0	5,160
February	19	13	15.5	892	September	151	23	55.6	3,310
March	....	6.9	9.81	603	October	121	26	52.2	3,210
April	22	5.6	7.70	458	November	134	16	44.7	2,660
May	101	20	47.6	2,930	December	16	8	11.4	701
June	192	77	116	6,900					
July	151	53	85.5	5,260	The year	238	5.6	47.1	34,100

GOLD CREEK AT JUNEAU.

Location.—At highway bridge at lower end of Last Chance basin, 200 feet upstream from diversion dam of Alaska Electric Light & Power Co. and one-fourth mile from Juneau.

Drainage area.—9.47 square miles (determined by engineering department of Alaska Gastineau Mining Co. from surveys made by that company.

Records available.—July 20, 1916, to December 31, 1920.

Gage.—Stevens continuous water-stage recorder on left bank at upstream side of highway bridge.

DISCHARGE MEASUREMENTS.—At medium and high stages made from gaging bridge suspended, at right angles to current, from floor of highway bridge; at low stages made by wading near gage.

CHANNEL AND CONTROL.—Station is at lower end of a flat gravel basin three-fourths mile long. For 20 feet upstream from gage the stream is confined between the abutments of an old bridge and for 15 feet downstream it is confined between the abutments of present bridge. For a distance of 130 feet farther downstream the stream is confined in a narrow channel which is not subject to overflow. Because of the steep gradient of channel opposite and for 150 feet below gage, a short stretch of the channel immediately below the gage acts as the control. The operation of the headgates of flume at diversion dam, 200 feet downstream, does not affect the stage-discharge relation at gage, but the swift current during high stages shifts the gravel in bed of stream, thereby causing changes in the stage-discharge relation.

EXTREMES OF DISCHARGE.—Maximum stage during year, 5.0 feet August 5 (discharge estimated from extension of rating curve, 1,600 second-feet); minimum discharge, 1.5 second-feet April 10.

1916–1920: Maximum stage, 6.8 feet September 26, 1918 (discharge estimated from extension of rating curve, 2,600 second-feet); minimum discharge, 0.9 second-foot March 26, 1918.

ICE.—Stage-discharge relation affected by ice January 13 and March 30.

DIVERSION.—Water diverted at several points upstream for the development of power is returned to creek above gage, except about 20 second-feet for seven months (when there is a surplus over amount used by Alaska Electric Light & Power Co., which has prior right) and 1 second-foot the remainder of year, used by the Alaska-Juneau Gold Mining Co. A dam 200 feet downstream diverts water into the flume of the Alaska Electric Light & Power Co.

REGULATION.—No storage or diversions above station regulate the flow more than a few hours in low water.

ACCURACY.—Stage-discharge relation changed during periods of high water; 11 discharge measurements made during year, by use of which rating curves have been constructed applicable as follows: January 1–7, poorly defined; January 8 to Aug. 5, August 6 to September 27, September 28 to November 1, and November 2 to December 31, fairly well defined below and poorly defined above 200 second-feet. Operation of water-stage recorder satisfactory except for periods indicated in footnote to daily discharge table. Daily discharge ascertained by applying to rating table mean daily gage heights determined by inspecting gage-height graph, or, for days of considerable fluctuations, by averaging discharges obtained by applying to rating table mean gage heights for equal intervals of the day. Records fair.

Discharge measurements of Gold Creek at Juneau during 1920.

[Made by G. H. Canfield.]

Date.	Gage height.	Discharge.	Date.	Gage height.	Discharge.
	Feet.	*Sec.-ft.*		*Feet.*	*Sec.-ft.*
Jan. 19	0.79	19.	June 25	1.77	166
30 [a]	.68	9.8	Aug. 16	1.95	101
Mar. 26	.47	2.3	Sept. 27	1.44	28
Apr. 10	.40	1.5	Oct. 29	1.96	77
30	.91	30	Dec. 20	.96	7.8
May 27	1.33	83			

[a] Control and measuring section frozen over.

Daily discharge, in second-feet, of Gold Creek at Juneau for 1920.

Day.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May.	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1	45	9	7.0	1.8	36	171	343	301	143	92	205	19
2	74	9	6.1	1.7	37	198	270	173	220	78	480	17
3	69	9	5.8	1.7	35	245	234	162	362	83	305	19
4	41	9	5.6	1.7	33	263	254	225	295	53	196	19
5	33	10	5.4	1.6	29	279	285	1,000	178	46	190	17
6	43	14	5.2	1.6	28	263	307	620	220	39	381	17
7	434	21	5.0	1.6	26	220	334	280	552	36	222	16
8	162	17	4.8	1.5	25	217	350	206	510	83	160	15
9	82	15	4.8	1.5	26	220	334	220	265	262	126	14
10	62	17	4.8	1.5	33	225	317	168	168	114	102	12
11	48	19	5.2	5.0	52	212	291	880	137	83	79	11
12	38	18	5.7	20	55	212	276	432	116	75	65	10
13	....	12	4.8	15	50	198	263	180	105	75	58	10
14	....	11	4.8	10	61	219	254	127	94	67	58	8.5
15	....	11	3.0	8.0	90	248	270	108	91	56	56	7.0
16	....	19	3.4	7.0	75	270	260	108	96	44	46	7.5
17	....	30	3.9	6.0	91	245	240	96	75	36	44	8.0
18	....	32	3.0	5.7	69	317	237	131	75	30	43	10
19	19	19	3.0	5.7	58	248	225	274	98	29	42	10
20	....	19	3.0	6.2	56	203	219	192	75	42	39	10
21	....	15	2.7	6.2	62	180	225	295	68	63	37	9.5
22	....	14	2.7	5.7	65	225	212	143	61	48	33	8.0
23	....	12	2.7	6.2	72	196	183	98	44	88	30	6.0
24	....	11	2.4	8.6	76	164	169	78	41	78	29	5.6
25	....	10	2.4	19	76	178	178	72	38	61	28	6.0
26	....	9.2	2.5	31	80	301	206	192	35	198	25	6.0
27	....	8.6	2.5	33	91	317	214	378	30	262	23	7.5
28	....	8.6	2.5	33	105	327	219	214	185	122	33	8.5
29	....	8.6	2.5	30	121	413	219	147	325	83	29	8.5
30	9.8	....	2.1	33	136	480	206	127	137	219	25	8.5
31	9.0	....	1.9	....	149	....	334	173	....	137	....	8.5

NOTE.—Discharge estimated from discharge measurements, climatic data at Juneau, and by comparison with hydrographs for streams in near-by drainage basins for following periods, because of unsatisfactory operation of water-stage recorder: Jan. 13–18, 28 second-feet; Jan. 20–29, 14 second-feet; Jan. 30, Feb. 1–6, Mar. 3–7, Mar. 30–31, Apr. 1–9, and Apr. 11–17, as shown in table. Discharge, May 26, interpolated; Aug. 1–12 and Oct. 23–25, determined from gage-height graph drawn by comparison with that for Carlson Creek.

Monthly discharge of Gold Creek at Juneau for 1920.

Month.	Discharge in second-feet. Maximum.	Minimum.	Mean.	Run-off in acre-feet.	Month.	Discharge in second-feet. Maximum.	Minimum.	Mean.	Run-off in acre-feet.
January	434	....	47.6	2,930	August	1,000	72	252	15,500
February	32	8.6	14.4	828	September	552	30	161	9,580
March	7	1.9	3.91	240	October	262	29	89.7	5,520
April	33	1.5	10.4	619	November	480	23	106	6,310
May	149	25	64.5	3,970	December	19	5.6	11.0	676
June	480	164	248.	14,800					
July	350	169	256.	15,700	The year	1,000	1.5	106	76,700

ORE DEPOSITS OF THE SALMON RIVER DISTRICT, PORTLAND CANAL REGION.

By Lewis G. Westgate.

INTRODUCTION.

Portland Canal, a steep-walled fiord, penetrates the Coast Range for some 90 miles from Dixon Entrance, at the southern boundary of Alaska, cutting obliquely across the trend of the mountains. This great trench through the mountains is extended northward by the alluvium-floored valley of Bear River, which reaches far back into the upland beyond the Coast Range (fig. 1). At 2 miles from its head Portland Canal is joined on the west by Salmon River, the mineral deposits of whose basin are here described. The valleys of Salmon and Bear rivers are separated by the Reverdy Mountains, a southward-trending spur of the main range. At the seaward end of this spur is the settlement of Hyder, which has a population of a few hundred people and is the ocean port, supply point, and post office of the Salmon River district. Its location is on the international boundary, and the steep slope immediately to the north has crowded the settlement onto the tidal flats, where it is in part built on piles. The newer part of the town, however, is in a better location to the northwest, on the gravel-floored Salmon River valley. Two miles to the northeast is the town of Stewart, on the British Columbia side of the boundary. Though older than Hyder, it has about the same population. The Salmon River region forms the southeastern part of the Ketchikan district.

Metal-bearing lodes, chiefly of gold and silver, were found in the Canadian portion of this region about 1898, and similar discoveries had been made on the Alaska side of the boundary by 1901. These deposits received relatively little attention until 1909, when a small boom was started in the Canadian district. This boom subsided in a few years, but meanwhile the town of Stewart and some 12 miles of railroad were built. Interest was revived in 1917 by the discovery of some rich silver ores on the Canadian side of the line, and in 1918 a commercial ore body was found at the Premier mine, which, though in the Salmon River basin, is also in Canada. As a result, many claims were staked on both sides of the boundary, and the town of Hyder sprang up. The upper part of the Salmon River basin lies in Canada, but its only practical mode of access is through

Alaska. (See fig. 1.) This lack of adjustment of the international boundary to the topography gives Hyder a much greater importance than it would have if it served only the Alaska portion of the district. Though no mines have been developed on the Alaska side, many claims have been staked, and on some of these, as will be shown, considerable work has been done during the last two years.

In view of the fact that the geologic features on the two sides of the boundary were known to be essentially the same, there appeared to be good hope that commercial ore bodies might be found in the Salmon River district. For this reason the writer undertook a geologic examination of the region, a task which occupied him from July 19 to August 17, 1920. Though the salient features of the geology are simple, the heavy vegetal cover below timber line greatly enhances the difficulties of field examination and increases the work of the prospector.

TOPOGRAPHY.

The region is one of mountainous topography and high relief. The floor of Salmon River and of its principal tributary, Texas Creek, rises from sea level to about 500 feet where they issue from their glacier sources. From these low valley altitudes the mountains rise steeply and in places by unscalable cliffs to heights between 5,000 and 6,000 feet. The highest points within the area examined are a little over 6,500 feet above the sea. The only level land in the district consists of the gravel-floored bottoms along Salmon River and Texas Creek The lower slopes, up to 3,000 feet or more, are covered with forest; at higher levels the mountains, where no covered by snow fields and glaciers, are largely bare rock. Even the narrower ridges along Portland Canal and the lower parts of Salmon River carry snow fields and small summit and cliff glaciers, and farther inland the larger valleys reach above snow line and serve as collecting basins for extensive ice fields, the sources of large valley glaciers. The snow line stands at about 4,500 feet, and the glaciers descend within 500 feet of sea level.

CLIMATE.

Portland Canal lies within the Pacific coast climatic province, an area of abundant rainfall and comparatively moderate temperature due to prevailing westerly winds from the Pacific Ocean. The annual precipitation at Fort Tongass,[1] near the entrance to Portland Canal, is about 130 inches; at the head of the canal it is less, possibly not far from 100 inches. The least rainfall occurs late in spring and early in summer, and abundant rains set in by September.

[1] Brooks, A. H., The geography and geology of Alaska: U. S. Geol. Survey Prof. Paper 45, pp. 162-165, 1906.

From November to March the precipitation is in the form of snow. The summers are not hot, and the temperature seldom drops much below zero in winter.

COMMERCIAL CONDITIONS.

Hyder, being on tidewater, is readily accessible throughout the year to large ocean vessels, but in 1920 Hyder had no wharf, and all freight was landed by scows. Provisions can be purchased in both towns, and more elaborate equipment can be brought from Ketchikan, with which there is communication about twice a week by means of gasoline boat. The distance from Hyder to Ketchikan is 155 miles by the water route. Stewart has steamer communication with Prince Rupert, British Columbia, 135 miles distant.

Travel inland is difficult, except along the few established roads and trails. The best road in the region is the one connecting Hyder and Stewart (2 miles), which is suitable for automobiles.

Salmon River and Texas Creek are swift and practically impassable streams, which effectually divide the country through which they run. Texas Creek and Salmon River south of Ninemile flow in a network of channels through a broad valley bottom floored with coarse gravels. A road has been constructed up the east side of the Salmon to Elevenmile and thence to the Premier mine, in Canadian territory. Except at a few points where it is forced to the valley side by eastward swings of the river, the road follows the bottoms and is therefore subject to overflow and washout, as was well shown in the high-water stages of August, 1920. Above Elevenmile the road is on the valley slope. From the road three pack trails branch off, one in Canada to the Big Missouri and neighboring properties, one at Elevenmile to the New Alaska property, and one up Fish Creek to the Watkins and Tonkin properties.

The only crossing of Salmon River is a footbridge at Ninemile. From this point a foot trail leads to Texas Glacier and thence by a low saddle 3 miles above the mouth of the creek to Salmon Glacier. Most of the prospecting in the region is done by men who pack their outfits on their backs through country where there is not even a foot trail.

The valley bottoms and mountain slopes up to 3,500 feet are heavily forested, chiefly with hemlock and spruce. In the valley bottoms and on the lower slopes there is good timber in sufficient abundance for mining and other local needs.

As yet there has been no demand for water power, and the possibilities of developing it have not been closely scrutinized. Fish Creek and its tributary, Skookum Creek, the largest of the small streams, descend rapidly and are worth consideration as sources of power. There are no accurate records of their flow, which is greatly diminished in winter. The other streams in Alaska east of Salmon River are small and probably without value for power.

PUBLICATIONS.

The following references may prove useful to those wishing further information on the geologic features and ore deposits of the region.

Reports relating to Alaskan part of Portland Canal region.

Preliminary report on the Ketchikan mining district, Alaska, with an introductory sketch of the geology of southeastern Alaska, by Alfred H. Brooks: U. S. Geol. Survey Prof. Paper 1, 1902.

The Ketchikan and Wrangell mining districts, Alaska, by F. E. and C. W. Wright: U. S. Geol. Survey Bull. 347, pp. 1–210, 1908.

Notes on the Salmon-Unuk River region, by J. B. Mertie, jr.: U. S. Geol. Survey Bull. 714, pp. 129–142, 1921.

Mining developments in southeastern Alaska, by Theodore Chapin: U. S. Geol. Survey Bull. 642, pp. 94–98, 1916.

Reports relating to Canadian part of Portland Canal region.

Portions of Portland Canal and Skeena mining divisions, Skeena district, B. C., by R. G. McConnell: Canada Geol. Survey Mem. 32, 1913.

Northwestern district (No. 1), by Geo. A. Clothier: British Columbia Minister of Mines Ann. Rept. for 1917, pp. 68–73, 1918.

Northwestern district (No. 1), by Geo. A. Clothier: British Columbia Minister of Mines Ann. Rept. for 1918, pp. 76–83, 1919.

Northwestern district (No. 1), by Geo. A. Clothier: British Columbia Minister of Mines Ann. Rept. for 1919, pp. 61–80, 1920.

Salmon River district, Portland Canal mining division, B. C., by J. J. O'Neill: Canada Geol. Survey Summary Rept., 1919, pt. B, pp. 7b–12b, 1920.

The Premier gold mine, Portland Canal, B. C., by Charles Bunting: Min. and Sci. Press, vol. 119, pp. 670–672, 1919.

The geology of the Portland Canal district, by Victor H. Wilhelm: Min. and Sci. Press, vol. 122, pp. 95–96, 1921.

The Salmon River district, B. C., by S. J. Scofield and George Hanson: Canada Geol. Survey Summary Rept. for 1920, pt. A, pp. 6a–12a, 1921.

GEOLOGY.

GENERAL FEATURES.

The Salmon River district lies on the eastern margin of the great Coast Range batholith,[2] which parallels the shore line of British Columbia and southeastern Alaska from the United States and Canada boundary nearly to the meridian of Mount St. Elias, a distance of some 1,100 miles. It ranges in width from 20 to 110 miles and is the largest batholith on the American continent. It is generally believed that this great mass was intruded in Jurassic time and probably chiefly in Middle and Upper Jurassic time.[2a]

A reference to the map (fig. 1) will show that the inland margin of the batholith is irregular and invades the volcanic and sedimen-

[2] The term "batholith" is applied to bodies of igneous rock which occupy considerable areas and which widen downward. Unlike sheets and laccoliths, they are not known to be bottomed by other rocks. R. A. Daly (Igneous rocks and their origin, p. 90, New York, 1914) proposed that this term be used for large bodies, over 40 square miles in area, and that the term "stock" be reserved for the smaller bodies.

[2a] Since the above was written Scofield and Hanson have reported the occurrence of Mesozoic fossils, probably Jurassic, in the Nass formation: Canada Geol. Survey Summary Rept. for 1920, pt. A, p. 8a, 1921.

tary formations that lie to the east. On the Canadian side of the boundary, as shown by McConnell's map,[3] there are some outliers of

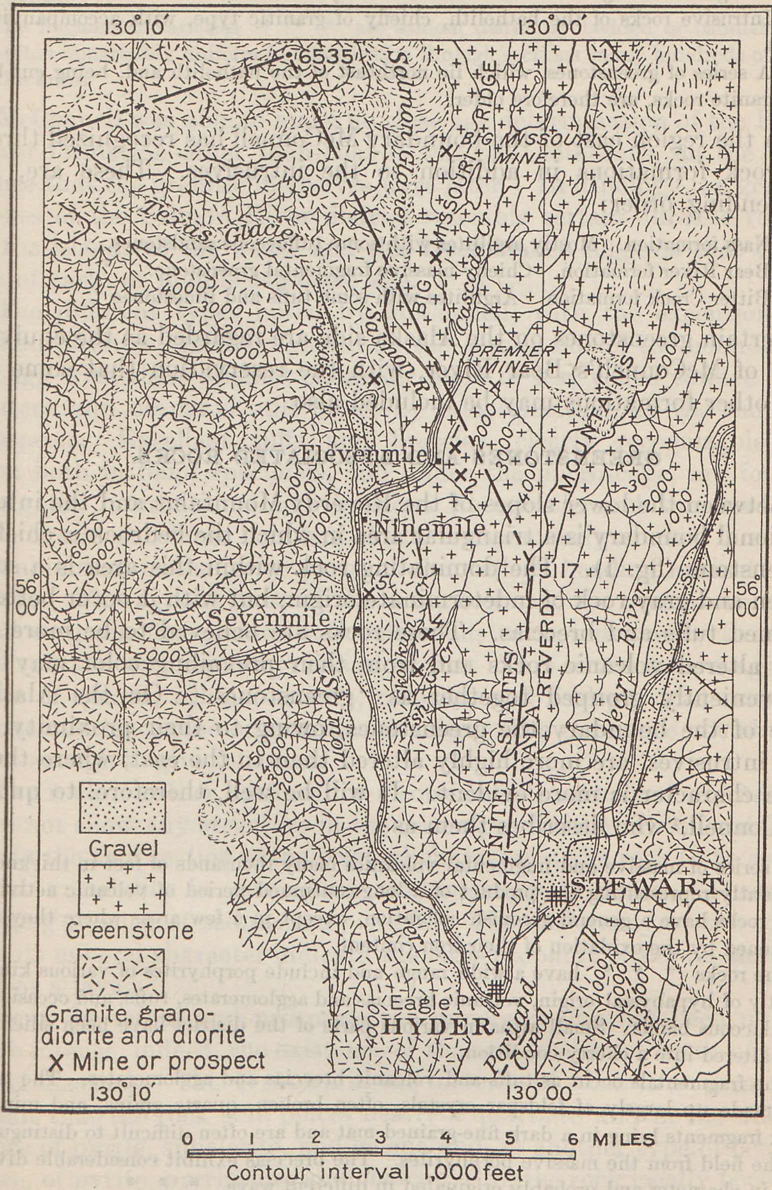


FIGURE 1.—Geologic sketch map of Salmon River district. Mines and prospects: 1, Stoner; 2, New Alaska, 3, Watson & Bain; 4, Fish Creek Mining Co.; 5, D. & A. Lindeborg; 6, Charles, Nelson & Pitcher.

granite within the area occupied chiefly by volcanic rocks and sediments.

[3] Canada Geol. Survey Mem. 32, 1913.

Only the following formations, in descending order, occur in the Salmon River district:

1. The gravel filling of the Salmon River valley.
2. Intrusive rocks of the batholith, chiefly of granitic type, with accompanying dikes.
3. A series of greenstones, which lie northeast of the batholith and, being cut by the granite rocks, are therefore older.

In the region east of the boundary McConnell has recognized three bedrock formations in addition to the intrusives. These are, in descending order:

1. Nass formation. Mostly argillites with some tuffaceous sandstones.
2. Bear River formation. Chiefly massive fragmental greenstone.
3. Bitter Creek formation. Argillites with some tuffs and limestones.

Certain greenstones on the Alaska side are regarded as the equivalent of McConnell's Bear River, with the reservation that some of the other formations may be included also.

GREENSTONES AND ASSOCIATED ROCKS.

Between the lower slopes of the Reverdy Mountains and the international boundary is a triangular area in which the bedrock is chiefly greenstone (fig. 1). The dominating rock within this area is a soft green and gray rock of indeterminate origin, but with it occur better-defined tuffs and breccias. These rocks are believed to be more or less altered volcanic rocks and from their prevailing color may be conveniently grouped together as "greenstones." On the Alaska side of the boundary the greenstones, owing to their proximity to the intrusives, are more highly altered than to the east, where their true character is more evident. It will be well, therefore, to quote McConnell,[4] who describes them as

A series of massive and fragmental volcanics many thousands of feet in thickness, evidently representing the product of a long-continued period of volcanic activity. The rocks have a general greenish coloration, except in a few areas where they are reddened by the oxidation of their iron content.

The rocks * * * have a wide range and include porphyrites of various kinds, mostly of hypabyssal origin, volcanic breccias and agglomerates, tuffs, and occasional argillaceous bands. Small areas in various parts of the district have been silicified and altered into a cherty condition.

The fragmentals occur as tuffs and volcanic breccias and agglomerates. The tuffs are made up largely of feldspar crystals, often broken, quartz grains, and minute rock fragments lying in a dark fine-grained mat and are often difficult to distinguish in the field from the massive porphyrites. The breccias exhibit considerable diversity in character and probably originated in different ways. * * *

Occasional dark argillaceous bands occur with both the massive and fragmental members of the Bear River volcanic group, apparently indicating that sedimentation occurred at intervals during the whole period of its accumulation.

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[4] Op. cit., pp. 14-16.

The rocks of the Bear River formation usually occur in a massive condition but in places * * * have yielded to crushing, and a strong schistosity approximately paralleling the eastern edge of the Coast Range batholith and dipping towards it has developed.

The fragmental varieties * * * are seldom distinctly bedded or banded and are often remarkably uniform in composition through sections many hundreds of feet in thickness.

McConnell was able to make no close age determination of the Bear River formation other than that it was pre-Cretaceous, on the evidence that the granitic intrusives were later. In lithology the greenstones of the Salmon River district resemble certain Jurassic rocks of the islands to the west,[5] and this resemblance suggests that they are of early or middle Mesozoic age.

The different types noted by McConnell, with the exception of the porphyrites, were recognized on the Alaska side of the boundary, though with their original character more or less veiled toward the contact and obscured still more, by mineralization, at the mining prospects. Excellent tuffs and breccias, clearly recognizable as such both in hand specimens and under the microscope, are found along the international line between Elevenmile and the head of Fish Creek, and large boulders of the conspicuously marked breccia are abundant in the lower parts of the valleys heading against the divide. Throughout most of the area, however, the greenstone is a gray or green fine-grained soft calcareous rock, indistinctly banded and specked with minute grains of pyrite. Thin sections show aggregates of quartz, calcite, sericite, chlorite, and feldspar and usually pyrite and leucoxene or granular titanite. The micas are not abundant enough to give foliation.

The rock is rather uniform over considerable areas and ordinarily does not show any structure in the outcrop. Neither in the outcrop nor in the thin section is the original character of the rock to be seen. Areal variability in some thin sections suggests a tuff. There is nothing to suggest sedimentary origin. The uniformity of the rock and its mineral character indicate that it is probably either an altered tuff or a lava.

Near the mines and prospects the mineralization has been much more intense; indeed, the existence of the ores is a direct result of this mineralization. This is shown in the increase of silica to so great an extent that the rock is in places nearly a quartzite and in the abundance of pyrite, sphalerite, and galena and, in another type of occurrence, of pyrite, pyrrhotite, and chalcopyrite, the rock locally becoming an ore.

At a few points along the road above Texas Creek occur black argillites, which are clearly of sedimentary origin and which may be

[5] Chapin, Theodore, The structure and stratigraphy of Gravina and Revillagigedo islands, Alaska: U. S. Geol. Survey Prof. Paper 120, p. 86, 1918.

interbedded in the tuffs. None of the conspicuously porphyritic porphyrites mentioned by McConnell were seen, though finely porphyritic varieties are probably represented by some of the greenstones. As it is difficult to destroy the structure of a porphyry completely, the general absence of any recognizable porphyritic structure in the greenstones is taken to mean that most of them are tuffs.

On Mount Dolly, at the south end of the greenstone area, the rocks are well bedded and are apparently sedimentary rocks, which strike between northwest and west and dip 70° N. They are in part dark-gray or green fine-grained rocks with abundant pyrite, which produces the conspicuous red color that the rocks show on weathering. Toward the top of Mount Dolly and nearer the granite contact the rocks become coarser-grained banded gneisses, characterized in the different layers by varying amounts of fine-grained hornblende, biotite, and epidote. The gneiss is cut both parallel with and across the bedding planes by narrow veinlike bands of quartz, with epidote and some garnet. The relation of these rocks to the tuffs farther north was not ascertained. If they are members of McConnell's Bear River formation, it here comprises many hundred feet of sedimentary rocks, now well metamorphosed.

GRANITE OF THE COAST RANGE.

Much the larger part of the Salmon River district is occupied by the intrusive rocks. These intrusives, here collectively termed granite, range in lithology from diorite and granodiorite to granite.[6] The contact between the granite and the greenstone to the northeast (fig. 1) crosses the Reverdy Mountains and the international boundary a little south of Mount Dolly, at an elevation of 4,500 feet. Thence it can be followed with ease to a point west of Mount Dolly, where it takes a course nearly due north. From this point to the place where it again crosses into Canadian territory the contact can not be located with accuracy, in part because of a heavy cover of forest vegetation and rock slides and in part because of the occurrence in the greenstones of numerous dikes of granite porphyry, many of them wide. Where vegetation covers the more easily weathered and hence lower greenstones, it is often difficult to determine whether the rock is a

[6] The term "granite," commonly applied to the rock of this batholith, is sufficiently accurate for ordinary usage, though in a strict petrographic sense the rock is usually not a granite. In this paper the term "granite" is used for a coarse-grained plutonic rock consisting of quartz and orthoclase feldspar; "diorite" for a rock of similar physical character which may or may not contain quartz but contains plagioclase feldspar; "granodiorite" for the intermediate type which contains orthoclase and plagioclase feldspar in approximately equal amounts. In each rock the additional biotite, hornblende, and common accessory minerals are assumed. Granodiorite is then, as the word itself at once suggests, intermediate between granite and diorite. "Monzonite" has been used for the intermediate type but is not so directly expressive. This usage does not conform to that proposed by Waldemar Lindgren (Granodiorite and other intermediate rocks: Am. Jour. Sci., 4th ser., vol. 9, pp. 269–282, 1900) and J. P. Iddings (Igneous rocks, vol. 2, pp. 43, 152, New York, 1913), but it is easier to apply and, for present purposes, less confusing. In the following pages "granite" is sometimes used in the general sense in referring to the rock of the batholith as a whole. It is clear from the context when the term is so used and when it is used in the narrower petrographic sense with reference to the particular composition of a part of the body.

dike or a part of the main granite mass. The difficulty is the greater because identical porphyritic intrusive rocks occur within the area of the granite itself. The whole situation is still further complicated by local shearing, which has changed both granite and dikes to gneissoid and even schistose facies. Even along Salmon River below Elevenmile, where numerous cuts have been made in road construction, it was impossible to locate the exact contact.

Although the rocks of the batholith have a broad conformity of composition and occurrence that justifies their being mapped and described as a unit, yet there are certain local variations that merit attention.

From Mount Dolly south to Hyder the intrusive is a uniform light-colored medium-grained massive rock, specked with small black grains of biotite and hornblende. The rock varies in composition; some of it is granite, but on the whole it is best described as granodiorite. Some darker streaks and patches (schlieren) occur, as well as dikes of white aplitic granite. The contact with the greenstone across Mount Dolly is perfectly sharp, and very few dikes from the granite cut into the earlier rocks. Pegmatite dikes are practically lacking; and in this respect the east margin of the batholith stands in marked contrast with the west margin.

The intrusive north of Fish Creek, especially toward the greenstone contact, is a much more varied rock than that about Hyder. The commonest type, itself rather variable structurally, is a greenish-gray medium-dark rock of medium to fine grain. It usually shows abundant black blades of altered hornblende as much as 1 centimeter in length, which in some places lie variously oriented in a common plane. It may be called a quartz-hornblende diorite.

There are some variations from this type. Locally orthoclase occurs in porphyritic crystals 1 or even 2 centimeters in length, and the rock becomes a granodiorite porphyry.

Farther north, in the valley of Texas Glacier and west of Salmon Glacier, a lighter rock prevails, resembling that about Hyder. Along the glacier tributary to Salmon Glacier south of station 6535 (fig. 1) it is a light medium-grained granodiorite. In the valley of Texas Glacier a similar rock is found, both in dikes cutting the darker granite and as abundant boulders brought down from the granite area farther west. This rock is normally porphyritic and is a granodiorite porphyry. These porphyritic varieties of the granite form a transition to the more distinct porphyries, which occur as dikes in the greenstone but which are found also within the granite area.

The west side of Salmon River south of Texas Creek was not visited on account of the practical impassability of the Salmon. From the east side of the river it appears to be an area of light granite quite like that about Hyder.

PORPHYRY DIKES.

Many porphyry dikes occur in the greenstone area, east of the granite contact to and beyond the international boundary. These rocks range in color from light to medium gray, and some are dark gray. They usually show small prisms of hornblende and flakes of biotite against a white ground of feldspar. Feldspar phenocrysts are hardly noticeable in the lighter varieties but become more conspicuous in the darker rocks.

These porphyritic dike rocks, genetically associated with the Coast Range batholith, are intermediate in structure between the deep-seated granitic intrusive rocks and extrusive lavas. For example, one having the mineral composition of a diorite or andesite might be equally well named an andesite porphyry or a diorite porphyry. As they occur in the field with dioritic and granitic rocks, the several varieties of rocks noted can properly be classed as granite porphyry, granodiorite porphyry, and diorite porphyry.

Over a dozen large dikes with a maximum width of 1,200 feet are exposed along the Salmon River road between Texas Creek and the boundary. To judge from their contacts with the greenstone, these dikes strike from 50° to 70° NW. and dip 50°–60° SW. They are more resistant to weathering than the greenstones, so that in the timber and even for some distance above timber line the softer greenstones are largely concealed and the porphyries seem more abundant than they really are. As they closely resemble the granites, it is impossible to draw the granite-greenstone boundary accurately.

Dikes of the same character as those found in greenstone also occur within the main granite area. Boulders from them are among the most abundant rocks brought down by the Texas Glacier, and they cut the less porphyritic granites along the lower 2 miles of its course. They were also found in the granite exposed along the road south of Ninemile, where the more basic varieties are diorite porphyries showing conspicuous but small plagioclase phenocrysts, in striking contrast to a gray-black ground.

The dike porphyries described above agree in character and in range of mineral composition with the nonporphyritic granitic intrusive rocks of the batholith, which themselves locally have porphyritic facies. In the greenstone area the borders of the dikes show but slight structural evidences of chilling. In many places where identical rocks occur within the main granite area they are in dike form, and it is sometimes possible to see a distinct contact between them and the adjacent granite. On the other hand, there are many places where the porphyries grade into the adjoining nonporphyritic rock and it is impossible to fix a definite contact. These relations may best be explained on the assumption that the porphyries are an essential part of the granite intrusion following closely the formation of the main batholith. They represent slightly differentiated magmas intruded into both the greenstones and the earlier-formed granite. In the greenstones the invaded rocks were under considerable cover and perhaps were warmed by the adjoining granite, so that there was but little border chilling of the dikes. They came into the granite at a time when it was still hot, perhaps not completely solidified; hence the lack of sharp contacts in many places. The border granite is thus not simple but a rather complex intrusive body, ranging from a granodiorite or even from a rock closely approaching a granite to a diorite and structurally from a massive granitoid rock to a porphyry. The presence of these porphyries and the tendency of even the earlier massive granites to grade into porphyritic facies suggests that the cover was not very thick. This complexity is not, however, characteristic of the granite about Hyder.

ORE DEPOSITS.

CLASSIFICATION.

Both O'Neill [7] and Chapin [8] have classified the ore bodies of the Salmon River region as of two general types—disseminated deposits of low metallic content and quartz veins containing shoots of very high-grade ore.

The disseminated deposits lie in shear zones, in places without well-defined walls, and are described by O'Neill as "large deposits of ore which is a complex mixture of zinc blende, galena, chalcopyrite, and pyrite." He cites the Big Missouri property as containing examples of deposits of this type. Of the concentrated ore bodies occurring as fairly well defined fissures, that of the Premier mine, on the Canadian side of the boundary, is the best example. In view of the local interest in the Premier mine, it will be worth while to quote O'Neill's description of two specimens of ore from this property: [9]

Pyrite, sphalerite, probably galena, and pyrargyrite are disseminated in a gangue of mixed quartz and calcite. The pyrargyrite is abundant.

Pyrite, sphalerite, pyrargyrite, a little pyrargyrite with the pyrite, zinc blende, and probably galena in a gangue of quartz. I saw no calcite in this specimen.

Qualitative tests on both samples showed the presence of lead, indicating galena. The soft black mineral gave much copper and antimony, with silver, indicating freibergite.

Of the occurrence of these deposits O'Neill says:

The general regional shearing is not uniformly distributed but is concentrated in zones. Where the northwest or northeast ore-bearing veins cross such zones or where they cross one another there is an enrichment of the deposit in the form of native

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[7] O'Neill, J. J., Salmon River district, Portland Canal mining division, B. C.: Canada Geol. Survey Summary Rept. for 1919, pp. 10b-bb, 1920.

[8] Chapin, Theodore, Mining developments in southeastern Alaska: U. S. Geol. Survey Bull. 480, p. 98, 1916.

[9] Op. cit., p. 10b.

silver. In some places a series of the later fissures cross a main zone at relatively close intervals, and the enrichment is spread along the zone between them. * * * Where the main zone of fissuring is wide, as on the Premier, and the cross fissures are strong, considerable amounts of very rich ore have been developed across most of the width of the main zone along the cross fissures and has spread along between the cross fissures.

Scofield and Hanson in their recent report[9a] have classified the ore bodies of the Canadian Salmon River district as follows:

1. Base-metal type: These are replacement and disseminated deposits in certain beds of tuffs and conglomerates, with some veins carrying base metals. "These deposits are roughly tabular, as they correspond in strike and dip with the beds with which they are associated." They carry pyrite, chalcopyrite, sphalerite, and galena, with a gangue of quartz.

2. Silver-gold type: "The ores of this type occur in veins and veinlike replacements in quartz porphyry and at the contact of the porphyry and tuffs. The large ore-chutes [shoots?] are lenticular in shape. The minerals present are pyrite, chalcopyrite, sphalerite, galena, tetrahedrite, freibergite, pyrargyrite, and sulphantimonides and sulpharsenides, native silver, and gold. The gangue is rather abundant and is almost entirely quartz." The Premier ore body is cited as an example of this type.

3. Gold type: "A single ore body in No. 2 tunnel of the Premier mine is of this type. This is a siliceous heavy-sulphide deposit. Quartz and pyrite are the predominant minerals. Small quantities of chalcopyrite, sphalerite, and galena are present. Assays show high value in gold, but practically no silver."

The above descriptions refer to the ore deposits on the Canadian side of the boundary. The following types have been found on the Alaska side:

1. Disseminated replacement deposits of galena, sphalerite, and pyrite, mainly in the greenstones. Example, the deposits now being opened on the New Alaska property.

2. Disseminated and lenticular replacement deposits of pyrrhotite, with minor amounts of chalcopyrite and pyrite and a very little sphalerite, in the greenstone. Example, the pyrrhotite deposits on the New Alaska property just above Elevenmile and that on the east side of the Fish Creek Mining Co.'s property, on Fish Creek.

3. Quartz fissure veins carrying pyrite, galena, sphalerite, and locally tetrahedrite and a little chalcopyrite. In places barite is associated with quartz as a gangue mineral. Nearly all the quartz veins occur in the granitic rocks. Examples, the veins on Fish Creek and near Sevenmile on Salmon River.

[9a] Op. cit., pp. 9a-12a.

Up to the present time most of the underground work has been done on the quartz fissure veins, some of which include shoots carrying much gold and silver. These quartz veins strike N. 30°-60° W. Relatively few extensive openings have been made on the disseminated deposits, which appear to trend N. 70°-80° E.

RELATION OF ORE DEPOSITS TO THE GRANITE BATHOLITH.

The Salmon River ore deposits are close to the edge of the great area of granitic rock which follows the west coast, and this position they share with all the metalliferous lodes of southeastern Alaska. Such border deposits are not limited to either side of the batholith, nor are they of any one metal. The copper deposits in the Alexander Archipelago and the gold and sllver lodes from Ketchikan north are close to either the west side of the main body of granitic rock or to the smaller intrusions that lie outside that body and still farther west. The ore deposits of Salmon River are in a corresponding position near the east edge of the batholith. The contact farther north is in Canadian territory, but metal deposits of different kinds have been reported near it.

This relation is essential, not accidental. The deposits border the batholith because the metals which they carry were derived from the igneous rock while it was still hot.

DISTRIBUTION.

The disseminated deposits are practically limited to the greenstones. The only exception noted was the deposit of disseminated sulphides of the first type on the Charles claim, on the east side of Texas Creek, which are in sheared porphyry and granodiorite of the batholith. The quartz veins are practically confined to the granite area, though in one place (locality 8, fig. 3, Fish Creek Mining Co.) a quartz vein carrying sulphides occurs in the greenstone. The reason for this practical limitation of the quartz veins to the granite and of the disseminated deposits to the greenstones is believed to lie in the nature of the inclosing rock. The softer greenstones, at the prospects mainly altered tuffs, are thought incapable of retaining open fissures, so that in them the deposit was formed by replacement along shear zones. The granite seems to have been firmer and able to retain open fissures, hence it holds the typical veins. At the depth of the deposits at the time of their formation the granite was in the zone of fracture, and the greenstone in the zone of flowage.

ORIGIN.

These deposits occur in the greenstone near the granite batholith and even in the outer part of the batholith itself because they were formed by solutions escaping from the still hot granite magma through the solidified border of the granite and into the surrounding greenstones. The common association of mineral deposits with the east edge of the batholith has long since been pointed out by Brooks.[10] McConnell,[11] without question, explains the Canadian occurrence just across the international boundary in the same way. If this is their origin, their time of formation is fixed as soon after the intrusion of the granite, probably in the Cretaceous period.

The deposits are believed to have been formed at considerable depths beneath the surface of that time and to be what Lindgren [12] has styled deposits formed at intermediate depths, by which he means at depths between 4,000 and 12,000 feet below the surface and at temperatures of 175° to 300° F. The present exposures are all less than 2,900 feet above sea level. The higher summits of the area rise to more than 6,000 feet. The Cascade peneplain has not been recognized in this district; if, however, as is likely, the rough accordance of summit levels is due to the former presence of a plain near that level, the highest of the present depo its would have been nearly half a mile below that surface. But these summits west of the Salmon are in granite, well beneath the top of the batholith; moreover, above the batholith there must have been a cover of the invaded rocks. The field relations suggest, though they do not demonstrate, that the deposits may well have been formed at a depth of more than a mile below the surface of that time. Further, the sulphides present (galena, chalcopyrite, sphalerite, and pyrrhotite) are those found in deposits formed at considerable depths. If these deposits were formed at the depth inferred it is easy to see why the softer greenstones should have been, as suggested above, below the zone of open fracture, even if the harder granites were not.

The deposits are primary sulphides laid down by solutions rising from a granitic magma. In the quartz veins and the disseminated deposits of the first type the sulphides are essentially contemporaneous. In the pyrrhotite deposits the pyrite and arsenopyrite are followed by the pyrrhotite, galena, and sphalerite, but even here the mineralization belongs to one general period. There is no evidence whatever of any enrichment by descending solutions, so that no marked change in depth is to be expected.[13] Further, there is almost no surface weathering. Here and there traces of malachite and limonite occur and the rock is slightly porous owing to the removal by solution of the more soluble constituents, but this is at the immediate surface.

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[10] Brooks, A. H., Geologic features of Alaskan metalliferous lodes: U. S. Geol. Survey Bull. 480, pp. 44–74, 1910.

[11] Op. cit., p. 24.

[12] Lindgren, Waldemar, Mineral deposits, 2d ed., p. 546, 1919.

[13] It should be noted, however, that Scofield and Hanson (op. cit., p. 11a) believe that the native silver found in some of the ores of the Premier mine is of secondary origin. No such occurrences have been found on the Alaska side of the boundary.

OUTLOOK FOR PRODUCTION.

No productive mine has yet been developed in the American part of the Salmon River basin, and only one (Premier) on high-grade silver ores in the Canadian part. The low-grade disseminated sulphide ores on the Canadian side have not yet been successfully worked. On the American side the only considerable underground workings are on Fish Creek. It is therefore impossible to make any predictions of the future of the district. The following considerations, however, will help to indicate where deposits are likely to be found and what changes in depth are likely to have taken place.

All the American prospects and properties lie east of Salmon River and Texas Creek, and the best are either in the greenstones or in the granite near its contact. The most promising of those opened up are the New Alaska disseminated deposits in the greenstones above Elevenmile and the quartz veins on Fish Creek. From the Fish Creek Mining Co.'s property small amounts of high-grade silver ore have already been shipped. Workable deposits may yet be found in the granite west of Salmon River and Texas Creek, but the evident igneous origin of the ores and the development of prospecting and mining in the region to date suggest that paying properties are most likely to be found in the greenstones or in the granite near its contact, and that they will become increasingly improbable toward the west, in the granite.

If, as has been pointed out, the deposits are primary sulphides and show no changes due to weathering or downward enrichment,[14] whatever change in depth they show must be the result of irregularities of original deposition. The deposits can be followed downward in the belief that they will average as well in depth as at the surface, at least for considerable distances.

MINING PROPERTIES.

STONER.

H. B. Stoner has twelve claims (see figs. 1 and 2), which lie three abreast adjacent to the international line on Boundary Creek and extend from the wagon road at Salmon River to timber line. Shallow cuts have been made at several places. The owner reports small returns from a silicified and pyrrhotized porphyry at the point marked "A" in figure 2. About 200 feet to the northeast there is an opening in slightly pyrrhotized greenstone. A second opening (B, fig. 2) has been made at an elevation of 960 feet, in fractured greenstone, a greenish-gray, very fine grained calcareous rock, without banding, carrying minute grains of pyrite. Sulphides occur in the greenstone in irregular streaks, some mainly sphalerite, others galena and pyrite. The former are reported to carry a little zinc

[14] See footnote 13, p. 130.

and silver and a trace of gold; the latter to assay a little gold, 20.5 ounces of silver to the ton, and 28 per cent of lead, the total value reaching $48.90 a ton.

NEW ALASKA MINING CO.

The New Alaska property (see figs. 1 and 2) includes a group of eight claims which lie west of the Stoner claims and extend from the flat of Salmon River at Elevenmile (elevation 350 feet) southeastward up the slope to an elevation of 1,800 feet. The first claims were located in 1912–13, and intensive work on the property began in 1919.

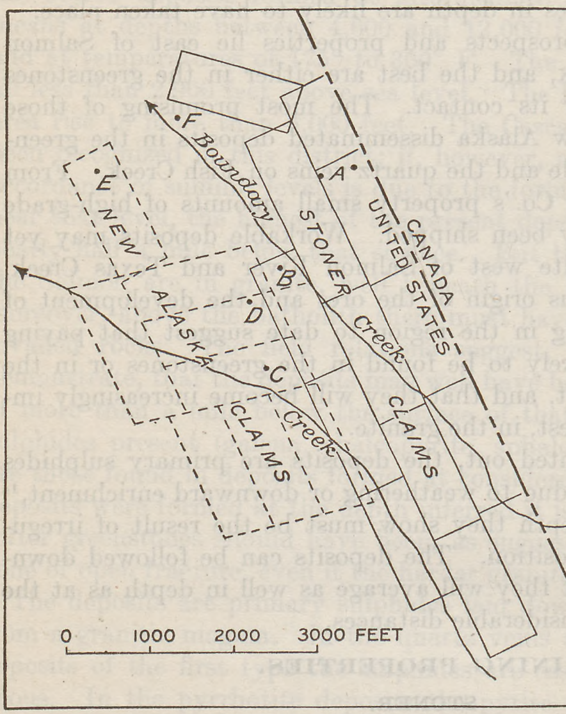


FIGURE 2.—Sketch map of Stoner and New Alaska properties, Salmon River district. See text for explanation of letters.

The main work has been done at an elevation of about 1,350 feet, on a ridge bearing N. 70° E. (fig. 2, C). A number of shallow cuts have been made, and a tunnel has been driven 114 feet across the strike of the rocks.

The country rock is a typical greenstone, probably an altered tuff or lava, and has much the same character at the different openings. It is a greenish-gray, rather soft, commonly calcareous, very fine grained rock, showing many small grains and crystals of pyrite. Hand specimens are cut by fine veins and patches of more coarsely crystalline calcite. An indistinct banded or bedded structure at some of the openings, which is perhaps a secondary structure, shows a strike between N. 45° E. and N. 80° E. and a steep dip to the northwest. The general trend of the mineralized belt is about N. 70° E., parallel to the course of the ridge. At many places the rock is shattered and broken.

Two kinds of mineral deposits occur on this property; one carries sphalerite, galena, and pyrite, and the other chiefly pyrrhotite. Only those of the first type are being developed. They lie in a system of fracturing, in which certain zones are richer in sphalerite, galena, pyrite, with a very little chalcopyrite, than the others. These richer zones carry gold and silver. The greenstone lying within the zone of fracture is lighter colored than the normal country rock and carries a large amount of introduced silica and calcite. The difference between ore and country rock is a difference in the degree and kind of mineralization. There are no well-defined walls to the deposits, and the richer portions grade into the country rock. The introduction of the sulphides and silica seems to have been contemporaneous.

The best exposure is at the tunnel, which has been carried 114 feet in a direction N. 23° W., at right angles to the trend of the structure. For the first 50 feet from the portal the rock is a light greenish-gray fine-grained rock, here more siliceous, there more calcareous, and everywhere somewhat pyritized. Then follows 27 feet of a similar rock containing bands and patches of sulphides (sphalerite, galena, and pyrite). This is followed in turn by 15 feet of less mineralized rock and 10 feet of mineralized rock. The remainder of the tunnel is in barren rock, like that at the entrance. The rock structure at the entrance strikes N. 80° E. and has a nearly vertical dip, and the indistinct banding farther in agrees with this attitude.

The Hoosier prospect (D, fig. 2), north of the present workings and 350 feet lower, is on a different greenstone belt but repeats the conditions, both of country rock and ore, already described. A 10-foot opening has been made on a silicified greenstone. No well-defined structure was noted in the country rock, nor any distinction between vein and wall. Some of the silicified rock carries the usual sulphides.

The disseminated pyrrhotite ores of the second type are encountered in going north-northeastward from the present workings toward Elevenmile. In the upper part of this traverse there are several small exposures in which the greenstone carries a little pyrrhotite, pyrite, and galena, and at one of these exposures a 10-foot tunnel has been driven from which several hundred dollars' worth of ore is reported to have been mined. Near the bottom of the hill, not more than 200 feet above the river, two openings expose small bodies of pyrrhotite in the fine-grained greenstone. A thin section of the leaner ore shows irregular areas of pyrrhotite, a little sphalerite, and a very little chalcopyrite in a ground consisting mainly of quartz and sericite, with lesser amounts of chlorite and zoisite. A polished section of the massive pyrrhotite showed pyrrhotite and a very little chalcopyrite. The pyrrhotite is veined throughout by a fine network of later pyrite. Some pyrite occurs in the hand specimens. The pyrrhotite bodies have not been seriously worked. The indefinite banding of the country rock trends between northeast and east.

FISH CREEK MINING CO.

The Fish Creek Mining Co. controls 17 claims (see figs. 1 and 3), which lie mainly on the ridge between Fish Creek and Skookum Creek but extend to either side of these creeks, particularly west of Skookum Creek. Patents have been applied for on three of the claims—the Starboard, Olympia, and Nevada. The property was acquired by the present company in 1909, and more work has been done on it than on any other in the district. It is reported that 16 tons of high-grade ore was shipped in 1916–17.

The contact between granite and greenstone crosses the property in a direction a little west of north. Most of the openings are in rock that is more or less clearly recognized as belonging to the granite. One representative specimen obtained west of Skookum Creek is a granodiorite, showing quartz, plagioclase in excess of orthoclase, biotite much in excess of hornblende, though both had gone over completely to secondary minerals (chlorite, calcite, epidote, and quartz), and accessory apatite and magnetite. Nearer the veins the original character of the country rock is in many places masked by shearing and mineralizaton. The typical greenstone occurs on the east side of the property. All the quartz veins examined, except that at locality 8 (fig. 3), seem to be in granitic country rock. At locality 8 the rock is a slaty rock, which is more properly placed in the Bear River formation.

Ore bodies of two types occur in this group of claims—(1) quartz veins which carry galena, sphalerite, tetrahedrite, chalcopyrite, and pyrite, and (2) lenticular bodies of pyrrhotite, with small amounts of chalcopyrite and pyrite. So far as yet determined the quartz veins alone are of value.

Most of the underground work so far done on the property is on the Starboard and Olympia claims, where there are a series of quartz veins striking about N. 40° W. and dipping 45°–70° NE. Two tunnels have been driven on a well-defined vein on the Starboard claim. At the portal of the upper tunnel the vein measures 27 inches in width, strikes N. 40° W., and dips 70° NE. At an opening made on the hill slope a little above the tunnel the vein dips 80° SW., the only exception noted to the general northeasterly dip. The upper tunnel has been driven about 50 feet, but the vein has not been definitely recognized throughout this distance, and it is possible that the tunnel does not follow the vein throughout its length. The vein can be traced from the upper tunnel to Skookum Creek, a distance of about 400 feet. Near the creek it has been opened by a 40-foot tunnel, in which it strikes N. 35° W. and dips 65° NE.

The quartz vein contains galena, pyrite, and tetrahedrite, with some sphalerite and chalcopyrite, and shows a little copper stain (malachite). A polished section shows tetrahedrite, galena, and a

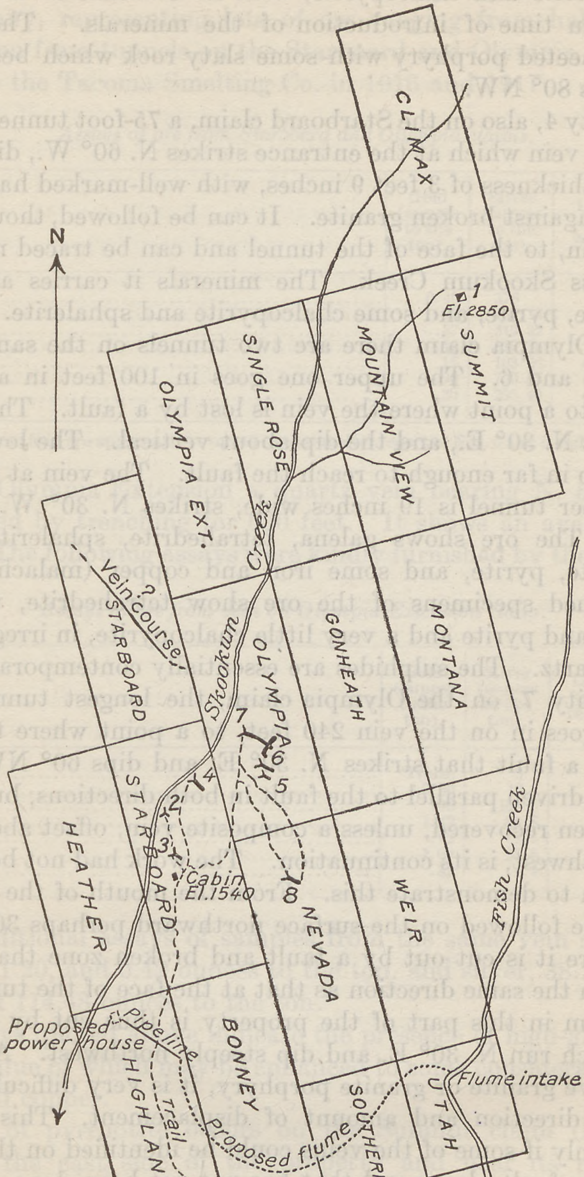


FIGURE 3.—Sketch map of Fish Creek Mining Co.'s properties, Salmon River district. See text for explanation of numbers.

little sphalerite and chalcopyrite, with no evidence of any notable difference in time of introduction of the minerals. The country rock is a sheeted porphyry with some slaty rock which bears N. 65° E. and dips 80° NW.

At locality 4, also on the Starboard claim, a 75-foot tunnel has been run in on a vein which at the entrance strikes N. 60° W., dips 65° E., and has a thickness of 3 feet 9 inches, with well-marked hanging and foot walls against broken granite. It can be followed, though not as a single vein, to the face of the tunnel and can be traced northwestward across Skookum Creek. The minerals it carries are galena, tetrahedrite, pyrite, and some chalcopyrite and sphalerite.

On the Olympia claim there are two tunnels on the same vein at localities 5 and 6. The upper one goes in 100 feet in a direction S. 55° E., to a point where the vein is lost by a fault. The strike of the fault is N. 30° E., and the dip about vertical. The lower tunnel does not go in far enough to reach the fault. The vein at the mouth of the upper tunnel is 19 inches wide, strikes N. 30° W., and dips 45° NE. The ore shows galena, tetrahedrite, sphalerite, a little chalcopyrite, pyrite, and some iron and copper (malachite) stain. Two polished specimens of the ore show tetrahedrite, with some sphalerite and pyrite and a very little chalcopyrite, in irregular areas cutting quartz. The sulphides are essentially contemporaneous.

At locality 7, on the Olympia claim, the longest tunnel on the property goes in on the vein 240 feet, to a point where the vein is cut off by a fault that strikes N. 30° E. and dips 60° NW. Drifts have been driven parallel to the fault in both directions, but the vein has not been recovered, unless a composite vein, offset about 50 feet to the southwest, is its continuation. The work had not been carried far enough to demonstrate this. From the mouth of the tunnel the vein can be followed on the surface northward perhaps 30 feet, to a point where it is cut out by a fault and broken zone that seems to have much the same direction as that at the face of the tunnel. The vein system in this part of the property is thus cut by a series of faults which run N. 30° E. and dip steeply northwest. As the rock is a massive granite or granite porphyry, it is very difficult to determine the direction and amount of displacement. This would be possible only if some of the veins could be identified on the opposite sides of the fault plane, and that has not yet been done.

The ore minerals of the vein are galena, tetrahedrite, and some pyrite. Rich specimens of the tetrahedrite ore have been found. A large specimen of high-grade ore is reported to have given 0.84 ounce of gold and 598 ounces of silver to the ton.

At locality 8 some tunnels, now caved, have been run on a quartz vein which strikes N. 70° W. and dips 55° NE. Pieces of good ore were found in the dump.

The following figures are taken from assay reports furnished by the company, representing lots of ore ranging from half a ton to 5 tons taken from tunnels on the Starboard and Olympia claims and shipped to the Tacoma Smelting Co. in 1916 and 1917.

Assays of ore from Starboard and Olympia claims.

	Gold (ounces to the ton).	Silver (ounces to the ton).	Lead (per cent).	Copper (per cent).
1	0.40	376	32.40	3.30
2	.21	161.14	18.30	1.96
3	.37	316.32	38.90	3.08
4	.15	110.36	32.50	Trace.
5	.18	103.36	[a] 1.51	[a] 21.4
6	.90	706.67	[a] 7.68	[a] 32.20
7	.30	205.40	[a] 13.9	[a] 17.40

[a] The copper and lead are apparently reversed in the smelter report of Nos. 5 and 6 and probably No. 7.

On the Olympia Extension a quartz vein bearing N. 50° W. has been opened by trenching for 600 feet. It shows an average width of 3 feet. The following assays were kindly furnished by the company:

Assays of ore from vein on Olympia Extension claim.

	Gold (ounces to the ton).	Silver (ounces to the ton).	Lead (per cent).	Copper (per cent).
1	Trace.	3	6.5	Trace.
2	0.36	12		
3	.46	118.5	13	2
4	1.42	94.8		
5	.92	72.5	14.5	2
6	1.60	23.6		
7	.32	4.4	2.5	Trace.

Four additional assays of samples from the same vein show gold, 0.52, 2.10, 1.20, and 0.42 ounces to the ton, and silver, 38.20, 177.90, 166.80, and 114.48 ounces to the ton.

The assays quoted above indicate the presence of high-grade silver ores, the value of which may be enhanced to some considerable extent by gold and copper.

A body of pyrrhotite occurs on the Summit claim (locality 1, fig. 3), on the east side of the property and near its north end. Here the country rock is a greenish-gray fine-grained greenstone marked by veins of calcite and abundant small crystals of pyrite. The microscope shows it to be composed almost wholly of secondary minerals, chiefly quartz and sericite. Abundant chlorite and calcite occur along seams, with leucoxene, pyrite crystals, and a little fine-grained orthoclase. A few large rounded quartz grains resemble the phenocrysts in rhyolite and suggest that the original rock may have been a quartz porphyry. An indistinct bedding bears N. 70° E. and is nearly vertical. In this greenstone are masses of almost pure pyrrhotite. The largest measures about 5 by 12 feet at the surface and stands 6 feet above the water level in a shaft that was sunk in all 10 feet without reaching the bottom of the pyrrhotite. With the pyrrhotite there is a little chalcopyrite and quartz. A polished section of the ore shows mainly pyrrhotite, with small amounts of pyrite, arsenopyrite, chalcopyrite, and a little gangue, mainly quartz. The order of mineral formation seems to be pyrite, arsenopyrite, quartz, pyrrhotite, and chalcopyrite, the last two essentially contemporaneous. A polished section of the immediately adjoining country rock, which contains abundant sulphides, shows mainly quartz and some arsenopyrite, irregularly cut by pyrrhotite, finely veined by later pyrite, and chalcopyrite. The arsenopyrite appears to have been fractured before the introduction of the quartz and other sulphides. An assay of samples from this body was reported by the owner to give gold, 0.36 ounce to the ton; silver, 4 ounces to the ton; copper, 2 per cent.

WATSON & BAIN.

The Watson & Bain property includes five claims (No. 3, fig. 1) in lower Fish Creek valley, owned by John Hoveland and leased in July, 1920, by Hugh Watson and J. B. Bain. A sixth claim, owned by Pete Low, is included, and Mr. Low has an interest in the operation of the property. In August, 1920, work was on the point of being resumed by the lessees. The claims lie mainly between Fish and Skookum creeks, though they extend west of Skookum Creek and east of Fish Creek, as well as along Fish Creek below Skookum Creek. Three openings have been made.

On Fish Creek No. 1 claim two tunnels have been driven on a quartz vein that strikes N. 60° W. and dips 60°–70° NE. The country rock is a broken, sheared, and in places schistose rock of fine grain and undetermined origin. It may be either an inclusion of the greenstone in the granite or a zone of shearing in the granite or granite porphyry itself. The two tunnels are about 75 feet apart vertically; the upper one is 50 feet in length, and the lower one 90 feet. The vein is irregular and of variable width; at the face of the upper tunnel it is 3 feet wide. It carries galena and some pyrite in a gangue of quartz, and some specimens show free gold. Selected samples have shown a high content of gold and silver.

On Fish Creek No. 2 claim a vein bearing N. 50° W. and leading down to Skookum Creek has been opened at intervals for 500 feet. The country rock is a greenish granodiorite. It is massive at a distance from the vein, but near the vein it is broken and mashed and shows small grains of introduced pyrite. A thin section of the less-altered rock shows plagioclase, quartz, and accessory titanite, apatite, and magnetite, with secondary biotite, epidote, sericite, calcite, and chlorite. Fracturing of the rock and granulation of the mineral grains are conspicuous. At the upper opening there is one 1-foot quartz vein and several parallel veins 3 inches or less in width. Locally barite is an abundant vein mineral. The vein strikes N. 30° W. and dips 35° NE. The quartz holds scattered grains and stringers of pyrite. At 150 feet to the northwest the vein is 4 feet thick and contains pyrite, tetrahedrite, and a little copper stain (malachite). A polished section of the ore shows a gangue of quartz and barite cut irregularly by sulphides (tetrahedrite, with less amounts of pyrite, chalcopyrite, and a little sphalerite), which are essentially contemporaneous. Other openings trace the vein to Skookum Creek.

On the east side of Skookum Creek, just at its mouth, a quartz vein bears up the hill in a direction N. 23° E. and cuts an altered and somewhat pyritized greenish granitic rock. Just at the creek the vein is over 3 feet thick, strikes N. 30° E., and dips 45° SE. Farther northeast the dip is steeper; at the last point where it is opened by a shaft the strike is N. 45° E. and the dip 50° SE. The vein is here cut off by a fault, which strikes N. 15° E. and dips 85° NW. The vein at this point is 3 feet thick but splits below into two separated by a horse of country rock 1 foot wide. The ore is mainly on the footwall side. The vein carries galena. Assays of the lodes of this property are not available.

LINDEBORG.

D. & A. Lindeborg have claims east of the Salmon River road a little above Sevenmile (No. 5, fig. 1). These claims lie within the granite area, in a sheared granite porphyry. Two tunnels have been driven at different levels on a quartz vein that strikes N. 60° W. and dips 60° NE. The lower tunnel, 75 feet long, discloses a main quartz vein and some small parallel stringers of quartz in the adjacent country rock, particularly on the footwall side. The quartz carries pyrite and some galena and chalcopyrite; a little copper stain shows. A good deal of galena with some pyrite and a little chalcopyrite is found in the adjacent rock, especially on the hanging-wall side.

At the mouth of the upper tunnel a 3-foot vein of quartz is exposed. The hanging-wall half of the vein carries pyrite in fairly regular bands, some of them 3 to 4 inches thick. These general relations repeat those at the lower tunnel.

CHARLES, NELSON & PITCHER.

John Charles, Max Nelson, and Jim Pitcher hold claims on the east side of Texas Creek 2 miles above Salmon River (No. 6, fig. 1). The country rock is a greenish sheared facies of the granite porphyry of the granite area. It is cut by small quartz veins, but the sulphides (sphalerite, galena, pyrite, and chalcopyrite) do not occur in the veins but are disseminated in the silicified porphyry. Assays from an opening to the north and a little up the hill are reported to show small quantities of gold, silver, and copper. The country rock here is a granodiorite. The thin section shows plagioclase (oligoclase) in distinct crystals, quartz, orthoclase graphically intergrown with quartz, and biotite, wholly altered to secondary products, with secondary calcite, sericite, leucoxene, and quartz. Much calcite and some pyrite have been introduced.

MISCELLANEOUS PROSPECTS.

About a quarter of a mile south of the Ninemile roadhouse a 40-foot opening has been made along a broken zone in the granite. This opening exposes a quartz vein 6 to 8 inches thick, accompanied by small quartz veins in the crushed country rock. The lead bears N. 25° W. and dips 55° NE. Several prospectors were in the field in August, 1920, but no discoveries except those noted above are known to have been made.

GEOLOGY OF THE VICINITY OF TUXEDNI BAY, COOK INLET.

By Fred H. Moffit.

INTRODUCTION.

Location and area.—The district considered in these notes includes Chisik Island and an area of about 225 square miles of mainland, approximately square in outline, extending from the south shore of Tuxedni Harbor[1] and Tuxedni Bay southward toward Chinitna Bay, as far as Red Glacier, but it does not include the head of Tuxedni Bay, which was not visited by the field party in 1920. Interest in this area lies chiefly in the relation of its rocks to the oil-bearing sediments of Oil and Iniskin bays, to the south, and the possibility of oil production within it.

Tuxedni Bay was visited by Martin and Stanton in 1904, and a detailed description of the rocks is contained in the account of the Iliamna region[2] published in 1912. A further report dealing especially with the oil possibilities of the district has recently been prepared by Martin.[3] The work of 1920 had as its objects the making of a topographic map of the coast of Cook Inlet from Tuxedni Bay to Iliamna Bay and a study of the geology with reference to the possibilities of producing oil. These objects, however, owing to various difficulties, were accomplished only in part.

Outline of geography.—The area outlined above extends from the shore of Cook Inlet westward to Mount Iliamna and the high mountains on the north-northeast. It is a rugged country that consists principally of the flanking mountains of the main range and includes little flat land except the valley of Johnson River. The maximum relief is 10,017 feet (Iliamna Peak), but the average elevation, exclusive of Mount Iliamna and the ridge north of it, is under 4,000 feet. The flanking mountains trend parallel to the west shore of Cook Inlet and conform with the trend of the major geologic structure. These mountains consist chiefly of sandstones and soft shales dipping from 10° to 25° or possibly 30° ESE. Their gentle eastern slopes are dip slopes, and their abrupt western slopes are scarp faces. Erosion has dissected them deeply, and they are profoundly glaciated.

[1] Commonly known as Snug Harbor, but called Tuxedni Harbor by decision of United States Geographic Board.

[2] Martin, G. C., and Katz, F. J., A geologic reconnaissance of the Iliamna region, Alaska: U. S. Geol. Survey Bull. 485, pp. 59-64, 1912.

[3] Martin, G. C., Preliminary report on petroleum in Alaska: U. S. Geol. Survey Bull. 719, pp. 42-55, 1921.

The chief stream within the area is Johnson River, which heads in a large glacier on the side of Mount Iliamna and flows eastward into Cook Inlet. The level valley bottom on each side of the river is crossed by small sluggish streams and dotted with numerous beaver ponds. Most of the valley bottom is impassable for pack horses because of marshy ground, so that considerable time and labor may be required in crossing the valley. In times of high water during the warm summer days Johnson River is difficult to ford with horses because of swift water and quicksands.

Up to an elevation of about 2,000 feet the area is covered by a dense growth of alders, which make travel with horses absolutely impossible until a trail has been cut. Through the alders, both on the hill slopes and in the valley bottoms, are scattered cottonwoods in groves and as individual trees. Spruce, except a few scattered trees on Chisik Island and at Fossil Point, does not grow on the shores of Tuxedni Harbor, but it occupies much of the narrow coastal plain extending southward from the mouth of Johnson River to Chinitna Bay, and in the vicinity of Chinitna Bay it furnishes pilings for fish traps and for the wharf at the cannery in Tuxedni Harbor.

DESCRIPTIVE GEOLOGY.

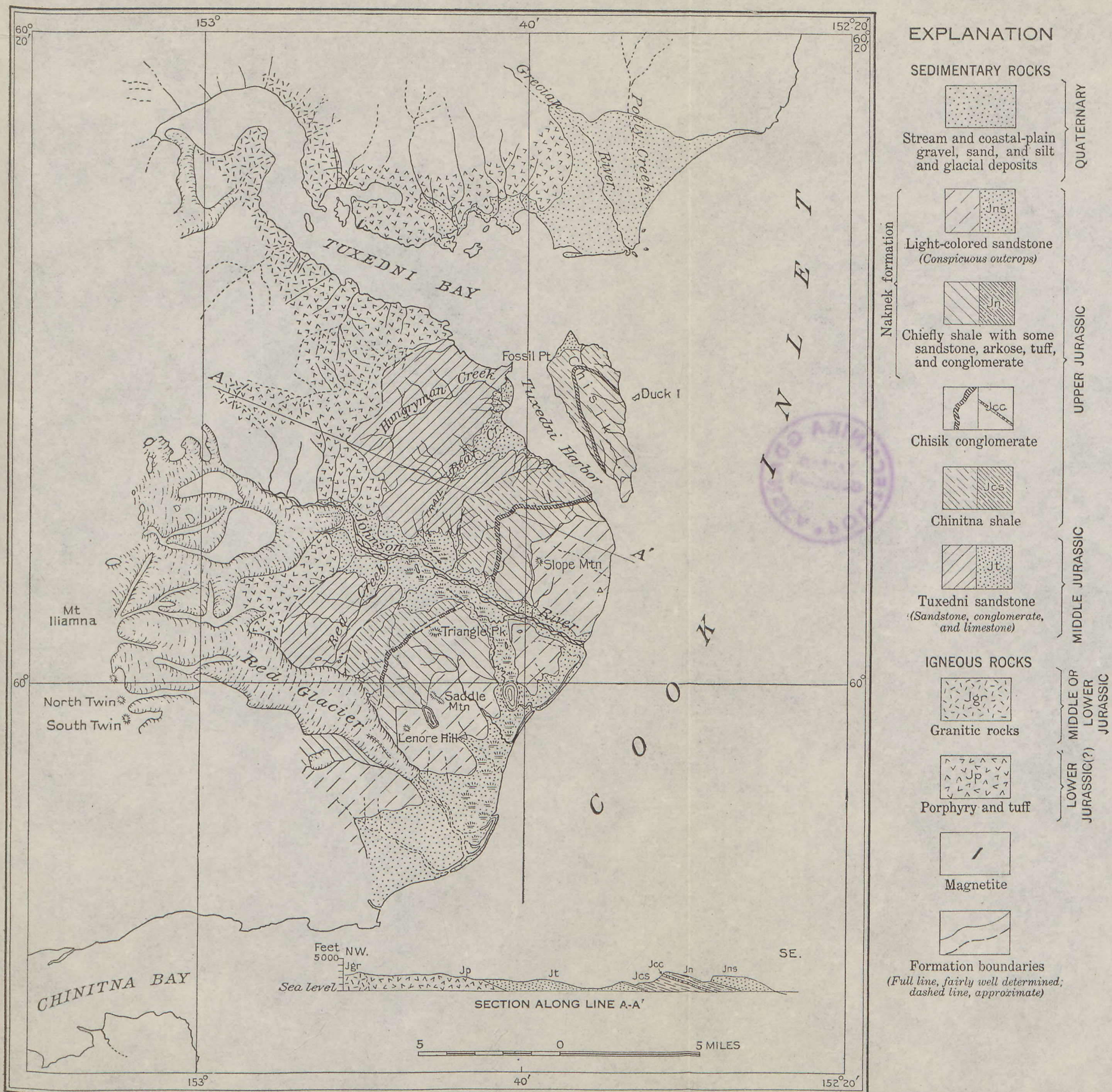
GENERAL SECTION.

The distribution of the geologic formations in the vicinity of Tuxedni Harbor and Tuxedni Bay is represented on the map (Pl. II) and in the following table, which is based largely on the work of Martin:

	Feet.
Quaternary: Sands, gravel, morainal, and other unconsolidated deposits.	
Upper Jurassic:	
Naknek formation; shale, sandstone, arkose, andesitic tuff, and conglomerate	5,000
Chisik conglomerate; coarse conglomerate, of variable thickness, consisting predominantly of well-rounded granite pebbles in an andesitic tuffaceous matrix	290
Chinitna shale; fairly homogeneous marine sedimentary formation consisting of soft shale with subordinate amounts of sandstone and limestone	1,300–2,400
Middle Jurassic: Tuxedni sandstone; marine sedimentary formation consisting predominantly of sandstone but including a large proportion of shale with subordinate conglomerate and limestone	1,100
Middle or Lower Jurassic: Granite, granodiorite, and quartz diorite.	
Lower Jurassic (?): Lava flows cut by later intrusives.	

The thicknesses shown are those given by Martin, but it is probable, as he points out, that the Tuxedni sandstone is much thicker than is indicated in the table.

The excellent exposures of geologic formations on the coast of Chisik Island and Tuxedni Bay were studied in detail by Martin and Stanton, and the carefully measured sections made by them are given



GEOLOGIC MAP OF TUXEDNI BAY AND VICINITY.

in the account by Martin.[4] Additional collections of fossils were obtained from these formations in 1920, yet little can be added to the descriptions of the rocks themselves, although they were carefully studied in order that the geologists might familiarize themselves with the sections.

The axis of the main range of mountains, which extends north and south from Mount Iliamna, is made up of granite or of granitic rocks. This granite in the vicinity of Tuxedni Bay is bordered on the east by a belt of volcanic rocks averaging about 5 miles in width and making up many of the high mountains of the district. The volcanic rocks and the granite which intrudes them are not oil bearing and will not here be described in greater detail, although they may contain deposits of metallic minerals. The volcanic rocks in turn are succeeded on the east by a great thickness, approximately 9,000 feet, of sedimentary beds, which form the principal subject of this report. They are the rocks assigned to the Middle and Upper Jurassic epochs in the table and consist chiefly of shales and sandstones but include many beds of conglomerate. It is believed that the contact of these sedimentary beds with the volcanic rocks on the west is a fault contact. The beds have a fairly uniform easterly dip averaging about 20° but diminishing from the west toward the east. They are described briefly below.

MIDDLE JURASSIC ROCKS.

TUXEDNI SANDSTONE.

The type locality of the Tuxedni sandstone is on the south shore of Tuxedni Bay, where it is exposed in practically continuous outcrops for about 2½ miles. This section, however, does not include an unknown thickness of beds overlying the beds exposed on the shore of the bay. The rocks of this formation extend southwestward from Tuxedni Bay in a narrow belt that reaches into the Alaska Peninsula, but they are not known to be present on the north side of the bay, although they probably continue in that direction and may sometime be found there.

The formation is made up of marine sediments comprising alternating beds of sandstone and sandy shale which range in thickness from 1 foot to 100 feet. Although the top of the formation was not determined in 1920 it is known that more than 1,000 feet of sediments, chiefly shale, lie above the beds exposed on the shore of the bay, as is shown in the ridge between Tuxedni Harbor and Johnson River. It appears, therefore, that the minimum thickness of 1,128 feet given by Martin must be increased, possibly to 3,000 feet. A notable feature of the sandstone members that crop out on the shore of Tuxedni Bay is that in considerable part they were formed of material result-

[4] Martin, G. C., op. cit.

ing from the rapid weathering of igneous rocks, which were probably granite or related granitic rocks, for the sandstones contain an abundance of angular feldspar and ferromagnesian minerals.

The Tuxedni sandstone is the lowest known formation of the Middle Jurassic series in southwestern Alaska. It contains an abundant invertebrate fauna and has yielded good collections of plants.

The Tuxedni sandstone, like the beds overlying it, dips away from the high mountain axis toward Cook Inlet. The strike is about N. 30° E., parallel to the coast line of the inlet. The dip is slightly undulating and ranges from 15° to 25° E. The sedimentary beds of the Tuxedni Bay district flatten out toward the inlet. In a few places small open folds were seen, but otherwise the nearly uniform easterly slope of the beds appears to be uninterrupted.

UPPER JURASSIC ROCKS.

CHINITNA SHALE.

The Chinitna shale is a marine sedimentary formation occupying the base of the Upper Jurassic section on Cook Inlet. Its type locality is Chinitna Bay, where it is well exposed on both the north and south shores, but it extends in a narrow belt a mile or more wide along the east side of the Tuxedni sandstone, appearing on the south shore of Tuxedni Harbor and on the west side of Chisik Island. It consists chiefly of dark argillaceous shale but contains subordinate beds of sandstone and limestone. Its thickness, as measured by Martin, is nearly 2,400 feet. So far as is now known the Chinitna shale rests conformably on the underlying Tuxedni sandstone and differs from it, as pointed out by Martin, in that its shales are argillaceous rather than arenaceous. In general it has the same strike as the Tuxedni sandstone, about N. 30° E., but it has a lower average dip and in the vicinity of Tuxedni Harbor was not found to be folded except for the eastward tilting of the beds.

CHISIK CONGLOMERATE.

The Chisik conglomerate forms a conspicuous cliff on the north and west side of Chisik Island and is well developed also on the south side of Tuxedni Harbor. It includes several hundred feet of coarse conglomerate in which are included beds of finer conglomerate and of sandstone. Boulders and cobbles of granite and other granitic rocks are abundant in the conglomerate outcrops of Chisik Island. The matrix containing the pebbles and cobbles, according to Martin, is an andesitic tuff. The Chisik conglomerate is variable in composition and in thickness. Seemingly it is much less well developed south of Tuxedni Harbor, although it appears in the mountain south of Johnson River.

Fossils have not been found in the conglomerate, but it lies between formations of Upper Jurassic age, and it is therefore assigned to the Upper Jurassic.

NAKNEK FORMATION.

The Naknek formation is of heterogeneous composition and includes more than 5,000 feet of interbedded shale, sandstone, arkose, andesitic tuff, and conglomerate. It forms a belt averaging 4 or 5 miles in width along the coast of Cook Inlet from Chisik Island to Iniskin Bay and continues beyond that into the Alaska Peninsula. The shale, tuff, and arkose are best developed in the lower part of the formation. The upper part consists largely of massive light-colored sandstones which form the mountain slopes toward the coast but are more conspicuous because of the prominent westward-facing cliffs made by their scarps. These cliffs, owing to their light color and steep faces, are very noticeable topographic features when seen from the landward side but are less prominent when seen from the inlet.

The most complete section of the Naknek formation that has yet been measured is exposed on the north shore of Chinitna Bay, where it was studied by Martin and Stanton in 1904.

Fossils are not numerous throughout the Naknek formation but are locally abundant and fill thick beds. From their evidence the Upper Jurassic age of the formation is determined.

The strike of the Naknek formation is parallel to the shore of the inlet in the vicinity of Tuxedni Harbor and in the small area under consideration shows little deviation. The dip ranges from 10° to possibly 20° E. and in general is lower than that of the underlying sedimentary beds. No reversed dips or minor folds were observed in this formation.

QUATERNARY DEPOSITS.

The Quaternary deposits of Tuxedni Bay and the area adjacent on the south include glaciofluvial and beach deposits made up of re-sorted glacial débris, stream gravels, and the gravels and sand deposited by the sea.

Typical glacial deposits are not well developed except in the vicinity of the existing glaciers. The stream and beach gravels, however, contain an abundance of foreign material which was undoubtedly brought in by the ice and was contributed directly to them or was derived from the destruction of previous glacial deposits. The area is profoundly glaciated and must have supplied an immense quantity of débris to the moving ice. Part of this débris was carried to the sea, but another part was left on the land and was thus subjected to re-sorting and redistribution by streams.

The valleys of Bear Creek and Johnson River furnish the best examples of these re-sorted deposits, but the gravels of glacial origin are so thoroughly intermingled with gravels of stream origin that no distinction between them is possible.

Johnson River in part of its course has cut through the surface deposits and reveals a bed of fairly coarse gravel tightly cemented with iron oxide, forming a hard conglomerate. This bed is conspicuous because of its bright color and contains a large proportion of fragments of vesicular lava, from which the cementing material and consequently the color was derived. The source of the lava was not visited, but it is believed to have come either from some comparatively recent flow from Mount Iliamna or else from the volcanic rocks underlying the Tuxedni sandstone. So far as is known the stream gravels are not gold bearing, but they are difficult to prospect and little attention has been given to them.

The beach deposits form a narrow border along the shore for the most part, but on the north side of Tuxedni Bay and north of Chinitna Bay they widen to a narrow coastal plain which in one place has a breadth of over 2 miles.

STRUCTURE.

The structure of the sedimentary beds in the vicinity of Tuxedni Bay has been indicated in the descriptions already given and is shown on the section on the map (Pl. II). These beds from the Tuxedni sandstone to the Naknek formation have a moderate easterly dip toward the shore of Cook Inlet and strike parallel to the shore, or about N. 30° E. A slight flattening of beds near the coast line is noticed, for the average dip there is between 10° and 15°, as compared with 20° or more at the upper end of Tuxedni Bay. The rarity of local variations in dip is notable. Folds and even short undulations in the beds are uncommon, although it should be said that the dense covering of alders on all the lower hill slopes obscures the structure in many places and possibly conceals folds that are present.

Faults of small displacement were observed at different places, but no great faults were seen within the area of the sediments. It is probable, however, that the contact of the Tuxedni sandstone with the underlying volcanic rocks is a fault contact. Martin,[5] from his study of the relations between the volcanic rocks, the Tuxedni sandstone, and the Chinitna shale in Chinitna Bay, reached the conclusion that the sedimentary beds are most probably separated from the volcanic rocks by a fault of considerable vertical and longitudinal extent, although he suggests other possible explanations of the relations existing there.

Although the Jurassic beds in the vicinity of Iniskin Bay and Oil Bay are known to carry a certain quantity of petroleum, as is shown

[5] Martin, G. C., op. cit. p. 97.

by oil seeps and drilling, the structure of these beds in the vicinity of Tuxedni Bay is not considered to be especially favorable for the accumulation of oil, for, so far as observation has shown, the structural features commonly considered as favorable or necessary for the retention of oil within an oil reservoir are not well developed here. On the other hand, the sedimentary beds themselves are seemingly as favorable for the development of the oil as the corresponding beds farther south. The petroleum of Iniskin and Oil bays is believed to be derived from the lower part of the Tuxedni sandstone and is stored in the porous beds of that formation. If the lower beds of the Tuxedni sandstone in the vicinity of upper Tuxedni Bay have ever been oil bearing, it seems likely that much of the oil has escaped to the surface and been lost during the long time that these upturned beds have been exposed to erosion, yet they may possibly still contain oil stored either in lenticular sand beds surrounded by impervious shale or in sand beds sealed by being faulted against impervious shale.

If the deeply buried part of the formation in the area nearer the inlet is oil bearing, it is unfavorable from the standpoint of the driller because of the great thickness of overlying beds that must be penetrated in order to reach the oil. The depth of the drill hole would be not only the thickness of the beds but an added depth due to the tilt of the beds, which, however, in beds of low dip is not great. The maximum depth to the top of the Tuxedni sandstone near the entrance to Tuxedni Harbor is at least 5,000 feet. Drilling in this vicinity would therefore seem unadvisable unless much more favorable structural conditions should be discovered than are now known.

GOLD LODES IN THE UPPER KUSKOKWIM REGION.

By George C. Martin.

DISCOVERY AND DEVELOPMENT.

The recent discovery of deposits of high-grade gold ores in the upper Kuskokwim region has attracted attention to a part of Alaska that is comparatively little known either to the general public or to mining men or geologists.

For several years a few small placer mines have been worked on Ruby and Hidden creeks, which are tributary to Nixon Fork from the south. In the course of this placer mining it was found that the gold became more abundant as it was followed up the creeks, but that above certain points it was no longer found. Shafts sunk into the bedrock at the limits of the placer gold revealed rich gold-bearing lodes lying on or near a monzonite-limestone contact. Further prospecting at this contact revealed the presence of other gold lodes. Shafts were sunk early in 1919 on two of the more promising of these lodes, and from one of them several hundred tons of high-grade ore was mined in the winter of 1919–20. This ore was sledded to Kuskokwim River and in the summer of 1920 it was shipped to the Tacoma smelter. In the meantime prospectors had traced the contact of the monzonite boss near the margin of which the known lodes lie, had staked claims along probably the entire contact, over much if not all of the monzonite area, and over part of the surrounding limestone, and had dug many trenches and pits along the contact and at other places, revealing the presence of many ore bodies of different sizes and richness. Many of the more promising claims, including the one from which ore had been shipped, passed into the control of the Alaska Treadwell Gold Mining Co. and associated interests early in 1920. During the summer of 1920 the Alaska Treadwell Co. was actively engaged in prospecting its holdings, and prospecting was being continued on a smaller scale on some of the other claims.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION.

Although the lower part of Kuskokwim River was explored in 1832, information concerning the upper part is still scanty. Several prospectors visited the upper part of the river between 1889 and 1898.

The earliest precise information concerning the country through which the upper river flows was gained by J. E. Spurr [1] and W. S. Post, who, in the summer of 1898, crossed the Alaska Range at the headwaters of Skwentna River and of the South Fork of the Kuskokwim and descended the Kuskokwim to its mouth (Pl. III). The resulting geologic information and maps of the area adjacent to the river from the forks to McGrath have been used in this report. In 1899 Lieut. Joseph S. Herron [2] crossed the Alaska Range at the head of Kichatna River and explored areas on various tributaries of the Kuskokwim above the forks. In 1901 a steamer was taken up the Kuskokwim to the forks. In 1902 an expedition under the leadership of Alfred H. Brooks [3] crossed the Alaska Range through Rainy Pass, near the headwaters of the South Fork of the Kuskokwim, and traveled northward along the western base of the Alaska Range. In 1907 G. B. Gordon [4] reached the headwaters of the North Fork of the Kuskokwim by way of Kantishna River and Minchumina Lake and descended the Kuskokwim to its mouth. Gordon's account of his explorations contains some general information on the region and much information concerning the natives but very few accurate cartographic or geologic data. A preliminary railroad survey from the Susitna Valley to Iditarod by way of the South Fork of Kuskokwim River was made in 1914 by J. L. McPherson for the Alaskan Engineering Commission.

Information bearing upon this district is to be found in descriptions of neighboring districts, notably in accounts by Smith [5] of an area on the south, by Eakin [6] of an area on the northeast, and by Mertie and Harrington [7] of an area on the west.

The prospects in the district have been described by J. S. Rivers [8] and by an anonymous writer [9] and have been briefly mentioned by Brooks and Martin.[10]

The statements herein presented are based primarily on observations made by the writer in a brief visit in the summer of 1920, but they include also such other information as could be gathered from various sources. Acknowledgment should be made for aid

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1 Spurr, J. E., A reconnaissance in southwestern Alaska in 1898: U. S. Geol. Survey Twentieth Ann. Rept., pt. 7, pp. 31-264, pls. 7-13, maps 4-14, 1900.

2 Herron, J. S., Explorations in Alaska, 1899, for an all-American route from Cook Inlet, Pacific Ocean, to the Yukon: War Department, Adjt. General's Office, No. 31, 1901, pp. 1-77, with maps.

3 Brooks, A. H., The Mount McKinley region, Alaska: U. S. Geol. Survey Prof. Paper 70, 234 pp., 18 pls., 1911.

4 Gordon, G. B., In the Alaskan wilderness, 247 pp., 1917.

5 Smith, P. S., The Lake Clark-central Kuskokwim region, Alaska: U. S. Geol. Survey Bull. 655, 162 pp., 12 pls., 1917.

6 Eakin, H. M., The Cosna-Nowitna region, Alaska: U. S. Geol. Survey Bull. 667, 54 pp., 8 pls., 1917.

7 Mertie, J. B., jr., and Harrington, G. L., Mineral resources of the Ruby-Kuskokwim region: U. S. Geol. Survey Bull. 642, pp. 223-266, pl. 11, 1916.

8 Rivers, J. S., Eng. and Min. Jour., Aug. 21, 1920.

9 Min. and Sci. Press, vol. 121, pp. 475-476, 1920.

10 Brooks, A. H., and Martin, G. C., The Alaskan mining industry in 1919: U. S. Geol. Survey Bull. 714, p. 93, 1921.

rendered to the writer in the field and for information furnished by all the local claim owners, miners, and prospectors and especially by Mr. Livingston Wernecke, who was in charge of the local operations of the Alaska Treadwell Mining Co. Much of the information here presented would not have been available without Mr. Wernecke's cordial and generous cooperation.

GEOGRAPHIC ENVIRONMENT.

POSITION.

The lode prospects to be described are about 12 miles north of the forks of the Kuskokwim. (See fig. 4.) The forks are in west-

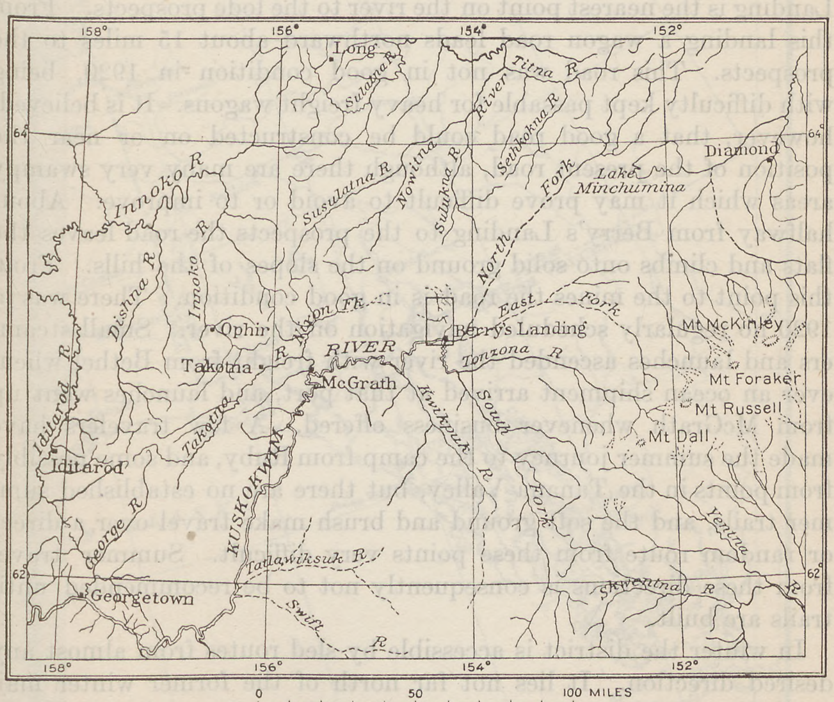

FIGURE 4.—Index map of upper Kuskokwim basin. The rectangle indicates the area shown in figure 5.

central Alaska, in about latitude 63° N., longitude 154° W., or about 500 miles above the head of deep-water navigation at Bethel and 600 miles from the mouth of the river. The prospects and the exposures described are all included within a small area near the divide between the main Kuskokwim and Nixon Fork, which is one of the larger northern tributaries of the Kuskokwim. The district has been popularly known as the "Nixon Fork country," but this name is not especially appropriate and will probably be replaced in local usage.

ACCESS AND SETTLEMENTS.

The only feasible route to the camp that is at present open in summer is that by way of the Kuskokwim, either from its mouth or from McGrath, which may be reached by an overland route from Iditarod. McGrath was the nearest permanent settlement in 1920, although there seemed to be promise that a small settlement would be established at Berry's Landing, near the forks of the Kuskokwim, about 90 miles above McGrath. (See Pl. III.) Berry's Landing is the head of ordinary navigation on the Kuskokwim; it can be reached by launches or small steamers. Although the river is probably navigable by small boats for some distance above the forks, Berry's Landing is the nearest point on the river to the lode prospects. From this landing a wagon road leads northward about 15 miles to the prospects. This road was not in good condition in 1920, being with difficulty kept passable for heavy freight wagons. It is believed, however, that a good road could be constructed on or near the position of the present road, although there are many very swampy areas which it may prove difficult to avoid or to improve. About halfway from Berry's Landing to the prospects the road leaves the flats and climbs onto solid ground on the slopes of the hills. From this point to the mines the road is in good condition. There was in 1920 no regularly scheduled navigation on the river. Small steamers and launches ascended the river with freight from Bethel whenever an ocean shipment arrived at that port, and launches went up from McGrath whenever business offered. A few travelers have made the summer journey to the camp from Ruby, and some possibly from points in the Tanana Valley, but there are no established summer trails, and the soft ground and brush make travel over a direct or random route from these points very difficult. Summer travel from these directions is consequently not to be recommended until trails are built.

In winter the district is accessible by sled routes from almost any desired direction. It lies not far north of the former winter mail route from Anchorage to Iditarod and can be easily reached from any of the settlements in the Tanana Valley.

Comparatively easy access to the district could probably be had in either summer or winter over a road built from some point on the Government railroad between Nenana and the foothills of the Alaska Range. Such a road would be about 200 miles long (see Pl. III) and would follow the foothills of the Alaska Range through the Kantishna district, past Lake Minchumina and the headwaters of the North Fork of the Kuskokwim, and would continue along the divide between Nixon Fork and the Kuskokwim. Much of the area that would be traversed is unsurveyed, but enough is known about the general character of the country to make it practically certain that a feasible

ENGRAVED AND PRINTED BY THE U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

100 0 100 200 300 400 500 Miles

100 0 100 200 300 400 500 Kilometers

ALASKA, MAP C
Edition of 1916

route for a road can be found. If a productive mining camp is established here it is believed that most of the transportation of passengers and light freight to and from the district will be over some such route as this, though heavy freight will probably always move over Kuskokwim River.

RELIEF AND DRAINAGE.

The camp is in a group of irregular rounded hills, which have no definite trend and stand in general about 1,000 feet above the forks of the Kuskokwim, or probably about 1,500 feet above sea level. The area is in one of the higher parts of the line of hills which forms the divide between Nixon Fork and the Kuskokwim. The hills in the immediate vicinity of the camp have steep but fairly smooth slopes. Cliffs, sharp peaks, and ridges of definite trend are noticeably absent. The area between the hills and the Kuskokwim is an imperfectly terraced flat having a general elevation of about 50 feet above the river. It is the customary river flat of interior Alaska and is probably formed of several terraces, but no detailed information concerning their number, attitude, and form is at hand. All the prospects thus far discovered are on the Nixon Fork side of the divide, on small creeks that flow out from the hills and meander across the broad, flat valley to join Nixon Fork, which follows a most meandering course, as indicated on the accompanying map (Pl. III). The courses of these creeks beyond the immediate vicinity of the prospects and the identity of possibly larger streams into which they may empty before reaching Nixon Fork is not known. The lack of knowledge concerning them is indicated by the names Puzzle, Mystery, Hidden, and Riddle, which have been applied to some of the creeks.

VEGETATION.

The hills and small valleys in the vicinity of the camp are covered with a fairly uniform but in general open mixed forest of spruce and birch, and on the hillsides there are fairly numerous but not very dense thickets of alders and willows. A remarkably thick coat of moss covers all the slopes. Exposures of rock or bare ground are very scarce, even along the creeks or on the tops of the highest hills. The flats along Kuskokwim River bear scattered patches of forest, which are separated by swamps and meadows. The trees include spruce, poplar, and larch, the poplar predominating except in favored places, most of them either near the river or at the base of the hills, where there are forests of spruce.

Grass grows abundantly on the hillsides and in the more open birch forests. There is also much grass on the flats, but most of it is marsh grass. The parts of the flats seen by the writer are either swampy or have been recently burned over and bear little or no useful vegetation.

ANIMALS.

The larger animals include moose, caribou, and probably both brown and black bear. All are relatively scarce, for this district lies in one of the poorer game countries of central Alaska. The reason for the scarcity of the larger game animals is not known. They have not been exterminated by hunters, for the human population, both white and native, is small, and there has been no hunting for market or for trophies. The smaller fur-bearing animals are said to be abundant. The useful birds include numerous grouse and waterfowl of various kinds.

CLIMATE.

This district is within the more rainy part of central Alaska. Summer rains are much more frequent than in the Yukon-Tanana region, but the rainfall is of course not so great as that of the coast region. No weather records are available, but the abundance of rain is indicated not only by the general observations of the inhabitants but by the dense growth of moss on the hillsides.

GEOLOGY.

The rocks exposed in the vicinity of the prospects include Paleozoic (probably Middle Devonian, though possibly Ordovician) limestone and shale, a mass of quartz monzonite which is intruded into the limestone, terrace gravel, and stream gravel. (See fig. 5.) The limestone and shale are believed to underlie a large area throughout the region and are probably cut by numerous masses of quartz monzonite that have not yet been discovered.

LIMESTONE.

The rocks in the vicinity of the lode prospects of the Kuskokwim, except the intrusive rocks and gravels, are limestones that are believed to be part of the limestone and slate which Spurr [11] has described as the "Tachatna series" (now spelled Takotna). The fact that the writer observed only limestone with little if any interbedded shale or slate in the hills near the lode prospects, whereas Spurr described the exposures in the river bank as including much shale or slate, probably means that the limestone finds its characteristic topographic expression in the peaks and ridges, which comprise almost the only exposures of bedrock away from the river. The additional fact that the exposures are few but are practically all of limestone is perhaps an indication that limestone is not areally the most extensive rock of the district.

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[11] Spurr, J. E., A reconnaissance in southwestern Alaska in 1898: U. S. Geol. Survey Twentieth Ann. Rept., pt. 7, pp. 123, 157–159, 179, 1900.

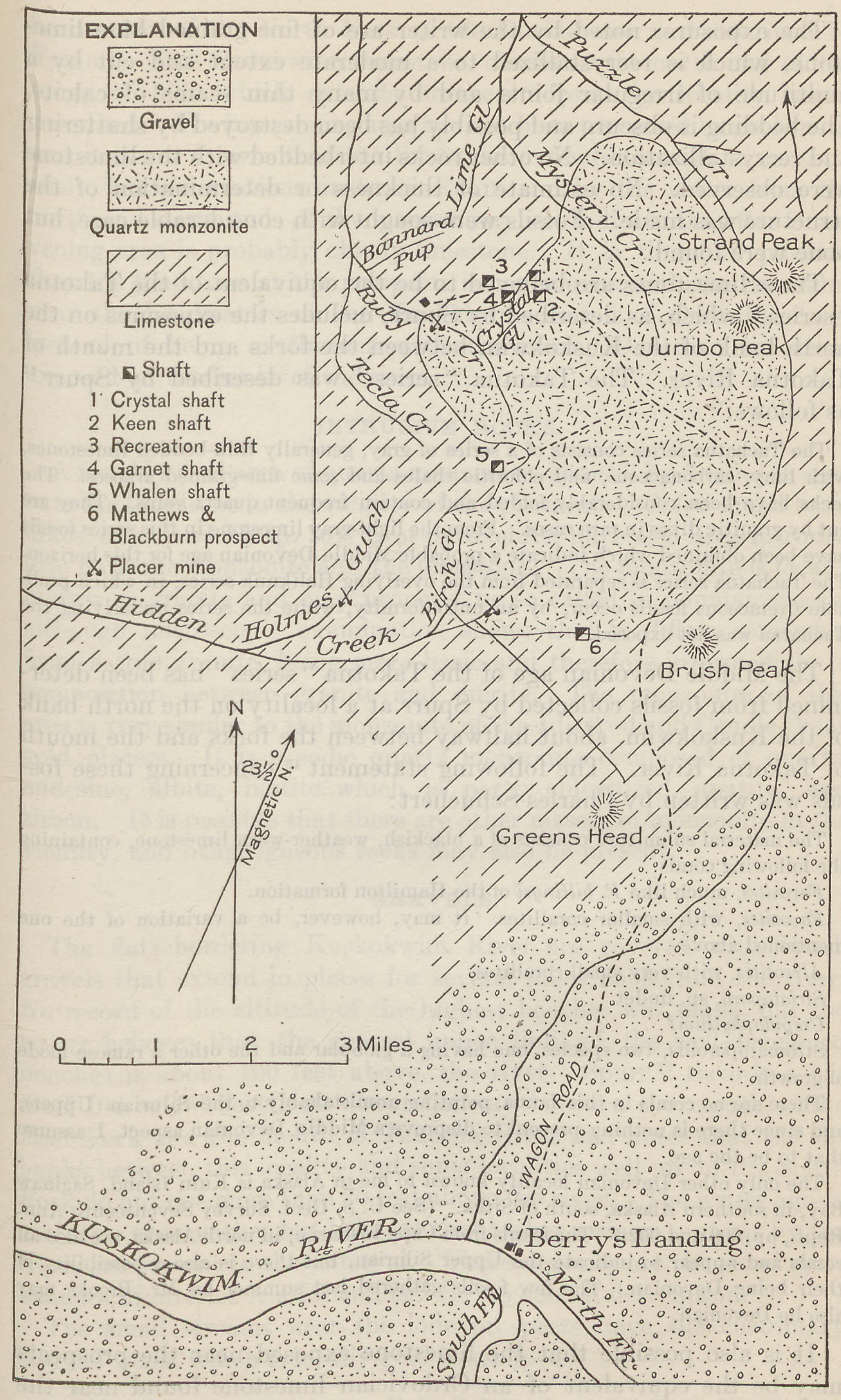

FIGURE 5.—Geologic map of Nixon Fork lode district, upper Kuskokwim basin.

The exposures noted by the writer are of fine-grained blue limestone, which is recrystallized to a moderate extent and cut by a multitude of irregular joints and by many thin seams of calcite. The bedding is obscure and possibly has been destroyed by shattering and recrystallization. No other rocks interbedded with the limestone were observed. No estimate of thickness or determination of the structure was made. Fossils were sought with considerable care, but none were found.

These limestones are believed to be the equivalent of the Takotna "series," which, as described by Spurr, includes the exposures on the north bank of the Kuskokwim between the forks and the mouth of Takotna River. The Takotna "series" was described by Spurr [12] as follows:

The Tachatna series consists of a series of gray, generally thin-bedded limestones, with limy, carbonaceous, and chloritic shales and some fine-grained arkoses. The rocks have been considerably folded and contain frequent quartz veins. They are cut by granitic dikes in rare cases. From the light-gray limestone in this series fossils have been obtained which indicate a probable Middle Devonian age for this horizon. The Tachatna series is separated from the overlying Holiknuk series, in which probable Cretaceous fossils occur, by an unconformity, while the series underlying the Tachatna was not exposed.

The Middle Devonian age of the Takotna "series" has been determined from fossils collected by Spurr at a locality on the north bank of the Kuskokwim, about halfway between the forks and the mouth of Takotna River. The following statement [13] concerning these fossils was written by Charles Schuchert:

The material submitted consists of a blackish, weather-worn limestone, containing the following corals:

Favosites, much like *F. billingsi* of the Hamilton formation.

Favosites, with smaller corallites. It may, however, be a variation of the one mentioned above.

Alveolites, with very small corallites.

Striatopora, sp. undet.

Crepidophyllum?

Stromatoporoids, two species, one having a globular and the other a ramose mode of growth.

There are no corals in this fauna pointing unmistakably to the Silurian (Upper), and since there is nothing present to disprove a Middle Devonian aspect, I assume that to be the age.

The only other Devonian locality known to me in Alaska is Kuiu Island, Saginaw Bay, in southern Alaska, south of Sitka. (See U. S. Geol. Survey Seventeenth Ann. Rept., pp. 900 and 902.) The fossils from Cape Lisburne, in north Alaska, are also all corals and appear to indicate the Upper Silurian, but there is also a possibility of their being Devonian. The few fossils gathered last summer by Mr. Brooks may also be Devonian.

It is also possible that the limestone exposed near the prospects may be the equivalent of an Ordovician limestone found near the

[12] Spurr, J. E., op. cit., p. 179.

[13] Idem, pp. 158-159.

headwaters of the North Fork of the Kuskokwim and described by Eakin.[14] This Ordovician limestone occurs at the north end of the range of hills which extends northeast from the locality herein described. The intervening area has not been traversed by geologists, and it is not known that the limestone extends through it continuously, but observations made by Eakin and by the writer from the north and south ends of the intervening belt indicate that this intervening area is probably chiefly limestone. It is therefore possible that the limestone at the prospects is continuous with the limestone near the headwaters of the Kuskokwim and is of Ordovician age instead of being continuous with the nearer Devonian limestone exposed on the banks of the river.

INTRUSIVE ROCKS.

A roughly oval area of quartz monzonite, about 3 by 5 miles in size, cuts the limestone in the vicinity of the prospects. A few small basic dikes, one of which (p. 161) is of pyroxenite, have also been intruded into both the monzonite and the limestone. The monzonite is locally known as granite and may properly be so called in popular speech, although microscopic examination shows that it differs somewhat from a true granite, being more basic and therefore intermediate in composition between granite and diorite. The monzonite of this area is very similar to the monzonite of the Iditarod and Candle Creek gold placers. It is a sodic quartz monzonite composed of quartz, andesine, albite, biotite which is partly chloritized, apatite, and zircon. It is possible that there are other masses of monzonite in the vicinity, and other igneous rocks may also be present.

GRAVELS.

The flats bordering Kuskokwim River are covered with bench gravels that extend in places for several miles back from the river. No record of the altitude of the highest benches was made, but the writer believes that the general upper limit of the well-developed benches is about 100 feet above the river. Spurr[15] records a silt bluff 100 or 150 feet high about halfway between the mouth of the East Fork and the mouth of Takotna River and notes that the silt banks between this locality and some localities well up on the South Fork do not rise more than 20 feet above the river. The writer agrees with this observation but believes that higher terraces, not cut by the river, are present in this interval. These deposits are the usual river benches of interior Alaska and call for no special description.

The small streams near the lode prospects have the customary alluvial wash, which is locally gold bearing.

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[14] Eakin, H. M., The Cosna-Nowitna region, Alaska: U. S. Geol. Survey Bull. 667, pp. 23-25, 1918.

[15] Op. cit., p. 122.

Glacial deposits are not known in the region, although much of the material in the terraces and bars of the Kuskokwim was derived from glacial deposits in and near the Alaska Range.

MINERAL RESOURCES.

GOLD LODES.

OCCURRENCE.

The gold lodes herein described lie on or near a contact between quartz monzonite ("granite") and limestone. The monzonite outcrops in a roughly elliptical area measuring about 3 by 5 miles. The west side of the monzonite has an irregular outline that may be due either to erosion along a sloping contact, to original irregularity in the shape of the monzonite mass, or to deformation. The rocks are so poorly exposed that the contact relations are not well known, but it is believed that the monzonite is intrusive into the limestone, that the western margin of the monzonite slopes westward at an angle departing appreciably and perhaps considerably from the vertical, and that the contact has been modified by faulting along lines diagonal to its original direction.

All the known ore bodies and most of the indications of mineralization have been found at or near the contact of the monzonite and the limestone, near the western margin of the monzonite, at places where the contact departs sharply from its general northerly trend. The ore does not occur in one continuous body but in several lenticular masses, none of which has yet been traced for any considerable distance. It is believed that workable ore is more likely to be found where the contact has been cut by faults or by zones in which the rocks are shattered. The ore bodies perhaps extend along the faults for considerable distances from the intrusive contact or along the contact for considerable distances from the faults.

Although the ore shows considerable differences in appearance and in richness from one prospect to another, it is probably of one general type, characterized by the presence of gold-bearing copper sulphides, which have been deeply and thoroughly weathered in most of the prospects to iron oxides and hydroxides and copper carbonates. The ore in all the prospects except the Crystal shaft is thoroughly oxidized to the extreme depth reached by the workings in August, 1920. The ore in the Crystal shaft, on the contrary, is unoxidized, even at the surface. The lack of alteration at the Crystal shaft may be due to some unexplained tightness of the fissure or to the fact that this ore body is within the monzonite, whereas most of the others are in the limestone or on the contact.

No assays of the ore have been made by the Geological Survey. A published description,[16] which is believed to be based on reliable first-hand information, says:

The ore is valuable chiefly for gold, but it carries 2 or 3 ounces of silver, and some of it contains from 2 to 8 per cent copper. * * * Several lenses of ore have been disclosed; they consist of high-grade ore—for example, 38 feet assaying $56 and 32 feet assaying $65 per ton. A large proportion of the ore assays between $30 and $35 per ton, for a full stoping width, but the ore bodies are comparatively short—for example, 40 to 60 feet.

Most of the ore seen by the writer is believed to contain not more than 2 per cent of copper. A specimen which was sent to the Geological Survey and which is said to have come from the Whalen claim contains copper and a little nickel.[17] Samples collected by the writer from the Recreation, Garnet, Whalen, and Crystal shafts, the Garnet trench, and the Mathews & Blackburn prospect were analyzed in the laboratory of the Geological Survey, and no trace of nickel was found.

Additional ore bodies may be sought not only along the contact of the limestone with the mass of monzonite but on the margins of any other monzonite areas that may be discovered in this district. The geographic and geologic province of which the known mineralized area is a part and in which similar geologic conditions may be expected and additional mineralized areas of this type may perhaps be found includes the belt of hills between Kuskowim River and Nixon Fork extending northeastward from the mouth of Takotna River for a considerable distance beyond the forks of the Kuskowim and possibly as far as the headwaters of the North Fork. Most of this area has not been examined geologically, but limestone is visible for a considerable distance from the hills near the prospects. Special search should be made in this belt for other areas of monzonite, and they should be carefully prospected, although it is not certain that they will contain valuable ores.

MINE AND PROSPECT OPENINGS.

Crystal shaft.—The Crystal shaft is near the head of Crystal Gulch, a tributary of Ruby Creek (fig. 5). It is in the monzonite not far from the limestone. The shaft was begun in January, 1919, and was sunk in the winter of 1919–20 to a depth of 65 feet. The workings, which were inaccessible at the time of the writer's visit, were made for the purpose of mining whatever ore could then be shipped at a profit. It is said that the ore body thus mined was a lens 10 by 20 by 65 feet in dimensions and that there was "6 feet of sulphides in

[16] Min. and Sci. Press, vol. 121, pp. 475-476, 1920.
[17] U. S. Geol. Survey Bull. 714, p. 93, 1921.

the bottom of the shaft." The ore is unoxidized and, as shown by specimens on the dump, consists of chalcopyrite, pyrite, and bornite in a gangue of calcite, siderite, and a zeolite, probably scolecite.

Keen shaft.—The Keen shaft is on the wagon road near the head of Crystal Gulch, about 1,000 feet east of the western border of the monzonite. It is said to have revealed a vein 4 feet wide, and material from this vein on the dump shows quartz with much yellow stain containing numerous small flakes of a grayish mineral with metallic luster (probably arsenopyrite) and a few small cubes of pyrite.

Recreation shaft.—The Recreation shaft is near the wagon road on the hillside northeast of Ruby Creek. It is in the limestone about 600 feet west of the margin of the monzonite. A shaft 50 feet deep with a drift 35 feet long exposes a vein having a maximum thickness of 6 feet. The vein has been traced by surface cuts for about 200 feet. The ore is thoroughly oxidized and shows in thin section iron oxides and hydroxides, quartz, chlorite, which is in part spherulitic, malachite, probably some azurite, and a little apatite. The specimens show much dark-green and some blue stain, probably derived from copper minerals. No sulphides or metallic minerals were seen.

Garnet shaft.—The Garnet shaft is south of the wagon road near the head of Crystal Gulch. It is in limestone, about 100 feet from the outcrop of the monzonite, but masses of monzonite show in the lower workings. The shaft was 76 feet deep when visited, and there was about 70 feet of drift. At the surface the ore is the full width of the shaft, which does not show the walls. At the bottom of the shaft the vein is not more than 4 feet wide. The ore, which is thoroughly oxidized, consists of chloritic material, iron ores, and quartz with many thin films and small masses of malachite and azurite.

Whalen shaft.—The Whalen shaft is on the divide between Ruby and Hidden creeks. At the end of August, 1920, it was 100 feet deep, and there was 160 feet of drift on the 40-foot level. Crosscuts on the 40-foot level show 32 feet of ore reported to average $68 per ton in gold. The vein is in limestone not far from the monzonite, and at the south end of the workings it lies very close to the monzonite. The ore, which is thoroughly oxidized even in the deepest workings, consists of chloritic material, iron ores, and quartz, containing many small masses of copper carbonates and a few small masses of chalcopyrite or pyrite.

Garnet trench.—The Garnet trench is on the contact between the monzonite and limestone, south of Mystery Creek and near the northeast corner of the Southern Cross claim. The ore consists chiefly of garnet containing many thin films and small masses of malachite and azurite. The thin section shows, in addition to garnet, augite, a little sericitized plagioclase, apatite, epidote, and chloritic material.

Twin shafts.—The Twin shafts are near the center of the Southern Cross claim. They are in an oxidized zone on the contact of a fine-grained porphyry dike intrusive into limestone. The ore was so much decomposed that no microscopic study or determination of the constituent minerals was possible. It is said to carry about $10 worth of gold per ton.

Mathews & Blackburn prospect.—The Mathews & Blackburn prospect is in the valley of Hidden Creek, near the south end of the area of monzonite. Only a small, shallow excavation had been made at the time of the writer's visit, and no well-defined ore body had been exposed. The prospect is situated on the outcrop of a basic dike intrusive into limestone, near the margin of the main mass of monzonite. The dike is of pyroxenite and is composed of augite, which is the chief constituent, magnetite, which also is present in considerable amount, melilite, a green garnet that is probably melanite, iron oxides, calcite, chloritic material, and copper carbonates.

GOLD PLACERS.

The Mathews & Blackburn placer mine is on Hidden Creek, just inside the area of the monzonite. It was worked on a small scale by shoveling in from an open cut. The pay gravel is said to be 75 to 125 feet wide, and it has been shoveled in to a depth of about 4 feet.

The O'Malley & Walden placer mine is on Ruby Creek near the contact of the monzonite and limestone. It is worked by drifting.

The Griffin & Whalen placer mine, on claim "No. 1 above," on Holmes Gulch, is in the limestone about a mile west of the margin of the monzonite. It was worked by sluicing in the early part of the summer of 1920, as in previous years.

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METALLIFEROUS LODES IN SOUTHERN SEWARD PENINSULA.

By S. H. Cathcart.

INTRODUCTION.

The value of the total mineral output of Seward Peninsula is about $81,000,000, of which over $80,000,000 is the value of the gold won from placer mines. Lode prospecting began soon after placer mines were developed[1] and has been continued in a more or less desultory manner through a period of 20 years, but thus far the attempts to open up lode mines have met with but little success. Little bedrock work has been done since 1917, when the effects of the World War began to be felt, and since then the suspension of the requirement for annual assessment work has still further decreased the prospecting of lode claims. In 1915 and 1916, owing to the war demands, a temporary stimulus was given to the mining of stibnite-bearing lodes, but it soon subsided. The Big Hurrah quartz mine is the only lode-gold producer that was opened up on any considerable scale, and this mine was operated only from 1903 to 1908 and then not continuously. Within the last few years underground work has been done at the Lost River tin mine, the Kougarok silver-lead property, and the gold lodes near Bluff, but elsewhere lode development has been almost negligible. There are now no productive lode mines in the region under discussion; only a few have produced in the past, and the output from those few has been small.

In the area of the York Mountains the relation of the mineralization to the geology has been pretty well established.[2] Tin, tungsten, antimony, copper, and lead have been discovered and are known to be closely related to granite bosses and porphyry dikes that intrude the limestone and slates. For the rest of the peninsula no such relation has been determined. A possible exception is the platinum recovered from the placers of Dime Creek. Basic igneous rocks occur in the vicinity of these placers, and although platinum has not been determined as a constituent of those rocks it is believed to have been derived from them.

In the absence of such well-defined genetic relations for the mineralization of most of the peninsula, it was deemed desirable to ascer-

[1] An exception to this statement is the silver-lead deposit at Omalik in the Fish River basin, which was opened up and from which some ore was shipped as early as 1881.

[2] Steidtmann, Edward, and Cathcart, S. H., The geology of the York tin deposits, Alaska: U. S. Geol. Survey Bull. — (in preparation).

tain the conditions which have led to a very wide distribution of metallic minerals throughout the country rock, especially the conditions which have resulted in concentrations of gold rich enough to be reflected in scattered placer deposits but which have not produced gold lodes of notable promise.

The writer undertook to determine, so far as the physical conditions permitted, the geologic relations of the bedrock occurrence of metallic minerals in this region. It was believed that such studies might help the prospector by determining the geologic conditions under which the metalliferous lodes were formed. Field work was begun on July 3 and continued until September 19, 1920. During this time most of the lodes of the peninsula in the area south of the mountains, between Council on the east and Cripple River on the west, were visited and the country rock in the vicinity of the richest placers was studied in an attempt to determine something more concerning the relations that exist between the mineralization of the region and the geology. In all 110 prospects were examined, and the ores, where available, were studied. The prospects show considerable variety in mineralization. Iron, bismuth, tungsten, gold, copper, lead, zinc, graphite, and antimony have been found in bedrock, and mercury is known in the placers.

The investigation was originally planned to be continued through several years, with the hope of not only determining the genesis of the ores but also correlating the many geologic formations found in Seward Peninsula. As for the present the investigation has been suspended, it seems desirable to record the provisional conclusions reached during the first season of field work.

This paper outlines certain features of the mineralization that were observed. It does not describe in detail all the prospects examined, nor discuss in more than a general way the mineralization of other important districts which were not visited. Descriptions of the geology and mineral deposits of the peninsula are contained in previous reports published by the United States Geological Survey, a list of which follows.

Preliminary report on the Cape Nome gold region, Alaska, with maps and illustrations, by F. C. Schrader and A. H. Brooks: Special Pub., 56 pp., 19 pls., 1900.

Reconnaissance in the Cape Nome and Norton Bay regions, Alaska, in 1900 (A reconnaisance of the Cape Nome and adjacent gold fields of Seward Peninsula, Alaska, in 1900, by A. H. Brooks, assisted by G. B. Richardson and A. J. Collier; A reconnaissance in the Norton Bay region, Alaska, in 1900, by W. C. Mendenhall): Special Pub., 222 pp., 23 pls., 1901.

An occurrence of stream tin in the York region, Alaska, by A. H. Brooks: Mineral Resources, 1901, pp. 267–271, 1902.

A reconnaissance of the northwestern portion of Seward Peninsula, Alaska, by A. J. Collier: Prof. Paper 2, 70 pp., 12 pls., 1902.

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Geology of the York tin deposits, Alaska, by Edward Steidtmann and S. H. Cathcart (in preparation).

GEOLOGY.

OUTLINE.

The foregoing list of publications indicates the large number of geologic investigations that have been made on Seward Peninsula. The Geological Survey has published reconnaissance geologic maps (scale 1:250,000) of nearly the entire region (20,000 square miles) and detailed maps (scale 1:62,500) of certain important districts.[3] These surveys and investigations have been made by a score of geologists during a period of more than 20 years. Each new investigation has added many additional facts bearing on the geology and the occurrence of mineral deposits. As yet there has been no adequate summary of this large mass of material and no correlation of the many formations to which the rocks have been assigned. To the end that a better understanding may be had of the relation between the ore deposits, to be here described, and the general geology of the region, the following provisional statement on the stratigraphy of Seward Peninsula as a whole is here quoted from an unpublished manuscript by A. H. Brooks:

> The bedrock of Seward Peninsula includes many sedimentary formations, ranging in age from pre-Ordovician to middle Carboniferous (Pennsylvanian). There are also some Upper Cretaceous sediments, as well as extensive lava sheets, chiefly of Quaternary age but in part possibly older, in the eastern part of the peninsula. In much the larger part of the peninsula intrusive rocks are not abundant, but in the Kigluaik, Bendeleben, and Darby mountains there are extensive stocks of granite rocks with

[3] Smith, P. S., Geology and mineral resources of the Solomon and Casadepaga quadrangles, Seward Peninsula, Alaska: U. S. Geol. Survey Bull. 433, pls. 6–7, 1910. Moffit, F. H., Geology of the Nome and Grand Central quadrangles, Alaska: U. S. Geol. Survey Bull. 533, pls. 3–4, 1913.

some dikes. There are also a number of granitic stocks, with which porphyry dikes are associated, in the York district. A few isolated stocks of granite occur in other parts of the peninsula. There are also local occurrences of pegmatitic, gabbroid, and diabasic intrusives.

All investigators of this field have recognized two distinct systems of structure, one trending about north and the other about east, but there is diversity of opinion as to which is the older. The Cretaceous rocks of the eastern part of the field are involved in the northerly folds. As these are the youngest consolidated rocks, it is evident that their deformation occurred during the most recent period of crustal disturbance. There is, however, some evidence of folding in late Paleozoic time, which produced structural features trending north. It is therefore possible that the post-Cretaceous (Eocene?) folds followed the structure of older Paleozoic time. The east-west folding is probably to be correlated with the dominating structural features of the Arctic Mountain system of northern Alaska and Siberia, which trend approximately east. This folding was certainly earlier than Upper Cretaceous, probably pre-Cretaceous, and certainly not earlier than Middle Jurassic. There is evidence that there has also been some later movements along these older east-west folds. As the intrusions were no doubt in a general way contemporaneous with the folding, and as in turn some if not all of the mineralization was genetically related to the intrusions, the tectonic history of the region is not without economic interest.

The bedrock of most of the gold-bearing areas of Seward Peninsula, especially in its southern part, consists of feldspathic and mica schists locally interbedded with metamorphic limestones that in places broaden out into considerable belts. The schist areas are also in places broken by wide belts of both massive and schistose greenstones and also by narrower belts of slates and quartzites. These formations are without doubt Paleozoic, and there is much evidence that they are younger than Silurian. They may be tentatively assigned to the Devonian or Carboniferous. The multiplicity of formation names in the many reports dealing with the geology of Seward Peninsula has caused much confusion in the minds of those not personally familiar with the region, hence it seems desirable to present at least a provisional correlation of the many formations that have been described, beginning with what are believed to be the oldest rocks of the peninsula.

Pre-Ordovician.—Dark slates and phyllites, locally graphitic, with some thin beds of limestone. These rocks have been definitely recognized only in the western part of the peninsula.

Ordovician with some Silurian.—Massive arenaceous limestone, locally crystalline. Typically developed in the western part of the peninsula, where these rocks are termed Port Clarence limestone. They carry Ordovician and Silurian fossils and, as mapped, some of Pennsylvanian age. Paleozoic limestone, with which are associated some dolomite and slate, is widely distributed in Seward Peninsula. For many of these rocks no definite age assignment is possible on the basis of the facts now in hand. The limestone beds at some localities carry Silurian fossils (in dolomite), some include Middle Devonian fossils, some are undoubtedly of Pennsylvanian age, and some possibly Ordovician.

Devonian (?).—Feldspathic, micaceous, siliceous, chloritic, and graphitic schists, with some beds of limestone, are very widely distributed over the region. The age of most of them seems to be pretty definitely later than Silurian, and there is some evidence that they are immediately succeeded by Pennsylvanian limestone. These rocks are provisionally assigned to the Devonian. In this group are included the Nome, Solomon, Kuzitrin, and Tigaraha schists and the schist of the Kigluaik group. It appears that the lower part of this series (Kuzitrin, Kigluaik, Tigaraha) is siliceous and the upper part calcareous. Most of the gold deposits of the peninsula have been found in association with the more calcareous members of this group of formations.

Carboniferous limestone.—Massive light-blue and white crystalline limestone. At Cape Mountain (Bering Strait) Pennsylvanian fossils have been found in this formation. The Sowik limestone of the Solomon region and the limestones overlying the Nome group are believed to belong to this formation.

Carboniferous.—Succeeding the supposed Pennsylvanian limestone in the Solomon and Casadepaga region are formations made up of black quartzose slates and schists not definitely recognized elsewhere in the peninsula. These have been termed the Hurrah slate and Puckmummie schist.

Carboniferous (?).—Greenstones are widely distributed in the peninsula, especially in the southern part. They occur chiefly as stocks, dikes, and sills, most of which have been rendered schistose. Their age is not definitely known, but they appear to be the youngest Paleozoic rocks of the region. The Casadepaga schist (chloritic) has been correlated with these rocks.

Intrusives.—Granitic and allied intrusive rocks occur as stocks and dikes in certain parts of the peninsula. They intrude the youngest of the known Paleozoic rocks and are for the most part Mesozoic or younger. Some of these rocks are sheared and gneissoid, as in the Kigluaik Mountains; others are massive, as those of the York district, where the granitic intrusives are accompanied by porphyry dikes. In the York district the mineralization is genetically related to the intrusives, and this is probably also true in some other districts.

There is good reason to believe that there was more than one period of intrusion. In the region east of Norton Bay mineralized rock accompanies granitic intrusives which traverse Upper Cretaceous beds and are probably of Eocene age. The opinion is ventured that the massive intrusives of the York district and possibly of some other parts of the peninsula are of Eocene age and were injected at the time of the latest period of deformation, which produced north-south folds. If this is true the other intrusives can logically be correlated with the older Jurassic (?) folding. So far as is now determined, this earlier period of intrusion was not accompanied by any very definite epoch of mineralization—at least, no evidence of mineralization has been found in association with the granites of the Kigluaik Mountains, which are believed to belong to the earlier epoch of intrusion.

Quaternary.—The Quaternary deposits consist principally of sand and gravel, with locally some small glacial moraines. During the Quaternary period there were poured out some extensive lava flows, which in certain places (Fairhaven and Kougarok districts) cover gravel deposits. In the Quaternary system also fall the terrace and ancient sea beach deposits that are especially well developed in the Nome and Solomon regions. Some of the lavas of the eastern part of the peninsula are probably pre-Quaternary.

COUNTRY ROCK.

The rocks of the area visited are nearly all metamorphosed sediments. Granitic intrusives are plentiful in the Kigluaik and Bendeleben mountains, north and northeast of Nome, but except for the granite of Cape Nome and of several smaller areas in the vicinity of Stewart River and Dickens Creek they are not known to be exposed in the area under consideration. Greenstone sills, stocks, and dikes are numerous but do not appear to have produced any mineralization. In fact, areas in which greenstones are abundant appear to be unfavorable to the occurrence of gold.

The metamorphic series consists mainly of schist but includes considerable limestone and some black slate. Chlorite schist is by far the most common type. It is usually siliceous, but calcitic varieties are common. Chlorite may be present almost to the exclusion of mica or may be only accessory to mica. The chlorite varieties are green; the micaceous varieties gray. The mica schists consist chiefly of muscovite and are highly siliceous. Feldspar schists are common in some parts of the area. The feldspar (albite) occurs in small crystals, together with chlorite and quartz, and the rock is not always easily distinguished from the chloritic types. Graphitic schists are present but are abundant only in small areas. The rocks are made up chiefly of quartz, massive and brittle, through which graphite is finely disseminated and with it a little muscovite. The schists taken as a whole are chloritic and siliceous. Graphitic, feldspathic, calcareous, and micaceous varieties are common but are subordinate to the general type. Accessory minerals, including biotite, are present in much of the rock, but these are nowhere conspicuous. The above-described schists belong principally to what has been called the Nome group.

Black slate is best developed in the Solomon region (Hurrah slate). It is a very siliceous rock, black, brittle, with good cleavage, and composed chiefly of quartz, with graphite, and here and there a little sericite. Lithologically similar types occur in the Council, Iron Creek, and Nome regions, but the fine slaty qualities are best developed in the Solomon region.

Limestone is an important constituent of the series. It occurs in thin beds generally not more than 50 feet thick and commonly only 5 feet thick throughout the schist series. It may occur as an occasional layer of limestone interbedded with schist, or it may form half of the section. As heavy-bedded limestone including thin beds of schist, it is most conspicuous and covers a considerable area. The beds are light gray or blue-gray to dark blue, are everywhere marmarized, and are in many places schistose.

STRUCTURE.

The structure of the rocks of the area is complex. Faulting has occurred in all the formations. Close folding is not unusual in the limestones and is common in the schists. The details of the structure are not well known. Two periods of deformation are recognizable. The axis of one set of folds strikes in general north; that of the other set east. The easterly folds are best developed in the vicinity of Kigluaik and Bendeleben mountains, where they are the prevailing structural features. Although they can be recognized throughout the area, they are elsewhere subordinate to the northerly folds. The areas of most intense deformation are the Nome and Solomon regions. Smith[4] has described in detail the structure of the Solomon and Casadepaga quadrangles, which may be considered as best illustrating the complicated geology that is rather characteristic of the peninsula as a whole.

[4] Smith, P. S., Geology and mineral resources of the Solomon and Casadepaga quadrangles, Seward Peninsula, Alaska: U. S. Geol. Survey Bull. 433, pp. 111-120, 1910.

MINERALIZATION.

ROCK OPENINGS.

The distribution and occurrence of the mineral deposits of a region are largely dependent upon the openings that were available at the time the mineral-bearing solutions were introduced. The extreme irregularity of many of the lodes of Seward Peninsula and the disseminated character of the mineralization are perhaps best explained by considering the stratigraphy of the metamorphic series, the contrast between the physical properties of the rocks of that series, the order of their succession, and the way in which they behaved when subjected to deforming forces.

Viewed in a general way the metamorphic series, principally mapped as the Nome group, is composed essentially of schist and limestone. at is not possible to give a measured section showing the relative proportions of the two rock types and their relation to each other, as the structure is complicated by intense folding and a great deal of faulting. Horizons are not distinguishable by lithologic data, and the limestones are fossiliferous in but few localities. Metamorphosed and unmetamorphosed greenstones add further complications, so that it is impracticable to subdivide the series other than into two parts, one predominantly schist, the other predominantly limestone.

The lower part consists chiefly of schist with interbedded limestone. The limestone beds range in thickness from less than 1 foot to perhaps 100 feet. Beds 5 to 20 feet thick are the most common. Few limestone beds of 20 feet or more do not contain one or several thin zones of schist. Not uncommonly the limestone and schist are about equally abundant and of about the same thickness. The most pronounced limestone zones include 20 to 30 per cent of schist interbedded with the limestone, and the most pronounced schist zones contain thin beds of limestone. Almost any ratio of limestone to schist or of schist to limestone can be seen in different parts of the area. The limestone is usually coarsely crystalline and fairly massive. Thin-bedded platy types and schistose phases also occur. The various types of schist that occur in the group have been described. They range from soft calcareous and highly chloritic varieties to dense brittle siliceous varieties. Slates are conspicuous in some parts of the area, especially in the Solomon and Iron Creek districts.

The limestone division of the Nome group, though chiefly limestone, includes many thin beds of schist ranging from 1 foot to 50 feet or more in thickness. The limestone is recrystallized and on the whole fairly massive, but zones of thin-bedded platy and schistose types are common. The contact between the two divisions is not sharp. In the limestone division schist is relatively most abundant at the base, and in the schist division limestone is relatively most abundant at the top.

The succession of limestone and schist is an extremely heterogeneous group. All degrees of so-called competency are represented not only among individual members of the group but among beds at various horizons throughout the group as a whole. The competent beds are the limestones, slates, and quartzose schists, and their competency within any zone is dependent upon their proportion and disposition relative to the less competent micaceous, chloritic, and calcareous members of the group.

A part of the gold mineralization is known to have occurred before the deformation of the series that produced most of the schist. Probably the larger part of the gold and apparently all the other valuable minerals were introduced later than the period of greatest metamorphism. The openings into which these later minerals were introduced resulted from folding or faulting of the heterogeneous series just described. All the later movements were not of the same age nor of the same intensity. Neither was all the later mineralization of the same age, but all the later openings were developed under similar conditions in a series of rocks whose physical characteristics were probably not much different at the different stages of deformation. The same principle, therefore, probably governed the formation of the rock openings in all the later periods of deformation.

As pointed out by Brooks [5] the most widespread effect of folding was to cause an adjustment within the series which to a large extent took the form of shearing at the contact of the so-called competent and incompetent beds. The physical properties of the rocks, other than their competency or resistance to deformation, were also important, especially those of the limestone. The uniform bedding planes of the limestone acted as original well-defined surfaces of weakness, so that when shearing forces were applied movement took place along these surfaces. These contact and bedding shear zones resulted in many poorly defined fissures which were distributed throughout the schist-limestone and limestone-schist divisions. Though the fissures were commonly not of great width and few of them are occupied by well-defined, massive veins, they permitted the infiltration of gold-bearing quartz and sulphide solutions and contain the quartz stringers so generally distributed through the area.

The controlling influence during deformation has been in large part the limestone and other competent members of the series, but exceptions to the localization of the fissures along the limestone contacts are so numerous that they require further explanation. Where the limestone beds are thick, as compared with the schists, the openings

[5] Brooks, A. H., U. S. Geol. Survey Bull. 328, p. 122, 1908.

seem to be closely confined to the immediate contact. Where the width of the schist zones is greater, adjustment within the relatively plastic schist beds has been effected by close folding, which has given rise to shears within the schist body and a general shattering of it. As the width of tbe schist zones increases, the fissuring becomes less closely confined to the contacts and more independent of the limestone. The most pronounced shear zones occur in bodies of schist several hundred feet in thickness in which competent beds are reduced to a minimum, but even here the action of the competent beds as the controlling factor during adjustment is recognizable. An especially favorable horizon for fissures formed by such shearing is at or near the junction of the main limestone division of the group and the underlying schist division.

Other fissures that cut the schist and the limestone are either not related to fissures that were produced by shearing or represent the extreme product of the deformation. A certain amount of deformation could be accommodated by the adjustment of the beds of such series as have been described, but if the deforming forces continued to act the beds would break. Fissures thus produced are the cleanest cut and most continuous observed and are occupied by the largest veins known in the area. Of the fissures in the schist even the cleanest cut show extreme irregularity. The physical properties of the schist did not permit it to fracture along sharp, well-defined planes. The fissures follow sinuous courses along both the strike and the dip, and horizontal movement along these sinuous lines has given to the veins which now occupy the fissures their habits of pinch and swell.

Only a few veins of considerable size fill fissures in the limestone division. The physical properties of the limestone cause it to break more evenly than the schist, and the veins in limestone are more uniform than those in schist. Any irregularities seem to be due to the division of the beds into blocks by joint planes and to unequal movement of the individual blocks, which resulted in straight-line reentrants and cavernous openings in the fissure walls. The joint systems and bedding planes in the limestone are the openings most commonly filled by later solutions.

The black slate member of the series is best developed in the Solomon region. It covers a very small area but is exceptional among the rocks of the series in the way in which it has fissured. It is a dense siliceous, uniform-textured rock which has fractured along clean-cut lines. The veins of Big Hurrah Creek occur in this formation and are the best defined and most regular of the veins known in the region. The contrast between the fracturing qualities of this division of the Nome group and those of the schist affords a good explanation why most of the veins of Seward Peninsula have proved so irregular and discouraging to prospectors.

TYPES OF DEPOSITS.

In this region concentrations of mineralization, especially of gold mineralization, are only relative. Dissemination is the rule. The concentrated deposits may be classed as veins and shear zones.

Veins.—Although the veins of Seward Peninsula have not shown great promise and have proved a source of discouragement to prospectors, because of their lack of continuity and the erratic distribution of the minerals which they contain, they are important in a study of the general mineralization of the region. They are known to be one of the sources if not the chief source of the placer gold. In addition to the original gold content of the veins, gold-bearing sulphides of a later period of mineralization have in many places followed the same fissures as the veins and fill fractures in the vein quartz and impregnate the schist of the vein walls. So far as known the original sulphide content of the veins was small.

Smith [6] has classified the veins as older quartz veins, newer quartz veins, and calcite veins. The calcite veins are abundant in both schist and limestone but especially in the limestone. Usually they occur as thin stringers and have attracted little attention as carriers of valuable mineral, but on Snow Gulch and Dry Creek, north of Nome, a number of tunnels have been driven on calcite veins that contain a little gold. The importance of the veins of this type is probably negligible.

The older quartz veins are those that antedated the period of extreme deformation and metamorphism in which the schists of the region were formed. Throughout the schist occur lenses and masses of quartz, some of which suggest by their outline that they are derived from or are deformed remnants of veins that were contained in the sediments at the time of their metamorphism. Smith [7] has noted that some of this quartz has had a different origin, being the result of the decomposition of silicate minerals during metamorphism. The quartz of the older veins is completely recrystallized, and nothing concerning the earlier history of their mineralization can be determined. Some of these veins are known to carry gold, but their very irregular occurrence eliminates them as prospective lodes.

The older veins are usually inconspicuous, and it is the later veins which are usually observed and to which prospecting has been largely confined. The later veins are not all of one period, but subdivision according to age is not possible. At the Big Hurrah mine, where veins of this type are well developed, smaller veinlets of several ages can be recognized, and veinlets of later quartz cut the quartz of the main veins. A further indication of the repeated or continued injection of quartz is seen in the ribbon rock at this locality. The

[6] Smith, P. S., op. cit. (Bull. 433), p. 90.
[7] Idem.

veins can be subdivided on the basis of accessory gangue constituents into quartz, quartz-feldspar, and quartz-calcite veins. They cut all the rocks of the series; they may be parallel to the bedding and schistosity or may cut them. They range in size from stringers less than an inch to veins several feet in width, but most of them are less than 6 inches wide. They are generally not traceable for more than a few hundred feet along the strike, and whatever their width, they are characterized by repeated and abrupt pinch and swell and irregularity of strike and dip.

The quartz of the veins is commonly white, clear, and vitreous and is stained by iron oxide on the fractured surfaces. Comb structure that shows several periods of vein growth is not unusual. The veins are characteristically of open texture, and the openings are usually cavities into which clear quartz crystals that show excellent terminations project. Some veinlets that cut schist are less than a quarter of an inch wide and show the open texture distinctly.

Where calcite occurs as an accessory constituent of the vein, it is commonly concentrated in areas through the quartz. Locally both quartz and calcite are present in about equal amounts, but usually the calcite crystallizes by itself in well-formed rhombohedrons. It may be white or stained yellow by iron oxide. Where tested it was nonmagnesian.

The feldspar type of vein is best known in the Nome area. A few of these veins occur in the Solomon area but are not conspicuous. The feldspar is everywhere of a plagioclase variety. Albite and oligoclase were about equally abundant in the thin sections examined. The feldspar occurs both disseminated through the quartz and segregated in small nests. It was nowhere seen to be present in any considerable quantity.

Sulphides of contemporaneous origin with the quartz occur in some of the veins. Pyrite is most common, but arsenopyrite and chalcopyrite have also been noted. Most of the sulphide is, however, safely assignable to a later period of mineralization, as it is usually seen to occur as veinlets in the quartz or in openings in the vein. Stibnite, arsenopyrite, and pyrite are the most abundant of the later sulphides. Galena, chalcopyrite, pyrrhotite, and bismuthinite are also known. Scheelite is a constituent of the veins in several localities, and from the general distribution of this mineral in the placers it is thought to be rather common and perhaps a minor constituent of the veins.

Shear zones.—Shear zones are exceedingly common, both in schist and in limestone. Most of the shearing, because of its very general distribution, did not cause concentration of the mineralization but rather the opposite. However, a type of shear zone is recognized in which there was considerable concentration and which may prove to be an important factor in determining the source of the placer gold. The zones of this type occur in schist, and many of them contain very little quartz; consequently they are soft and easily concealed by talus and moss. It can not be said how abundant they are, or what their distribution may be. They are very prominent in the Snake River drainage basin, and they are probably much more numerous than they appear to be, as their exposure is largely fortuitous. Stibnite, gold, and scheelite are present in these zones. The best-defined examples were noted at the head of Waterfall Creek, on the Christophosen property; near the head of Goldbottom Creek, in the California quartz lode; on Boulder Creek, in the Boulder lode; on Rock Creek, at Sophie Gulch; in a small gulch just west of Snow Gulch, tributary to Glacier Creek; in New Years Gulch, a tributary of Anvil Creek; and opposite the mouth of Specimen Gulch, on the northwest bank of Anvil Creek. Possibly certain hematitic schists that occur on Dexter and Dry creeks belong to this class of deposits, but they do not seem to be typical. (See fig. 18.)

These zones are characterized by disseminated sulphides. In some of them quartz is plentiful, but it is older than the sulphides. Comparatively little quartz seems to have accompanied the later mineralization. Where these zones are opened by mining operations fault planes are seen to cut the schist. The weathered outcrops are iron stained, and the soft, decomposed schist will pan gold and on assay shows a low gold content. The width of the zones is not well defined, for the mineralization gradually diminished with increasing distance from the faults. Where determinable, arsenopyrite is the most abundant sulphide impregnating the schist of these zones. Pyrite is also plentiful. Stibnite occurs at the Waterfall, Rock, and Anvil creek localities, but it is not known to be contemporaneous with the arsenopyrite. Scheelite has been mined from the zone on Sophie Gulch, but at this locality quartz veinlets are numerous and at least part of the scheelite occurs as a contemporaneous constituent of the veins.

As these zones carry gold, even if their content is too low to class them as commercial ore bodies, their importance as feeders for the rich placers of the district is evident. The width of many of them is measured in scores of feet, and in some localities they are said to have been traced for several thousand feet. As known, they represent rather good-sized bodies of low-grade ore, or rather mineralized rock.

Contact shearing and shearing within the limestone has resulted in concentrations of argentiferous galena and of copper sulphides.

At the contact of many of the massive limestone beds which occur throughout the schist division there is evidence of intense deformation. The limestone has been rendered schistose, and the schistose limestone grades into calcareous schist which in all probability has been derived from the limestone and represents the extreme phase of metamorphism. The limestone is in many places closely folded and contorted along the contact. Galena and sphalerite have been introduced along these horizons in several localities, and replacement ore bodies have been formed in the limestone and schist. The only deposit of this kind known within the area described occurs on Kruzgamepa River near the mouth of Iron Creek (p. 210). The ore here occurs as lenticular bodies in the schist and consists of galena and sphalerite in a gangue of quartz and calcite. On Kugruk River, near the mouth of Independence Creek, a deposit of lead-silver ore is being explored. The locality has not been visited by a member of the Geological Survey, but from descriptions it is understood to be a deposit of this type. At Omalik, in the Fish River basin, a similar deposit of lead-silver ore has been known for many years.[8]

At Iron Creek (p. 208) and Copper Mountain (p. 217) quartz carrying copper sulphides has been introduced along shear zones that have followed the bedding planes in the limestone, and the limestone has been replaced by silica. All the concentrations of copper minerals known in the area occur in deposits of this type.

Many of the relative concentrations in veins and mineralized shear zones grade imperceptibly into slightly mineralized country rock. Sulphides, chiefly pyrite, occur everywhere throughout the schist and slate of the Nome group and at many places in the limestone. Hardly a weathered specimen of schist can be found that is not specked with iron oxide, and thin sections show decomposed sulphide in every specimen examined. The schist as a whole is well mineralized. In the limestone the sulphides are less plentiful, but at its contact with schist and also adjacent to surfaces of movement within the limestone itself sulphides are almost always recognizable. Concentrations are frequently seen in the schist along the limestone-schist contact, occurring as tiny veinlets that cut the schist where it has suffered considerable distortion, coating fissures in the schist and coating the wall rock of quartz veinlets. It is not definitely known that the disseminated pyrite contains gold, but gold occurs chemically or mechanically combined with sulphides in some of the lodes of the area, and it is very probable that a part of the placer gold may have its origin in the disseminated sulphides.

Quartz veinlets from a fraction of an inch up to several inches in width occur in the schist in great numbers. They are nonpersistent, variable in width, and irregular in strike and dip. They appear to be almost nowhere concentrated to the point of forming a stringer lode. Such concentrations as occur are not sufficient

[8] Smith, P. S., and Eakin, H. M., A geologic reconnaissance in southeastern Seward Peninsula: U. S. Geol. Survey Bull. 449, pp. 130–133, 1911.

to remove them from the class of disseminated deposits. The veinlets carry native gold. Stringers a quarter of an inch in width contain small nuggets. Free gold disseminated through the schists is not known to occur.

RELATION OF GOLD TO IGNEOUS ROCKS.

Brooks [9] has described the gold lodes of Seward Peninsula as deposits differing from the lodes of other parts of Alaska in that they show no genetic relation to intrusive rocks. Smith [10] cites the presence of tourmaline in many of the rocks as evidence that granitic intrusives which are not exposed may underlie the gold-producing areas and also correlates some of the later quartz veins with the intrusion of the granitic rocks of the Kigluaik Mountains. An examination of the geologic map, which shows a belt of granitic intrusives in the area of the Kigluaik Mountains, one prominent area of granitic rock at Cape Nome, and a few small isolated bosses as far south as Stewart River, suggests that the region between the mountains and the coast may be underlain by intrusive rocks.

Another criterion that may have some significance is the character of some of the later quartz veins, which are of the quartz-feldspar variety. In the Fortymile district Spurr [11] found similar veins and could trace the transition from granite to aplite to pegmatite to quartz-feldspar veins, and finally to quartz veins without feldspar. This evidence suggests that the veins of the Nome region especially have been derived from a granitic rock but represent a product a considerable distance removed from its source.

Another feature which suggests that the mineralization is related to a granitic rock is the widespread occurrence of scheelite in the placers. Scheelite occurs as a constituent of the quartz veins and is associated with the arsenopyrite. An analysis of the descriptions of 50 tungsten deposits, which include the most productive deposits of the world, indicate that some of their outstanding features are as follows: (*a*) The composition of the intrusive from which they are derived is usually that of a granite, although the deposits may be associated with rocks as basic as diorite; (*b*) the deposits may occur in the granite but usually occur in the country rock and have considerable ability to migrate from their source; (*c*) the traveling ability varies with the mineral. Scheelite is more likely to occur at a distance from the intrusive rock than any other tungsten mineral.

In the Kigluaik Mountains the granite is intruded almost entirely as sills and dikes. The few bodies of granite penetrating the Nome

[9] Brooks, A. H., Geologic features of Alaskan metalliferous lodes: U. S. Geol. Survey Bull. 480, p. 70, 1911.
[10] Smith, P. S., op. cit. (Bull. 433), pp. 132–133.
[11] Spurr, J. E., Geology of the Yukon gold district, Alaska: U. S. Geol. Survey Eighteenth Ann. Rept., pt. 3, pp. 147, 291, 1896.

group south of the mountains are bosses, and the rocks are badly sheared. At one locality on Stewart River there is a granite which is so highly sheared as to be decidedly schistose, and its origin is not easily recognizable. It is possible that bosses and sills of granitic rock that have been converted to schist occur throughout the highly metamorphosed schists. Schists derived from igneous rocks have not been identified, however, and it is probable that if they are present the alteration has gone so far that they are beyond recognition.

It is not enough to say that the granite known elsewhere on the peninsula underlies the areas here discussed or that it may have been present and is now metamorphosed beyond recognition, for where the granite is known—in the York district and in the Kigluaik Mountains, for instance—it has not produced auriferous mineralization but deposits of tin, tungsten, and lead. It should be noted however, as suggested by Brooks (p. 168), that there may have been more than one period of granitic intrusion. Most of the gold deposits of Alaska are related to dioritic rocks. Diorite occurs at Cape Darby,[12] and andesite, quartz diorite, and monzonite occur in the Fairhaven district,[13] but elsewhere the intrusive rocks are chiefly biotite granites. If the quartz-feldspar veins are accepted as evidence of an underlying granitic mass from which the gold may have been derived, it is interesting to note that the feldspars of these veins wherever determined were plagioclase feldspars, albite or oligoclase. Plagioclase feldspar is an accessory constituent of the biotite granites, but it seems reasonable to assume that the character of the magma from which the veins are derived would be reflected in the veins themselves. The feldspars of the veins noted by Spurr [14] were orthoclase. It is not improbable, therefore, that the rock which is supposed to have produced the gold mineralization is a diorite such as has supplied the gold elsewhere in Alaska.

SEQUENCE OF MINERALIZATION.

It does not seem possible to assign a definite age to any of the several periods of mineralization which have been noted. The relative ages are known only in part. The two features of the age relations which are most impressive are (*a*) the number of periods of mineralization during which the various metals have been deposited and (*b*) the probable geologic youth of most of the sulphide, part of which is either gold bearing or was accompanied by gold and which seems to account best for certain of the well-known concentrations of gold.

[12] Mendenhall, W. C., A reconnaissance in the Norton Bay region, Alaska, in 1900: U. S. Geol. Survey Special Pub., p. 205, 1901.

[13] Moffit, F. H., The Fairhaven gold placers, Seward Peninsula, Alaska: U. S. Geol. Survey Bull. 247, p. 30, 1905.

[14] Spurr, J. E., op. cit.

The order of succession may have been somewhat as follows:

1. The older quartz veins. These antedated the extreme metamorphism of the metamorphic series. How much of the disseminated sulphide and gold mineralization is assignable to this period is not clear. A large part of it is later.

2. Replacement deposits at limestone-schist contacts and along zones of bedding shear in limestone. The contact type includes the argentiferous galena of Iron Creek (p. 210); the shear-zone type includes the copper of Iron Creek and Copper Mountain (pp. 208, 217). The relative ages of these types are not determined. Galena occurs in small amounts as veinlets in the siliceous copper ores of Dickens Creek (p. 219) and as veinlets cutting the later quartz veins of Mountain Creek. If the galena mineralization is all of one age, the galena replacement deposits may be considerably younger than the copper replacement deposits.

3. The later quartz veins. The relative age of the copper replacement deposits and of the later quartz veins is also uncertain. That the former are merely a variation of the latter is questionable, however, as the copper sulphides are not prominent constituents of the quartz veins and the accessory feldspar and calcite of the veins are not known in the copper ores. In the Casadepaga district Smith found silicified limestone cut by later quartz veins. That the veins are of more than one period of intrusion is very probable, or at least their introduction was continued throughout some time, as shown by the vein structure at the Big Hurrah mine. From the evidence at hand, it might be best to consider the copper replacement deposits as older than the later quartz veins, although they may in part be contemporaneous. Geologically both of these types are fairly young. They are but slightly disturbed and certainly are subsequent to any of the periods of major deformation of the rocks of the peninsula. It is probable that they are younger than the late Cretaceous coal-bearing rocks, which occur in the eastern part of the peninsula, as those rocks are considerably faulted and folded.

4. Sulphide mineralization. Most of the sulphide minerals are probably younger than the later quartz veins. Practically all the stibnite and arsenopyrite and much pyrite are certainly younger. The pyrite is so abundant that it may have accompanied the mineralization of all periods. The age of the arsenopyrite and stibnite is shown by their association with the later veins. Movement sufficient to reopen the vein fissures and slightly shatter the veins supplied part of the openings into which these sulphides were injected. The movement that has occurred since the deposition of the stibnite is probably very slight, as those delicate ore bodies are not seriously disturbed. Slight movements are recorded in the several beach levels at Nome, the oldest of which may be Pliocene. The sulphide

mineralization would seem to be safely assignable to the Tertiary, but there is no evidence to indicate whether it was early or late in Tertiary time.

If the above interpretation is correct, it would seem that the sulphide mineralization and most of the gold mineralization of this area occurred subsequently to the mineralization which was effected by the granites in the York district. The York deposits are thought to be of Mesozoic age,[15] but that determination is also in doubt, as the granites do not occur in association with sedimentary rocks younger than Mississippian.

AREAS OF MINERALIZATION.

Most of the lode prospects of Seward Peninsula occur within two comparatively small areas—the York district, in the extreme northwestern part of the peninsula, and an area lying south of the Kigluaik and Bendeleben mountains, between Cripple River on the west and Council on the east. Prospects are also known near Kougarok Mountain, in the Kougarok Valley, on Kugruk River, at Omalik, and elsewhere, but most of the prospecting has been done within the two areas specified. It is very probable that these areas have been considered more favorable not so much because of the absence of lodes elsewhere which are as attractive as many or most of those that occur within the areas cited, but rather because of their proximity to tin placers in the York district and to the very productive gold placers of Nome, Solomon, and Council in the southern district. However, since the finding of gold at Nome, placer miners have pretty thoroughly covered the creeks of the entire peninsula and incidentally have investigated the promising lodes, so that, although the restriction of gold lodes may not be so great as is indicated by the distribution of the lode prospects, and other areas may possibly contain lodes of value, there was probably a relatively richer mineralization in the York and southern districts.

MINERAL DEPOSITS OTHER THAN GOLD.

In the foregoing description the bedrock occurrence of gold has been principally emphasized. There are, however, many other minerals on the peninsula of either proved or possible value. Some occurrences of these minerals are described in the following pages; others lie outside of the area under discussion.

Copper.—The copper ore of the area visited occurs in replacement deposits along sheared zones in limestones and schist and is characterized by features not observed in any of the other ores. At numerous localities the limestone, which is normally blue, is bleached

[15] Steidtmann, Edward, and Cathcart, S. H., Geology of the York tin deposits, Alaska: U. S. Geol. Survey Bull. — (in preparation).

to a lighter color or to white, and in places the bleaching is accompanied by silicification. These altered zones occur both at schist contacts and along planes of adjustment within the limestone and apparently unrelated to schist. The agency that effected the bleaching is not known. Silica has been introduced along the shear zones in places, and not uncommonly the bleached limestone is completely replaced. The copper sulphides that occur in these zones are contemporaneous with the quartz, but the quartz does not everywhere contain copper minerals.

This alteration of the limestone has been noted on Penny River, in the Solomon district, at Mount Dixon,[16] on Iron Creek, at Copper Mountain, on Slate Creek, on Manila Creek, and at Mount Distin. Copper minerals are associated with the altered limestone on Mount Dixon, Iron Creek, Manila Creek, and Copper Mountain, and zinc and lead at Mount Distin.

The quartz bodies in which the copper minerals occur seem to conform with the bedding of the limestone. The quartz contains many shrinkage cavities and retains the original bedding planes of the replaced rock. The most noticeable feature of the rock is its banded structure. Chalcopyrite, bornite, and pyrite are the usual sulphides observed. Galena is locally present. As all the developments are confined to the surface workings, malachite and azurite are the most abundant ore minerals.

Copper has been reported from the following localities:

Lost River, below the mouth of Tin Creek.[17]

Associated with the tin deposits of Ears Mountain.[17a]

About 3½ miles northwest of Kougarok Mountain, between Bismark, and Star creeks, tributaries of Quartz Creek.[18]

Three or four miles southeast of Kougarok Mountain.[18]

On Kougarok River near the mouth of Taylor Creek.[19]

Timber Creek and Tubutulic divide, Council City precinct.[20]

On the east coast of Darby Peninsula, about 3 miles north of Carson Creek.[20]

In the Bendeleben Mountains, on the divide between Kingsland and Nugget creeks.[20]

North side of Split Creek, a tributary of Bear Creek in the Fairhaven precinct.[21]

East of Iron Creek near the head of Sherette Creek, in the Kougarok precinct.

On Copper Mountain, Dickens Creek, and Copper Creek, at the head of Nome River.

On Dexter Creek, in the Nome district.[22]

On Mount Dixon, on Spruce Creek, and in the Moonlight Creek divide, in the Solomon district.[22]

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[16] Smith, P. S., op. cit. (Bull. 433), p. 115.

[17] Knopf, Adolph, Geology of the tin deposits of Seward Peninsula, Alaska: U. S. Geol. Survey Bull. 358, pp. 57–58, 1908.

[17a] Idem, p. 26.

[18] Mertie, J. B., jr., Lode and placer mining on Seward Peninsula, Alaska: U. S. Geol. Survey Bull. 662, p. 440, 1917.

[19] Smith, P. S., Mineral deposits of Seward Peninsula, Alaska: U. S. Geol. Survey Bull. 345, p. 244, 1908.

[20] Smith, P. S., and Eakin, H. M., A geologic reconnaissance in southeastern Seward Peninsula and the Norton Bay-Nulato region, Alaska: U. S. Geol. Survey Bull. 449, pp. 134–135, 1911.

[21] Harrington, G. L., Gold and platinum placers of Kiwalik-Koyuk region, Alaska: U. S. Geol. Survey Bull. 692, p. 399, 1917.

[22] Smith, P. S., op. cit. (Bull. 345), p. 243.

At the head of Twin Mountain Creek, in the Nome district.
At the head of Waterfall Creek.[23]
On the Klokerblok divide near the head of Eldorado Creek, in the Bluff region.
On the ridge at the head of Manila Creek.
Half a mile north of the mouth of Little Hurrah Creek, in the Solomon district.
Near the head of North Fork, a tributary of Last Chance Creek, in the Nome district.

At most of these localities copper is present in very small quantities, and at many of them development would hardly be justified. Little development work has been done at any locality.

Tungsten.—A small amount of tungsten has been recovered from the placers incidentally to the mining of gold. In the York district wolframite is associated with cassiterite in the tin deposits. It is present in very small quantities, so far as known, and has not contributed to the production. Scheelite is the mineral found in the placers and is present in small quantities at many localities. The concentrates from most of the streams of the Snake River valley contain scheelite. It occurs in the placers at Bluff, in the Council region, in the Solomon district, and in the Fairhaven district.

Sophie Gulch, a tributary of Rock Creek (p. 245), has been sluiced for its scheelite content. The gulch is cut in a shear zone in schist which contains a multitude of small quartz veins. The schist adjacent to the veins is impregnated with sulphides. Scheelite occurs with the sulphides that impregnate the schist and in the quartz veins that cut the schist. As the sulphide mineralization was later than the formation of the veins, and as scheelite appears to be contemporaneous with both the quartz and the sulphides, more than one period of tungsten mineralization seems certain.

Scheelite has also been mined from a quartz vein on Twin Mountain Creek and has been reported from lodes on the north side of Glacier Creek[24] and on the divide between Glacier and Anvil creeks.

Lead.—Within the area examined galena and sphalerite occur on Kruzgamepa River at the mouth of Iron Creek (p. 210) and on Steep Creek at the foot of Mount Distin (p. 232). At the former locality the ore is chiefly galena. It occurs as lenticular bodies along limestone-schist contacts. At Mount Distin the ore occurs in veinlets in a zone of bleached limestone. Galena is also present in very small quantities with the copper ores of Dickens Creek, Mountain Creek, Rock Creek, and Sophie Gulch.

Lead, in several places associated with zinc or with copper, has been reported from the following localities:

At Brooks Mountain.[25]
North of Rapid River, a tributary of Lost River.[25]
On Tin Creek, a tributary of Lost River.[25]
On Kruzgamepa River, at the mouth of Iron Creek (lead and zinc).

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23 Mertie, J. B., jr., op. cit. (Bull. 662), p. 442.
24 Idem, p. 437.
25 Knopf, Adolph, op. cit. (Bull. 358), p. 42.

Northeast of Mount Bendeleben (lead and copper).
At Omalik.[26]
At the head of Steep Creek, on Mount Distin (lead and zinc).
On Kugruk River, at the forks of Independence Creek.
On Fish River, 5 or 6 miles above the mouth of the Niukluk.[27]
On Waterfall Creek.[27]

Most of the galena discovered on the peninsula has been reported to be silver-bearing. The property on Kugruk River has been actively exploited for several years and is the best-developed silver-lead prospect on the peninsula. A considerable tonnage of high-grade ore is reported to have been mined, but no shipments have been made. This property has not been visited by a member of the Survey.

Zinc.—The presence of sphalerite with galena at Mount Distin and on Kruzgamepa River has been referred to in connection with the occurrence of lead. Mertie[28] reports zinc to be present on the ridge between Penny River and the head of Oregon Creek. The ore consists of sphalerite and a little pyrite in a gangue of quartz.

Iron.—Five groups of iron claims have been staked on Cripple River. The ore is mostly limonite (pp. 258–261). Too little development work has been done to determine the nature of the occurrence. Mertie [29] reports sulphides as present with the ore at the Mogul group of claims and suggests that the iron may be merely gossan material capping a sulphide vein. The Cub Bear group of claims was visited by the writer. No sulphides were observed at this locality. The iron ore occurs in a zone perhaps 50 or 100 feet wide and extending for several thousand feet along the crest of an anticlinal fold in limestone. A small quantity of the ore is botryoidal limonite, with which some oxide of manganese occurs. Most of the material is iron-stained limestone and represents no great concentration of the iron oxide. The observed structural relations strongly suggest that the ore has been deposited from aqueous solutions circulating along the fissured crest of the fold.

Platinum.—Platinum is recovered from the placers of Dime Creek incidentally to the mining of placer gold. The ratio of the platinum to the gold content of the gravels is thought to be about 1 ounce of platinum to $4,000 in gold. Attempts have been made to locate the bedrock source of the platinum, and prospectors have received favorable returns on some of the material which they have had assayed. Specimens of greenstone dike rock which were reported to contain a trace of platinum were submitted to the Geological Survey, but assays made on this material for the Survey by competent chemists

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[26] Mendenhall, W. C., A reconnaissance of the Norton Bay region, Alaska: U. S. Geol. Survey Special Pub., pp. 213–214, 1901.
[27] Mertie, J. B., jr., op. cit. (Bull. 662), p. 446.
[28] Idem, p. 447.
[29] Idem, p. 444.

have shown the rock to contain no platinum. Sulphides reported to contain platinum have been referred to under "Bismuth." The fact that platinum has seldom been found in hard rock does not preclude the possibility of finding it, but it can not be too strongly emphasized that platinum is an exceedingly difficult element to determine analytically. A platinum content is frequently reported when the element is not present. Prospectors can not afford to accept determinations by any chemist except one who is especially qualified to handle that particular work.

Antimony.—The stibnite that occurs in the area examined is commonly associated with the later quartz veins. Kidneys of stibnite accompanied by very little quartz have been found along shear zones in schist at several localities, but the ore bodies have been small. The best-known localities are the Sliscovich mine, on Manila Creek and the Hed & Strand mine, on Lost Creek (pp. 226, 229).

In all the deposits observed the stibnite seems to have been introduced since the formation of the veins. Apparently after the intrusion of the quartz movement continued to take place along the vein fissures, and they were reopened and the veins shattered. At some localities the stibnite occurs as irregular bodies between the vein and its schist wall and as nests and stringers in the vein itself. In most localities it is present only as veinlets in the quartz.

The stibnite is usually accompanied by some pyrite and a variable amount of contemporaneous quartz. In the richest specimens the stibnite occurs as distinct acicular crystals, some of which are an inch or more long, and the quartz is present as well-formed but smaller crystals with good terminations. In the lower-grade ore the stibnite is finely crystalline, and quartz forms most of the rock. Gold is present with the stibnite at the Sliscovich mine and at several places on Anvil Creek.

The localities at which stibnite has been reported to occur are as follows:

Sliscovich mine, Manila Creek.
Hed & Strand mine, Lost Creek.
Cold Creek.
Divide between Manila and Hobson creeks.
Big Hurrah Creek
Head of Waterfall Creek.[30]
Boulder lode.[31]
Quartz Gulch, tributary to Anvil Creek.
Winsted tunnel, northwest bank of Anvil Creek above Specimen Gulch.
Olsen shaft, southeast bank of Anvil Creek below Specimen Gulch.
Northwest bank of Anvil Creek below Quartz Gulch.
Ridge between Anvil and Glacier creeks, southwest of Snow Gulch.

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[30] Mertie, J. B., jr., op. cit., p. 438.
[31] Idem, p. 440.

Lost River region.[32]
Head of Bonita Creek, a tributary of Osborn Creek.[33]
California quartz lode, on Goldbottom Creek.[33]
Quartz veins of the Solomon-Casadepaga region.[33]
West side of Brooks Mountain.[33]
Omalik mine.[33]

Tin.—Lode tin is known only in the York district. Deposits have been prospected at Ears Mountain, Lost River, Potato Mountain, and Cape Mountain. Cassiterite occurs in quartz veins, porphyry dikes, and contact-metamorphic deposits closely related to granite bosses. Development work has been in progress at the Lost River locality for the last three seasons, but no work has been done at the other localities in recent years. The production from the lodes has been negligible. Most of the tin mined has come from the placers of Buck and Grouse creeks. The placers of Cape Mountain have produced some tin and, together with those on the streams flowing north from Potato Mountain, promise production for the future. Tin has been recognized in the placers of Humboldt Creek, in the Fairhaven district, and Goldbottom Creek, in the Nome district.

Bismuth.—Bismuth has been found at only one locality on the peninsula, on Charley Creek, a tributary of Stewart River (p. 223), where a quartz vein contains some bismuthinite (bismuth sulphide). The sulphide content of the vein appears to be low, but as almost no work has been done on the property very little of the vein is exposed. This occurrence has been of especial interest because the sulphide was reported to carry 2 ounces of platinum to the ton. An assay made on some of the material for the Geological Survey did not show any trace of platinum.

Graphite.—Graphite-bearing schists occur in both the Nome group and the Kigluaik group. The graphite in the schist of the Nome group is in a very finely divided state and is of no economic interest. A belt of schist of the Kigluaik group in which the graphite occurs as flakes and in which concentrations of rather pure material occur locally extends from the head of Grand Central River northeastward to the vicinity of Graphite Bay, an arm of Imuruk Basin. Several shipments of selected material have been made from the Graphite Bay locality (p. 222).

Mercury.—Cinnabar is a constituent of the placer concentrates in the vicinity of Bluff, at Koyana Creek, and at Budd Creek, in the Port Clarence precinct, and has been reported from other localities. The source of the material at Bluff is said to have been discovered in one of the schist lodes of that locality, but no details of the occurrence are known.

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[32] Knopf, Adolph, op. cit., p. 59.
[33] Brooks, A. H., Antimony deposits of Alaska: U. S. Geol. Survey Bull. 649, pp. 57–59, 1916.

Coal.—A little coal occurs in the Cretaceous sediments of the eastern part of the peninsula. It is lignite of fair quality and is generally considered to have about one-half the fuel value of average Pacific coast coal. It is being mined at present on Kugruk River and has been mined at Chicago Creek, both in the Candle district. Thus far, because of the low grade of the product, the high cost of transportation has limited its use to the vicinity of the mines. No great tonnage is known to be available. Coal has been found at the following localities:

Chicago Creek, tributary to Kugruk River.[34]
Kugruk River near Montana Creek.[34]
Koyuk River near mouth.[35]
Wilson Creek, a headwater tributary of Kiwalik River.[36]
Hunter Creek near the mouth of the Buckland.[36]

THE LODE DEPOSITS.

BLUFF REGION.

The Bluff region, which has produced about $1,500,000 worth of placer gold, includes a small area lying on the shores of Bering Sea about 50 miles east of Nome. Its salient geologic features are simple, though the details are complex, due to folding and faulting. Limestone is the dominating country rock and occurs in a roughly triangular area, whose base is on the coast and whose apex is inland. This limestone appears to be bounded on the inland side (fig. 6) by schist which here and there contains some thin limestone beds. Some bands of schist also occur within the limestone, and these are important to the miner because they are the loci of the strongest mineralization. These bands of schist may in part be altered igneous intrusives, but this is uncertain. The small valleys of the region have a gravel filling, which is nearly everywhere auriferous and which contains some workable gold placers. The gold placers of Daniels Creek and of the adjacent beach line have furnished much the larger part of the gold output of the region.

Placer gold was discovered at the mouth of Daniels Creek in 1889.[37] The beach gravels at this locality were also gold bearing and for a distance of 1,000 feet are said to have been "probably the richest deposit of this kind ever found in the world." [38] It is estimated that the pay streak must have averaged $150 to the cubic yard.[39] Gold

[34] Henshaw, F. F., Mining in the Fairhaven precinct: U. S. Geol. Survey Bull. 379, pp. 362–363, 1909; Mining in Seward Peninsula: U. S. Geol. Survey Bull. 442, pp. 368–369, 1910.

[35] Smith, P. S., and Eakin, H. M., A geologic reconnaissance in southeastern Seward Peninsula and the Norton Bay-Nulato region, Alaska: U. S. Geol. Survey Bull. 449, p. 139, 1911.

[36] Harrington, G. L., Gold and platinum placers of Kiwalik-Koyuk regions, Alaska: U. S. Geol. Survey Bull. 692, p. 384, 1919.

[37] Brooks, A. H., Richardson, G. B., and Collier, A. J., Reconnaissances in the Cape Nome and Norton Bay regions, Alaska, in 1900: U. S. Geol. Survey Special Pub., p. 104, 1901.

[38] Brooks, A. H., U. S. Geol. Survey Bull. 328, p. 288, 1908.

[39] Idem, p. 289.

has also been mined from the creeks both east and west of Daniels Creek, but lower Daniels Creek and the beach at its mouth have proved to be the attractive placers of the area.

Brooks [40] pointed out from his study of the placers in 1906 that "(1) the source of the gold is entirely local; (2) where richest * * * there appears to have been little sorting action by water; (3) the gold is so intimately associated with mica schist débris that most probably the schist had a close connection with its origin." He also described certain zones of mineralized schist exposed in the bluffs east of the mouth of Daniels Creek.

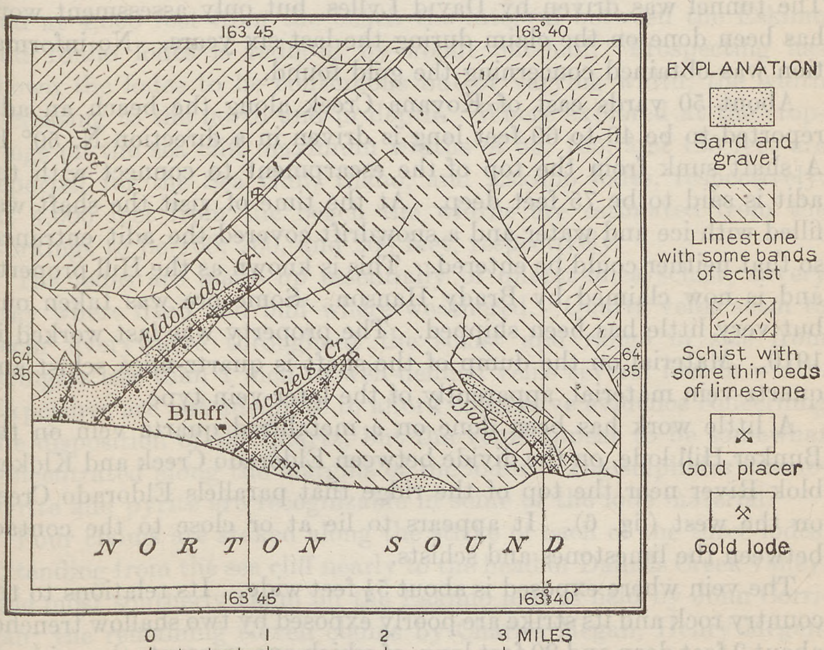

FIGURE 6.—Geologic sketch map of the vicinity of Bluff.

Several belts of mineralized mica schist have been recognized in the area, but those lying immediately east of Daniels Creek appear to be the most persistent and the most strongly mineralized. Before they are described brief mention will be made of some other occurrences of mineralized schist.

There is some evidence that Daniels Creek itself may be cut on one of these schist bands, though the nearest exposed bedrock on both sides is limestone. There is a schist band in the limestone at the mouth of Koyana Creek, and here mineralized zones have been opened up in a small way.

About 100 yards west of Koyana Creek near sea level an adit has been driven for 30 feet along a quartz vein in a sheared zone in the

[40] Brooks, A. H., U. S. Geol. Survey Bull. 328, p. 289, 1908.

schist. Owing to the timbering the relations and behavior of the vein can not be made out, but at the face an 8-inch stringer of quartz of the later-vein type (p. 173) is exposed. About a foot of red iron-stained gougelike material occurs on the vein wall. Sulphides occur in the quartz of the vein and in the schists near the vein but are largely localized along the contact of quartz and schist. Pyrite and arsenopyrite are abundant in the several places exposed, arsenopyrite the more plentifully. The zone of decomposition that forms so prominent a part of the lode is probably the result of the decomposition of the sulphides, especially of those contained in the schist. The tunnel was driven by David Lylles, but only assessment work has been done on the claim during the last six years. No information was obtained concerning the gold found.

About 50 yards east of Koyana Creek along the beach an adit reported to be 40 to 60 feet long is driven in a direction N. 50° E. A shaft sunk from the top of the escarpment to connect with the adit is said to be 75 feet deep. At the time of visit the shaft was filled with ice and water and a snowdrift covered the adit entrance, so that neither could be entered. This is known as the Hill property and is now claimed by Brady Hanson. Some ore was taken out, but very little has been shipped. The property was last worked in 1910. Material on the dump of the shaft is quartz-mica schist and quartz-vein material, apparently of the later-vein type.

A little work has been done on a metallized quartz vein on the Bunker Hill lode, on the divide between Eldorado Creek and Kloker-blok River near the top of the ridge that parallels Eldorado Creek on the west (fig. 6). It appears to lie at or close to the contact between the limestones and schists.

The vein where exposed is about 5½ feet wide. Its relations to the country rock and its strike are poorly exposed by two shallow trenches about 2 feet deep and 20 feet long, of which one crosscuts the vein and the other follows its strike. The vein strikes about N. 5° E. and appears to dip west at an angle near the vertical. The footwall is limestone; the hanging wall schist. Where best exposed the vein shows a central portion of about 18 inches of unmineralized quartz with a foot of mineralized quartz on the footwall and 2½ feet on the hanging wall.

The vein is stained with carbonates, both azurite and malachite, and is said to carry gold. An assay of $80 in gold to the ton is reported by the owner, but nothing is known of the nature of the sample. The copper content is said to be small. A specimen of the metallized portion of the vein shows chalcopyrite and pyrite in small amounts.

As stated above, the deposits adjacent to and just east of Daniels Creek are the most valuable of the region. Here the mineralized schist bands in the limestone were staked as lode claims soon after the Daniels Creek placers were discovered. The original locators have carried on development work on these claims in a small way for some 20 years. Three lodes are recognized from Daniels Creek eastward, the Sea Gull, Idaho, and Eskimo lodes (fig. 7). They trend in a general northerly direction and except where they crop out on the cliff face are concealed by the tundra vegetation and exposed only by the mining operations. The Sea Gull and Idaho lodes lie parallel to each other; the Eskimo lode has the same attitude to a point 2,000 feet from the beach, where it swings slightly to the west, and at 4,000 feet from the beach the interval between the Eskimo and Idaho lodes is reduced by about one-half. Prospecting has shown the lodes to be continuous but of varying width, the width increasing to the north and in depth. Where explored at the croppings on the sea cliff maximum widths of 60, 165, and 150 feet are reported for the Sea Gull, Idaho, and Eskimo lodes, respectively. At 4,000 feet from the beach the widths are estimated from the workings to be 100, 200, and 200 feet, respectively.

The lodes are made up essentially of quartz-mica schist, silvery gray where fresh and buff where weathered. Quartz veins seem to occur everywhere throughout the schist and range in size from stringers less than 1 inch to well-defined veins several feet in width. Exposures are not adequate to afford conclusive evidence concerning the disposition of the quartz, but the veins appear to be somewhat concentrated along the margins of the lodes. The sulphides arsenopyrite and pyrite are recognizable in some of the lode material.

Four claims are staked along the strike of each of the three lodes, extending from the sea cliff nearly to the head of Daniels Creek valley. The most southerly claim on the Eskimo lode is held by John Corrigan; the remaining eleven claims by Charles Megan, Henry Megan, and W. J. Somerville. The schist zones have been traced by pits and shafts and are said to contain gold wherever prospected. Most of the work has been done about three-quarters of a mile from the beach, where fourteen shafts, ranging in depth from 30 to 100 feet and aggregating 657 feet were pointed out to the writer. They were distributed as follows: Sea Gull, five shafts, 240 feet; Idaho, six shafts, 335 feet; Eskimo, three shafts, 82 feet. Numerous pits and trenches have also been dug along the strike of the lodes, and on the Idaho lode at the beach 145 feet of tunnel, winze, and crosscut work has been done. The approximate location and depth of the workings are shown in figure 7. Mining has not been carried to any great depth, for several reasons. The shafts have been sunk chiefly for prospecting purposes, and it is said that no shaft failed to find gold-bearing quartz in sufficient quantities and rich enough to mine. The present mill equipment will handle, efficiently, only the oxidized surface portion of the

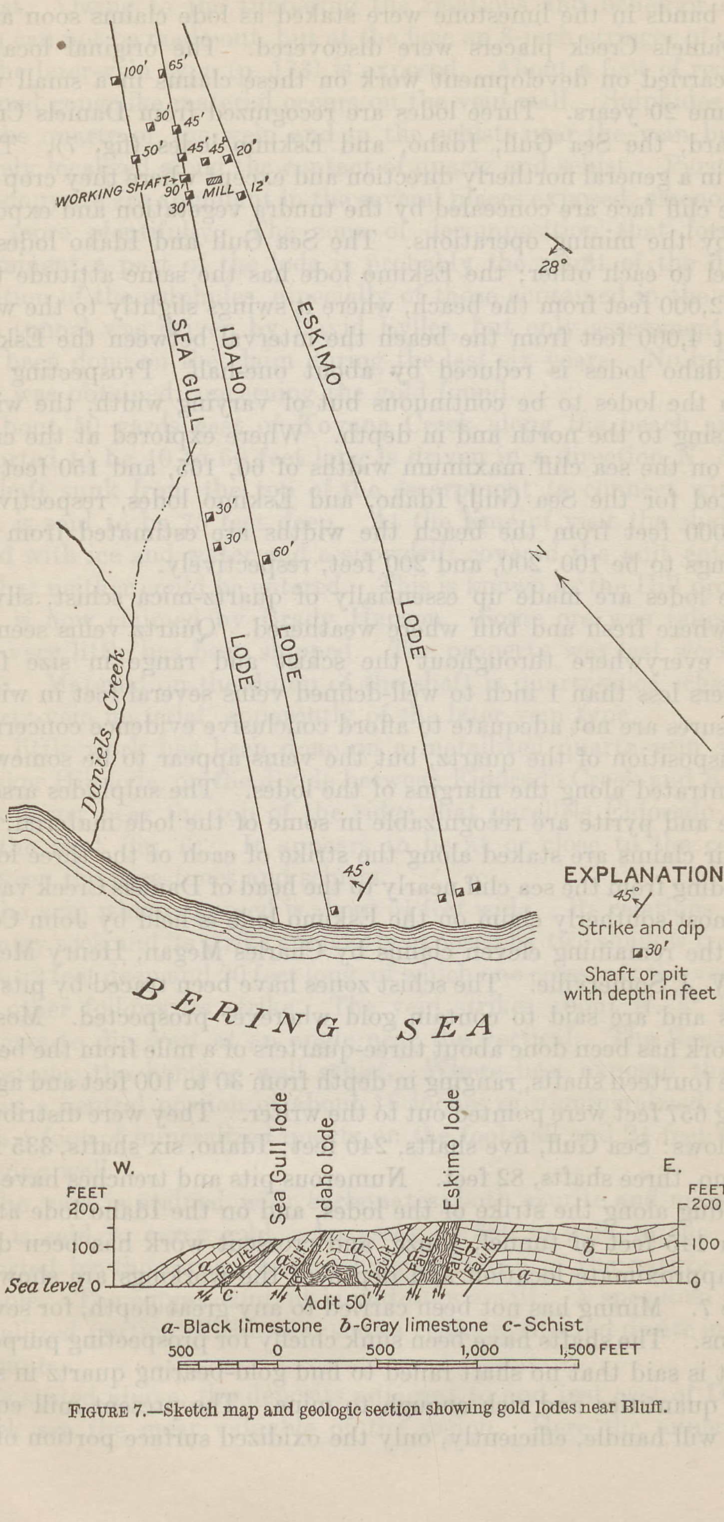

FIGURE 7.—Sketch map and geologic section showing gold lodes near Bluff.

lodes. There is no timber in the vicinity of Bluff, and mine supports are difficult to obtain. As the lode material is soft no considerable depth can be reached without danger from caving. Only the present working shaft is timbered; all the others are caved and inaccessible.

The rock formations with which the lode deposits are associated are exposed on the bluff that faces the sea just east of Daniels Creek (fig. 7). Three formations are recognized, a dark-blue carbonaceous limestone, a gray limestone interbedded with mica and chlorite schist, and the quartz-mica schist which forms the gold-bearing lodes. The lithology of the limestones is not uniform but shows variations which are dependent largely upon structural relations. The limestones are everywhere marmarized and show massive, slightly schistose, and highly schistose phases. The schist consists predominantly of quartz with some micaceous mineral. Muscovite is the common accessory constituent, with which usually occurs some chlorite, and locally the chlorite is in excess of the muscovite. The exposed schist is buff, and the less altered schist a silvery gray. The structural relations of the formations as exposed on the sea cliff are shown in figure 7.

East of the Eskimo lode the carbonaceous limestone is exposed at the base of the cliff. About 50 feet of the blue limestone is overlain by 100 feet or more of gray limestone. The contact is a fault plane concordant with the bedding of the limestones, which appear to be conformable. The rocks are gently folded into a syncline that pitches north. The blue limestone at the contact is dense, dark blue, and platy. The rock contains abundant graphite and considerable muscovite. Quartz is present in scattered grains that show the effects of strain. Cordierite is also present in small amounts. The overlying gray limestone is altered for a distance of several feetfrom the contact to a coarsely crystalline marble. The limestone lamination planes are marked by iron stain, which gives to the cross-fracture surfaces a blotched appearance.

The syncline is terminated on the west by a fault that brings the gray limestone down to form the footwall of the Eskimo lode. As indicated in the sketch map, this is the only occurrence of the gray limestone with the mineralized schists. The carbonaceous limestone adjacent to the schist lodes usually shows a schistose structure. This structure may be so well developed as to obscure its relation to the limestone, but where traced away from the lode the schistosity decreases until marmarized and slightly schistose but easily recognizable limestone occurs. The locus of deformation seems to be the Idaho lode, as here the folding and minor faulting and alteration of the limestone is most intense.

Only the major structural features are represented in figure 7. Many of the features are obscured by slide and made uncertain by the inaccessibility of the cliff face. Minor faulting and folding, or rather shattering and crumpling, is very common, especially in the vicinity of the lodes. Small faults occur in the blue limestone that do not extend into the gray, and vice versa. Many of these faults have a low angle of dip and swing off along the bedding planes. West of the Sea Gull lode the carbonaceous limestone is best exposed and least disturbed. It is fine textured and crystalline and occurs in beds half an inch to 8 inches in thickness, which strike N. 21° W. and dip 30° W. It is much jointed but broken in clean-cut blocks. The joints are filled with calcite veinlets, which average less than an inch in width and are spaced but a few inches apart. About 350 feet of the formation is exposed, the base in fault contact and the top eroded.

Some idea of the relations of the lodes to the country rock can be obtained at the exposure on the sea cliff. The underground exposures show little, as the development work in the one accessible shaft is confined to a single quartz vein and does not crosscut the schist body or show the relations of the schist to the wall rock.

The Eskimo lode, the most easterly of the three schist zones, is about 150 feet wide. It dips about 70° W. and occurs in fault contact with both footwall and hanging wall. The hanging wall is carbonaceous limestone; the footwall gray limestone. The sulphide mineralization of the schist was apparently concentrated along the footwall, where the limestone is stained buff and the schist weathers to a fine friable material and is highly iron stained. Microscopic examination of the rocks at the contact shows the schist to be probably 98 per cent quartz. It is strained, and the crystals are elongate parallel to the schistosity. A little muscovite is the only other original constituent present in any notable quantity, although accessory zircon occurs through the quartz. Calcite occurs in veinlets through the rock. The limestone is finely crystalline, is stained by limonite, and contains scattered cubes of pyrite.

Quartz veinlets are abundant in the schist, especially near the margin of the lode. No large or well-defined veins crop out. Fresh sulphides were not observed.

The Idaho lode is exposed on the cliff top about 650 feet west of the Eskimo lode. It differs from the other lodes chiefly in its structural relations with the limestone. The hanging wall is carbonaceous limestone, which dips 45° W. A fault dipping 35° W. forms the contact, along which 1 foot or more of gouge and talclike material occurs. The footwall is carbonaceous limestone, which near the base of the cliff occurs in folded relations with the schist of the lode. The infolding of the two formations is distinct, being outlined in minor as well as major folds. These relations are shown in figure 8.

The schist of the lode is highly folded and crenulated within itself. Quartz stringers occur through the schist in great numbers and appear to have been deformed with the schist, as they are badly shattered. The individual veins are mostly of small size and in general concordant with the schistosity of the lode rock. Along the hanging wall the veins are most abundant and reach several inches in width. The fault contact (fig. 8), which shows gouge and highly iron-stained schist, appears to be the best-mineralized part of the lode. The concentration of mineralization along the walls in this and the other lodes may in places be more apparent than real, being due largely to the fact that the contact surface afforded a better opportunity for water circulation and hence more complete decomposition of the sulphides contained in the schist. The gold content can be determined only by systematic assays. Assays of the Idaho lode are said to show gold throughout the width of the schist zone. The tenor is very irregular, however, ranging from $2 to $180 a ton.

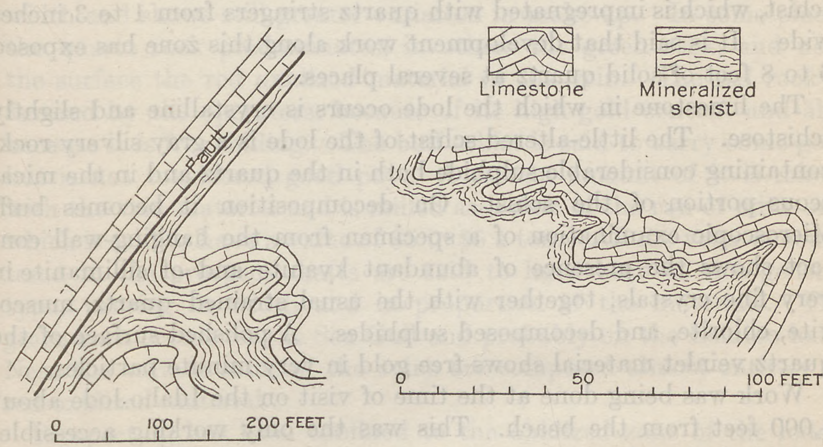

FIGURE 8.—Sketches of cliff exposure of Idaho lode, showing relation of mineralized schist to limestone

The highest values are shown by the material near the hanging wall, where the quartz veins and sulphides seem to be best developed.

The lode is 20 feet wide on the cliff top and about 50 feet wide at the beach, where, owing to folding, the exposure is about 165 feet wide.

The wall rock of the Idaho lode is a carbonaceous limestone consisting of about 90 per cent calcite, 5 per cent graphite, 4 per cent angular quartz, and 1 per cent sericite. Close to the lode it is distinctly schistose and marmarized and contains some pyrite. Metamorphism is more noticeable here than in the vicinity of either of the other lodes. Quartz is the dominating mineral of the lode schist, and with it occur chlorite and muscovite, chlorite the more abundantly. Accessory apatite and zircon occur through the quartz. Calcite and limonite are abundant secondary constituents. Polished surfaces of the vein quartz material show very minute particles of free gold. The sulphide content is not determinable at the cliff exposure, owing to the extreme alteration of the more highly mineralized portion of the exposed lode.

The Sea Gull lode crops out along the top of the sea cliff about 250 feet west of the Idaho lode. Exposures on the cliff face are obscured by talus. The lode is 10 feet wide at the surface and is said to be 60 feet wide at the beach, which is 110 feet lower in elevation. The increase in width is said not to be due to folding, like that in the Idaho lode. Both hanging wall and footwall are carbonaceous limestone, which dips about 30° and 45° W., respectively. The lode dips about 30° W. The hanging-wall contact is a fault surface, along which movement is recorded by gouge. The footwall contact is not exposed, but the relations are probably those of faulting. Along the hanging wall is exposed a zone of highly iron-stained schist, which is impregnated with quartz stringers from 1 to 3 inches wide. It is said that development work along this zone has exposed 6 to 8 feet of solid quartz at several places.

The limestone in which the lode occurs is crystalline and slightly schistose. The little-altered schist of the lode is a gray silvery rock, containing considerable sulphide both in the quartz and in the micaceous portion of the schist. On decomposition it becomes buff. Microscopic examination of a specimen from the hanging-wall contact shows the presence of abundant kyanite and of sillimanite in very fine crystals, together with the usual strained quartz, muscovite, chlorite, and decomposed sulphides. A polished surface of the quartz veinlet material shows free gold in very minute particles.

Work was being done at the time of visit on the Idaho lode about 4,000 feet from the beach. This was the only working accessible. A 90-foot shaft has been sunk on a quartz vein, and about 220 feet of drifts have been run along its strike. The vein is almost vertical. Where opened at the surface it was 8 inches wide, but on the 80-foot level it has a width of 7 feet. As exposed the vein shows three distinct types—an iron-stained shattered quartz, a green phase, and a softer hematitic phase. Where the three types are present, the quartz almost always forms the central part of the vein. The other types are less uniformly disposed. The hematitic material tends to localize along the walls, but in places it is confined to one wall. The green rock occurs between the hematite and the quartz or, if the hematite is absent, next to the wall. In several places it was observed extending into the quartz, and in one place it is surrounded by quartz.

The quartz of the vein is white and opaque and shows columnar crystals oriented transverse to the vein. Openings showing well-terminated crystals are common. The veins are of the later-vein type (p. 173). They are badly shattered, and in the fractures a green chloritic material commonly occurs. The green rock of the vein is composed chiefly of the chloritic material, in which occurs considerable of the vein quartz and fresh sulphides, chiefly arsenopyrite and some pyrite. In thin section the chloritic substance is pale yellow, is highly birefringent, and occurs as minute flakes in aggregate structure. In hand specimen the rock is deep green to yellowish green, hard, and usually cellular. The hematitic material is badly decomposed quartz schist. It is soft and crumbles in the hand. The unaltered wall rock is a silvery gray quartz-mica schist in which quartz is the chief constituent. The vein quartz is prominent even in small specimens of the schist. Viewed as a whole the wall rock is schistose; in detail it is essentially quartz. Next to the veins it breaks down readily and is of buff color.

The vein is continuous so far as followed but is not constant in width and shows still greater variation in make-up. In some places the quartz rock predominates, in others the green rock, and near the surface the red oxidized material of the vein. The red rock is favored by the operators, because of its high gold content and also because it is free milling. The buff schist is said to carry some gold but is not considered good pay. A certain amount of it is mined with the vein material and is milled as a part of the run of mine ore, which is said to have a value of $5 to $6 a ton. All the veins encountered in the prospect shafts are said to have been of this general type, varying in width and in proportion of the materials. The green rock occurs on the Sea Gull and probably on the Eskimo lode. Near the surface some of the veins are composed almost entirely of red oxidized material.

Prospecting has been confined to the oxidized zone of the lodes. The sulphide material was nowhere seen exposed, and its relations could not be determined. In specimens the relations are further obscured by the great amount of chloritic material associated with the sulphides. This chloritic substance is an infiltration product and is clearly later than the sulphide and quartz. The freshest of the quartz is cut by microscopic veinlets of this material, areas of unaltered arsenopyrite are surrounded by it, and shattered crystals are seamed with it. From the nature of the decomposed vein material and from similar occurrences elsewhere on Seward Peninsula, the sulphides are judged to be later than the quartz veins, having impregnated the schist of the vein walls and filled fractures in the quartz. The decomposed hematitic material, which is undoubtedly schist that has been impregnated by sulphides and weathered, mills free gold, but some gold is not recovered on the plates, and the gold content is probably in part base. Gold also occurs in the quartz of the open-structured veins, so that more than one period of gold mineralization may be represented.

In local usage the terms "hard ore" and "soft ore" are applied to the quartz-vein material and the schist country rock, respectively. Both the hard and soft ore are reported to carry gold, but the hard ore is said to be of higher grade than the soft. This relation does not necessarily mean that the schist and the quartz were mineralized individually, for the quartz solutions have so squeezed through the schist mass that the smallest openings have been filled, and many of the veinlets are so minute and occur in such an attitude that they would impart little of their hardness or resistance to the schist mass as a whole. The quartz may still remain the gold carrier, and thus the gold content of the soft ore or schist may be due to its contained metallized quartz veinlets. The larger veins have probably been considerably enriched by the later sulphide mineralization.

Four men were employed in mining at the time of the writer's visit. Dumps are taken out during the winter, and the ore is milled in the summer. It is crushed to 1-inch size in a small jaw crusher and reduced to 30-mesh in a Cover rod mill. The pulp is passed over amalgamation plates for gold recovery and then over two Monarch tables. The tables effect a concentration of 5 to 1 for the hard quartz ore and 20 to 1 for the soft schist ore. The concentrates are stacked. The mill has a rated capacity of 40 tons in 24 hours; the average run of quartz ore is 6 to 8 tons through 30-mesh in 24 hours.

The lodes have not been crosscut in any of the underground operations. The importance of crosscutting lodes of this type is very evident. From the evidence at hand it seems reasonable to believe that these zones contain one or more roughly parallel quartz veins, and although a single vein of low or moderate gold content may not prove to be an attractive mining venture, the presence of a number of veins which would in themselves offer a sufficient tonnage or which occur sufficiently close to one another to make mining of the entire schist and quartz body practicable might make the lode a commercial ore body.

Concentrates from Daniels Creek show scheelite and cinnabar, but neither of these minerals was observed to occur in the mill concentrates. The source of the scheelite is not definitely known, although it is probably present as a minor constituent of the quartz veins. Veins of this type carry scheelite in the Nome region. The cinnabar is said to have been found in place in the Eskimo lode associated with the schist. The working in which this was discovered is now caved, and the occurrence was not seen by the writer. Cinnabar is also said to be present in small amounts in the Idaho and Sea Gull lodes, and mercury is sometimes liberated on heating the mill pulp. It is also known in the placers of Eldorado and Swede creeks but has not been traced to its source. The fact that little placer ground has been discovered on Daniels Creek above the point where the lode system crosses its valley is further evidence that these lodes supplied the gold for the rich beach and creek placers.

SOLOMON DISTRICT.

Placer gold is widely distributed in the Solomon River basin, about 30 miles east of Nome, but little very rich placer ground has been found. Most of the successful alluvial mining has been done on the large bodies of auriferous gravel by means of dredges.

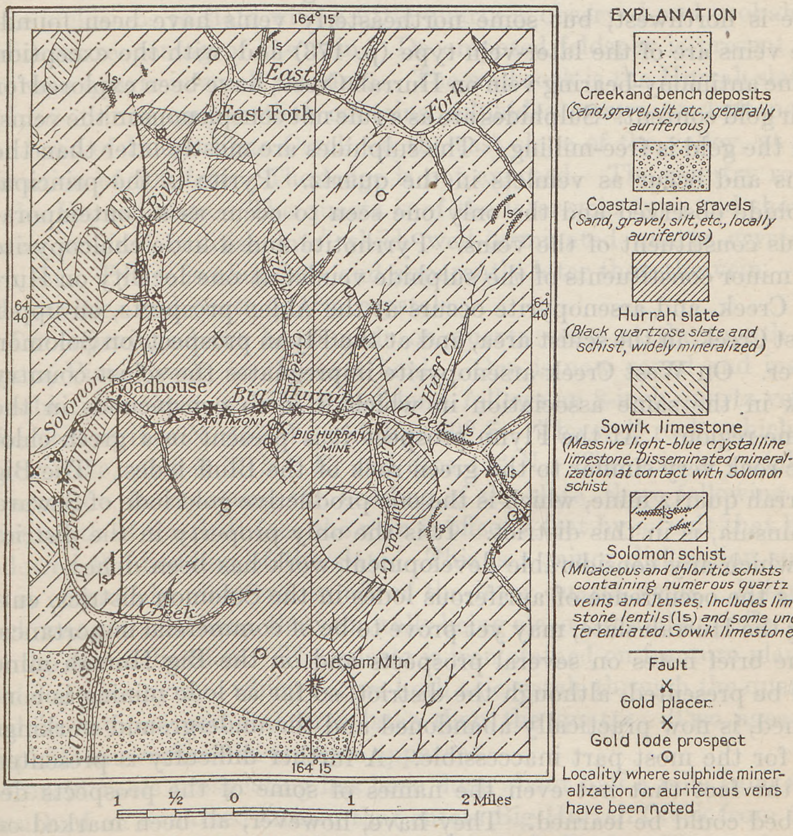

FIGURE 9.—Geologic map of part of Solomon district.

Smith[41] has mapped the region in detail, and part of his geologic map is here reproduced as figure 9. The Solomon schist, as determined by Smith, is the oldest formation. It consists essentially of micaceous and chloritic schists, with some lenses of limestone. This formation is succeeded by the Sowik limestone, 400 to 1,000 feet in thickness. Smith provisionally assigned the Sowik to the Ordovi-

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[41] Smith, P. S., The geology and mineral resources of the Solomon and Casadepaga quadrangles, Seward Peninsula, Alaska: U. S. Geol. Survey Bull. 433, 1910.

cian(?), but Brooks now believes that it may be Carboniferous (p. 168). The Hurrah slate, a still higher formation, is made up of black and quartzose slates and schists.

Nearly all the most promising lode prospects of the region are in the Hurrah slate. There are, however, some quartz veins in the Solomon schist, and the contact between this schist and the overlying limestone is a common locus of disseminated mineralization. It is a significant fact that the gold of much of the richest placer ground of the district has been derived from the auriferous quartz veins of the Hurrah slate. The dominating trend of the lodes in this slate is northwest, but some northeasterly veins have been found. The veins are of the later-vein type (p. 173) and, with the exception of one antimony-bearing vein on Hurrah Creek, have been explored for their gold content. Sulphides are as a rule not conspicuous in the veins, and the gold is free-milling. The sulphides are mostly later than the veins and occur as veinlets in the quartz. Pyrite is the principal sulphide observed and the only one seen to occur as a contemporaneous constituent of the veins. Pyrrhotite and a little chalcopyrite are minor constituents of the sulphide veinlet at one locality on Hurrah Creek, and arsenopyrite occurs at the Alden prospects, on upper West Creek, in the schist area, and at the Flynn prospect, on Solomon River. On West Creek arsenopyrite impregnates the schist country rock in the same association in which it is so conspicuous in the Nome region. At the Flynn prospect it is present in a green chloritic rock very similar to the green rock of the Bluff lodes. The Big Hurrah quartz mine, which is the one productive gold lode of Seward Peninsula, is in this district. It is the only property in the district on which any considerable development work has been done.

As the occurrence of auriferous lodes in the Solomon district, cutting the Hurrah slate, may yet prove to be of commercial importance, some brief notes on several prospects and on the Big Hurrah mine will be presented, although the district, so far as lode mining is concerned, is now practically abandoned and the underground workings are for the most part inaccessible. A further difficulty is presented by the fact that not even the names of some of the prospects described could be learned. They have, however, all been marked on the map (fig. 9) by an appropriate symbol and can be identified by the descriptions of localities given in the text.

On the south side of Uncle Sam Mountain, near the level of the coastal plain, a shaft has been sunk on a quartz vein that cuts the Hurrah slate. The property has apparently not been worked for many years, and the relations of the vein could not be seen. The shaft is full of ice within 15 feet of the surface and is timbered to that depth. To judge from material on the dump the vein was probably 2 or 3 feet wide and from the drift has a strike of about N. 40° E.

The quartz is clearly of the later-vein type, showing comb structure and cavities lined with perfectly terminated crystals. No sulphides are seen in the quartz, and no fresh sulphides in the slate associated with the quartz contacts. Specks of limonite through the slate probably indicate decomposition of sulphides contained in it.

About 300 feet from the top on the south slope of Uncle Sam Mountain a massive iron-stained quartz ledge, 7 feet or more wide, has been exposed by an open cut. The vein strikes N. 45° W. and stands nearly vertical. The outcrop is iron stained, but no sulphides were observed. The transition from massive quartz to quartz with slate inclusions to slate with a little quartz is observed and probably indicates reopening of the vein. Decomposed feldspar is present in the vein quartz in small amounts. The wall rock is the Hurrah slate.

Iron-stained quartz that contains sulphides occurs as drift near the head of Buena Vista Creek, on the east slope of the valley, at an elevation of 500 feet. The ledge is not exposed. The country rock is the Hurrah slate. The quartz is of the later-vein type and shows many original cavities into which well-terminated quartz crystals project. Pyrite is abundant and apparently later than the vein. It fills cavities and coats quartz crystals.

Two openings have been made on quartz veins at the mouth of Buena Vista Creek, on the east bank. One is now caved and inaccessible; the other, a drift 15 feet long, follows an 8-inch quartz vein. The vein strikes N. 45° W. and dips 60° S. The wall rock, which is black slate, strikes N. 50° E. and dips 45° N. The vein is variable in attitude, here cutting the bedding of the slate, there following it. Just north of the drift face the vein is offset 5 feet by a fault that has followed the bedding of the slate. This is a minor dislocation such as is commonly observed to affect the later quartz veins. Ribbon rock was not seen here, the vein walls being clean cut and not affected by the mineralization. The quartz is iron stained on fracture planes and contains pyrite, which occurs both as crystals through the quartz and in cavities and fractures later than the quartz. Two ages of sulphide mineralization are here apparent.

Considerable prospecting has been done about half a mile from the mouth of an unnamed stream that enters Big Hurrah Creek from the north a quarter of a mile below Little Hurrah Creek. The workings are now so caved and slumped that no exposures of the veins can be seen. There are probably a dozen open cuts from 5 to 30 feet long and 3 or 4 feet deep and three shafts, now caved and filled with water. The country rock is the Hurrah slate.

Quartz on the dump at the main shaft is of open texture, coarsely crystalline, and clearly of the later-vein type. Considerable sulphide occurs through the quartz in well-defined veins, which in places swell to nests. Pyrite and pyrrhotite are the principal sulphides. Some arsenopyrite is present, and chalcopyrite is recognizable on a polished surface. The gold content of the vein is not known. So far as could be observed, the vein is structurally different from most of the other gold lodes of the district in the absence of ribbon rock, and it is mineralogically different from most of the other sulphide-bearing gold lodes in the absence of arsenopyrite and the presence of pyrrhotite and chalcopyrite.

A vein of quartz has been opened by a trench 10 feet long and 2½ feet deep on the south bank of Big Hurrah Creek about half a mile above the mouth of Little Hurrah Creek. The trench is now so filled with wash that the vein can not be seen. The dump shows mica schist of the Solomon schist and iron-stained quartz vein material, including lenses of schist. The opening is near the contact of the Solomon schist and Hurrah slate. The bedrock schist is a highly quartzose mica schist with probably some chlorite. The vein is made up of large, well-defined crystals, many of which show good terminations and comb structure. Several reopenings of the vein are recorded in one hand specimen. The schist at the contact appears to be silicified, and open texture along the contact is the rule.

The Big Hurrah lode was discovered in 1900, opened up in 1903, and then equipped with a mill and operated on a productive basis until 1908. Since then the property has been idle, and at the time of the writer's visit the underground workings were for the most part inaccessible. Smith's description[42] of this lode is the primary source of the following notes, but they also include some supplementary observations made on the surface exposures and open cuts near the mine. This deposit is one of the few auriferous lodes on Seward Peninsula whose continuity and structural relations are known by extensive underground openings.

The Big Hurrah quartz veins are about the only veins of any great size and proved continuity known on Seward Peninsula. They are several feet in width and are not subject to the pinch and swell and extreme irregularity that have been found to be characteristic of most of the veins on the peninsula. The reason for the difference in the habit of these veins lies in the character of the country rock—the Hurrah slate, a brittle rock that fractures readily and breaks along sharp, clean-cut lines. These physical properties of the slate are not found in the schist and limestone formations that form the bedrock of most of the peninsula, and even the limestones lend themselves less readily to this form of opening.

The three quartz veins that form the lode are roughly parallel in strike. Two of them dip to the southeast and the other to the northwest. They crop out on the bank of Little Hurrah Creek, have been followed by underground workings for several hundred feet to the

[42] Op. cit., pp. 143-147.

south, and are 4 to 8 feet wide. Considerable prospecting has been done west of Little Hurrah Creek and north of Big Hurrah Creek in the black slate area, in the hope of finding the continuation of the veins or others equally favorable to mine. Little success has attended such attempts, and to date the veins are known only within a very small area of slate between the forks of Big and Little Hurrah creeks.

The main developments at the Big Hurrah mine have been by means of an incline shaft, which has a general though not constant slope of about 60°. The strike of the veins is northwesterly, and the dip is to the southwest. The upper portion of the vein has also been worked in part by adits run in from the outcropping of the vein on Little Hurrah Creek. A general plan of the underground workings is shown in figure 10.

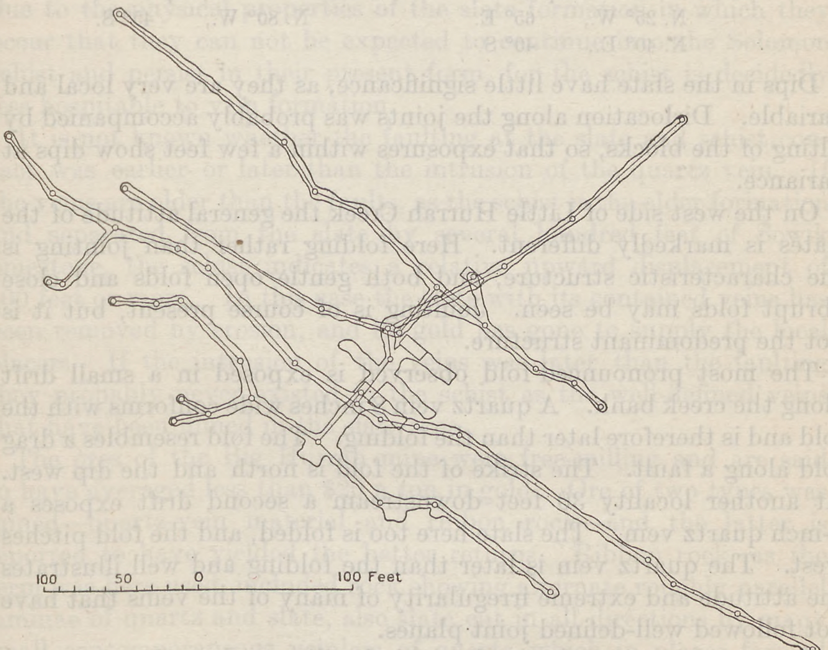

FIGURE 10.—Plan of underground workings of Big Hurrah mine.

North of the main lead there is another vein about 50 feet below in the footwall. This vein, unlike the two farther south, has a northwesterly dip, although the strike is essentially the same as the others.[43]

It was at one time a question with the operators of the property whether the opposite dipping lodes were two distinct veins or limbs of an anticlinal fold. There seems to be no evidence to support the latter theory, and the general attitude of the formation and its minor structural features seem to point to their being two distinct veins.

If the underground conditions at the mine could be studied or the discoveries made during the development work learned, considerable data would probably be available upon which to base a conjecture

[42] Smith, P. S., op. cit., p. 145.

concerning the probability of finding these or similar veins beyond their present known limits. As such data are not to be had, only surface observations can be made. Examination of the open-cut exposures is far from satisfactory but seems to justify certain generalizations. On the east side of Little Hurrah Creek the slate is badly fractured but not appreciably folded. The slate cleavage here strikes N. 10° W. and dips 45° S. Jointing here is the common structure; it is very pronounced and complex. Joints traverse the slate in all directions and with dips extremely variable in direction and amount. The following series was observed on one face:

Strike N. 75° W.,	dip 45° N.	Strike N. 75° W.,	dip 65° S.
N. 25° W.,	65° E.	N. 80° W.,	45° S.
N. 40° E.,	40° S.		

Dips in the slate have little significance, as they are very local and variable. Dislocation along the joints was probably accompanied by tilting of the blocks, so that exposures within a few feet show dips at variance.

On the west side of Little Hurrah Creek the general attitude of the slates is markedly different. Here folding rather than jointing is the characteristic structure, and both gentle open folds and close abrupt folds may be seen. Jointing is of course present, but it is not the predominant structure.

The most pronounced fold observed is exposed in a small drift along the creek bank. A quartz vein 8 inches wide conforms with the fold and is therefore later than the folding. The fold resembles a drag fold along a fault. The strike of the fold is north and the dip west. At another locality 30 feet downstream a second drift exposes a 4-inch quartz vein. The slate here too is folded, and the fold pitches west. The quartz vein is later than the folding and well illustrates the attitude and extreme irregularity of many of the veins that have not followed well-defined joint planes.

Some evidence was obtained at this locality to show that there was more than one period of intrusion of the later quartz veins, separated by a period of slight deformation. There is also evidence of two systems of folding—one comprising open folds whose axes strike east and the other comprising closed folds and faults that strike north. What is believed to be a fault belonging to the northerly system follows the course of Little Hurrah Creek. Differences were noted in the general type of predominating structure on the east and west sides of the creek and also the presence of what are probably drag folds along the creek bank on the west side. These features denote that the west is the downthrown side of the fault. The failure to find an extension of the lodes west of Little Hurrah Creek may be due to this supposed fault.

Concerning the probable extent of the veins to the southeast more conclusive evidence is to be had. As shown on the geologic map (fig. 9) the Hurrah slate forms the country rock for about 1 mile south of the mouth of Little Hurrah Creek and a quarter of a mile to the east, where it is in contact with the Solomon schist; such relations in themselves indicate fault contact. Pits dug along the strike of the veins to the southeast have exposed Solomon schist in the area mapped as black slate. On the basis of this evidence, the veins can not extend in black slate country rock for more than 800 feet, and to judge from outcrops in the creek bank the distance is probably less. The favorable character of these veins is so evidently due to the physical properties of the slate formation in which they occur that they can not be expected to continue into the Solomon schist and persist in their present form, for the schist is decidedly less hospitable to vein formation.

It is not known whether the faulting at the slate and schist contact was earlier or later than the intrusion of the quartz vein. If the veins are older than the faults, as the schist is the older formation and separated from the slate by several hundred feet of Sowik limestone, the schist indicates a relative upward displacement of 400 feet or more. In this case the slate with its contained veins has been removed by erosion, and its gold has gone to supply the local placers. If the intrusion of the veins was later than the faulting they probably never existed in the schist as the well-defined veins that have been mined in the slate area.

The ores of the Big Hurrah mine were free-milling and are said to have averaged less than $20 a ton in gold. Ore of two types was mined—quartz-vein material and ribbon rock—and the latter is reported to have yielded the better returns. Ribbon rock, as the term was here used, included rock showing alternate roughly parallel laminae of quartz and slate, also slate cut in all directions by many small contemporaneous veinlets of quartz, which in places formed more than 50 per cent of the mass. This banded rock was probably due to reopening of the vein and repeated injection of quartz. The other type probably represents shattered wall rock of the vein. The veinlets are as a rule clean cut but locally show curving and ramifying tendencies. The slate consists essentially of quartz with abundant graphite, considerable white mica, and limonite, which give to the rock a very fine lamination. The ribbon rock ranges from quartz with occasional fine laminae of slate to slate with a minor content of quartz.

The vein rock is coarsely crystalline vitreous white quartz of the later-vein type, showing cavities into which well-terminated crystals project. The small veinlets of the ribbon rock are of the same open-textured vein type. In some of the veinlets the quartz crystals project from one wall only; in others the fissures are incompletely filled by crystals projecting from both walls. A little white mica is the only other constituent of the veins observed microscopically, but decomposed feldspar was seen in some hand specimens and is probably a minor constituent of the vein. The quartz is strained and in places shattered. Fissures through the quartz filled with later quartz give further evidence of movement and more than one injection of quartz. Native gold can occasionally be seen in hand specimens. Microscopically it is seen to occur with the quartz of the vein. Sulphides are almost absent. Neither the sulphides of the vein nor the carbon of the schist were observed to be associated with the gold.

The Gray Eagle claim, an antimony prospect, is on the north bank of Big Hurrah Creek about 1 mile from Solomon River. A 12-foot shaft has been sunk and several trenches dug on a 4-foot quartz vein which carries stibnite. The country rock is the Hurrah slate. The workings are now caved, and the vein is not exposed. No work has been done here for five years. The claim is owned by E. W. Quiggley, who reports the vein to be 4 feet wide and to strike about N. 45° E. and dip 45° N. The stibnite is said to occur throughout the width of the vein. The center of the vein for a width of 1 foot is said to be almost pure stibnite, and the sulphide to occur in nests through the rest of the vein.

Specimens from the dump show the ore to be an intimate admixture of stibnite and quartz crystals occurring through the quartz of the vein. Columnar crystals of stibnite an inch in maximum size occur with clear, glassy, well-terminated crystals of quartz half an inch or less in width. The quartz of the vein, which is free from stibnite, is of the open-textured later-vein type. The material examined did not show definitely the relation of the sulphide to the vein, but it is probably later.

Near the top of the hill northeast of the mouth of Big Hurrah Creek considerable work has been done on the Flynn gold quartz vein. Here there is an inclined shaft, said to be 60 feet deep but now filled with water. Probably 20 smaller shafts and trenches, some of which are 50 feet long and 3 to 8 feet deep, show quartz on the dump, but no vein is exposed. The country rock is the Hurrah slate. In addition to quartz, a green mineralized rock occurs on the dump of a shallow shaft, now filled with water. The rock is composed of fresh arsenopyrite and a very little quartz in a mass of chloritic material such as forms the green rock of the Bluff lodes. Much of the quartz on the dump is of the ribbon-rock type. It is iron stained, but no sulphides were observed. The size, attitude, and relations of the vein could not be seen or learned, as no one is on the property and no work has been done for five years.

Two other prospects within the basin of Solomon River but outside of the area included in the map (fig. 9) will be briefly mentioned.[44]

On the first tributary to Solomon River from the west below East Fork an adit has been driven on a vein occurring in the black graphitic slates. This vein is located along a fault which has an indeterminate throw and is distinctly later than the fault. The amount of mineralization is not very great, although in places the rocks are considerably iron stained. The adit is only 20 feet long, and the mineralization becomes progressively less toward the breast, and the amount of drag indicated by the wall rocks also diminishes. No work has been done at this place for some time.

Several openings have been made on lodes on West Creek, which flows into Shovel Creek, a westerly tributary of Solomon River. These occurrences are described by Smith [45] as follows:

A series of veins occurring in the chloritic-schist areas away from any contacts with other rocks has been opened on West Creek 2 miles above the mouth. Some work is done here every year, and there are 600 or 700 feet of underground workings, but the mine has not yet shipped any ore. The development is on a north-south vein, which was opened by an adit that drifted along the vein for over 350 feet. In this drift both walls were decomposed chloritic schist, which in places showed marked slickensiding. Another adit about 300 feet long has been driven on a vein farther west, which shows the same general character as the first. A crosscut following a small cross stringer has been run from the eastern drift. The quartz from all the veins is practically the same in character. It is white and somewhat shattered but is apparently not sheared nor folded and presumably belongs to the later set of veins. In addition to the quartz the veins carry abundant chlorite and a small amount of pyrite and marcasite. The later metallic minerals occur in small stringers and vugs. The wall rocks are also said to be gold bearing, and the footwall schist is reported to carry from $8 to $10 a ton in gold, but no assays of the rock have been made by the Survey.

COUNCIL DISTRICT.

The Council district has been a large producer of placer gold for 20 years. No valuable metalliferous lodes have been developed in the district—in fact, very few lodes have been found. It appears that a large part of the placer gold is derived from mineralized zones in which the metal has not been sufficiently concentrated to form lodes of commercial value.

The rocks of the district include limestone and schist of various types with a little slate. These rocks strike northeast and almost invariably dip southeast at angles of 25° to 45°. A belt of massive limestone forming the ridge west of Ophir Creek is the only well-defined unit of the district. The bedrock of the rest of the area consists of schist and limestone in varying proportions. On the accompanying sketch map (fig. 11) these rocks have been differentiated into a series in which the schist and limestone occur in about equal proportion, and a series which is largely schist with only subordinate amounts of limestone. The sequence of these beds, if indeed they are distinct formations, has not been established.

[44] Smith, P. S., op. cit., p. 148.
[45] Idem.

The larger features of the geology are not complex, and the uniform southeasterly dip suggests a simple monocline. There are, however, many shear zones in which some of the limestone has been altered to calcareous schist, so that it is difficult if not impossible to trace beds and groups of beds for any considerable distance. It is not impossible that the apparent monocline may actually be an overturned fold, perhaps accompanied by thrust faults, though no

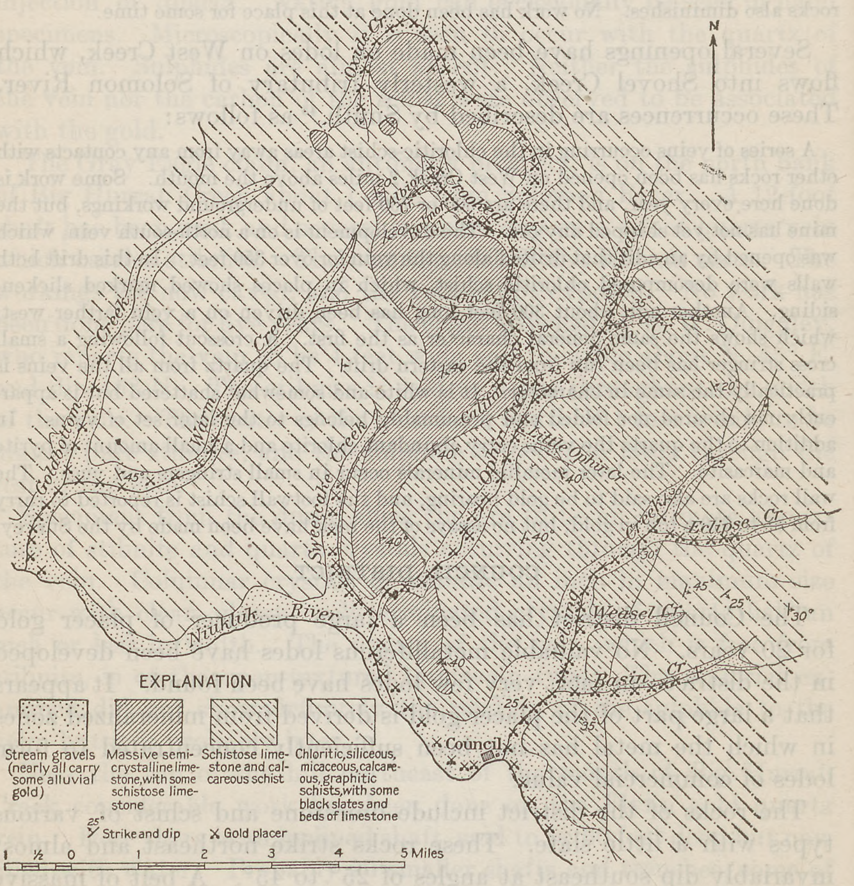

FIGURE 11.—Geologic sketch map of part of Council district.

evidence of faulting was found. The map also shows the approximate distribution of the stream gravels. Practically all these gravels carry a little gold, but it is only in certain localities that these auriferous gravels are rich enough to afford valuable placers.

Few lodes that have encouraged hard-rock prospecting have been discovered in the Council district. The mineralization of the country rock from which the very rich placers of Ophir Creek have been derived does not seem to have been sufficiently concentrated at any locality to form a lode, but rather the gold has been disseminated throughout the bedrock. Quartz stringers and sulphides are very common in the schist and limestone, especially in the schist. The quartz is known to carry gold, as some of the veinlets are reported to show a gold content on assay and quartz is frequently found attached to gold in the placers. That quartz is the only carrier of gold in the district has not been proved. Some gold may occur with the sulphides, but its presence has not been demonstrated. It is perhaps safe to assign most if not all of the gold to the quartz veinlets, as the sulphides are almost entirely pyrite, and the gold that occurs with sulphides elsewhere on the peninsula is associated with arsenopyrite or stibnite.

The nature of the occurrence which would permit the gold to be so generally distributed throughout the country rock and not tend to produce lodes has been discussed by Brooks,[46] who, from his study of the region, has shown the gold to be related to the limestone and schist contacts. The behavior of the limestone and schist series when subjected to intense folding has been discussed on page 171. The shearing incident to such folding is believed to have supplied openings along the contacts of members of the series which differed in resistance to shear, and these openings were later filled by quartz veinlets that carried the gold (fig. 12). The country rock of the Council district was especially favorable for this mode of occurrence, either because it comprised a series which was originally very heterogeneous and which consequently offered a great many such contacts or because schist zones had been developed within a massive limestone as the result of the shearing. There is evidence that many of the schist zones have been derived from the limestone, as the schist is mostly of the calcareous variety. All the limestone is somewhat schistose, and the transition from slightly schistose limestone through schistose limestone to calcareous schist is frequently seen. West of Sweetcake Creek and east of Melsing Creek the schist is largely siliceous and limestone is not a prominent member of the series. (See diagram, fig. 12.) Between Sweetcake Creek and Ophir Creek and extending north to Crooked Creek is an area which is occupied chiefly by limestone. Between Ophir Creek and Melsing Creek schist and limestone alternate. The schist is largely calcareous, and the limestone is rather schistose. The schist appears to increase and the limestone to decrease in amount toward the east. Ophir Creek, the most productive creek of the area, flows through that part of the series in which the contacts are most numerous and in which quartz veins are most plentiful. Guy Creek,

[46] Brooks, A. H., The gold placers of parts of Seward Peninsula, Alaska: U. S. Geol. Survey Bull. 328, p. 123, 1907.

the least productive creek of the area, flows through the massive limestone member of the series and cuts only one schist zone. Crooked Creek and its tributaries are cut through the limestone member and into the underlying siliceous schist, which at its contact

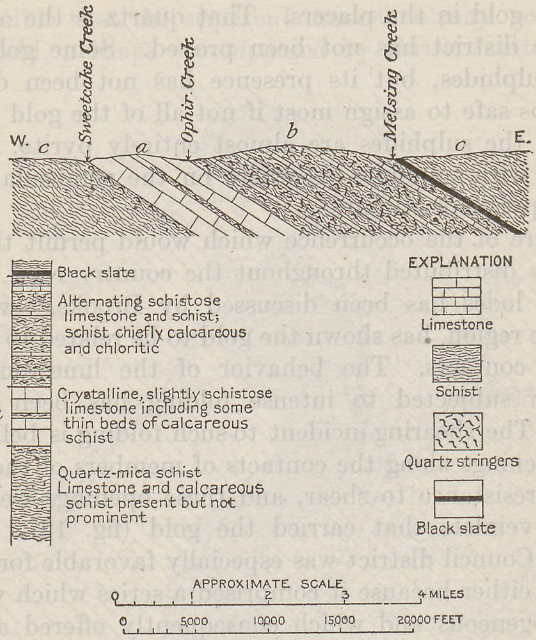

FIGURE 12.—Diagrammatic cross section from Sweetcake Creek to Melsing Creek, showing distribution of quartz stringers, in part mineralized, in schist and limestone.

with the massive limestone is impregnated with quartz veinlets. Sweetcake Creek occupies a similar position with respect to the contact of the siliceous schist and massive limestone.

IRON CREEK REGION.

The Iron Creek region which lies about 35 miles northeast of Nome, has produced a good deal of placer gold, though no very rich deposits have been found. There are also some copper and galena prospects within the district. The bedrock of the district consists chiefly of schist broken by broad belts of limestone which trend in a northwesterly direction. These features are indicated on the accompanying sketch map (fig. 13), but the details of the geology are far more complex than is indicated by this map. The limestone areas are broken by bands of schist. On the other hand, the areas mapped as schist include feldspathic and chloritic schists, as well as considerable areas of black slate and some bands of greenstone, which is of igneous origin. That the placer gold is derived from the schist and limestone contacts is clearly indicated by their distribution, as shown on the map.

Quartz is not a prominent constituent of the auriferous gravels, and quartz veins are not noticeably abundant in the country rock. The sulphide mineralization was decidedly of the disseminated type, except in the copper prospects. The relations of both quartz veinlets and sulphides to the country rock are much the same as those ob-

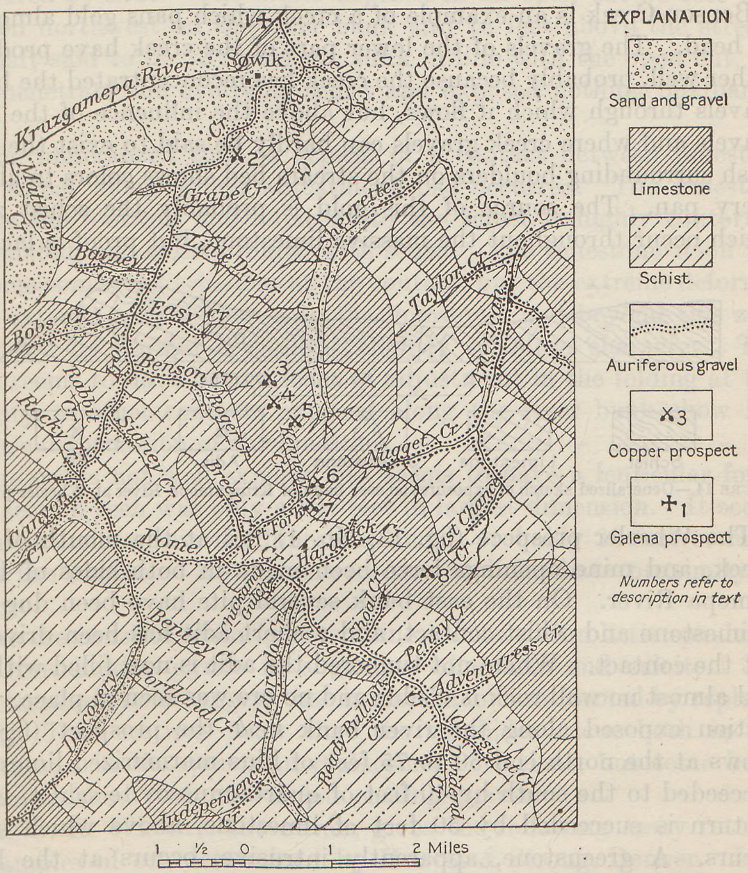

FIGURE 13.—Geologic sketch map of Iron Creek region.

served in the Council district, where schist interbedded with limestone and schist near its contact with heavy limestone were the most susceptible to shearing and the sheared zones offered the most favorable openings for the introduction of gold-bearing solutions. In the Iron Creek region the black slate seemed to have played a part comparable to that taken by the limestone. Both slate and limestone have acted as competent beds, and the schist adjacent to them shows what concentration of mineralization was observed.

Although quartz does not seem to be as abundant in the schist of Iron Creek as at other localities, considerable quartz is associated with the copper minerals in the limestone. This quartz is not known to be gold-bearing, neither is it known that the copper and gold mineralization are of the same age. The younger quartz veins, with which most of the veins in the schist can be safely correlated, have been found by Smith[47] to cut silicified limestone in the Solomon district, presumably similar to that which here carries the copper.

Benson Creek is an example of a creek which pans gold almost to its head. The gravels of the lower part of the creek have produced rather well, probably because the creek has reconcentrated the bench gravels through which it flows, but above the influence of the older gravels and where creek gravels can hardly be said to exist the loose wash surrounding boulders on the stream bed shows colors to almost every pan. The source of this gold is probably the schist zones which occur throughout the massive limestone, but proof is lacking.

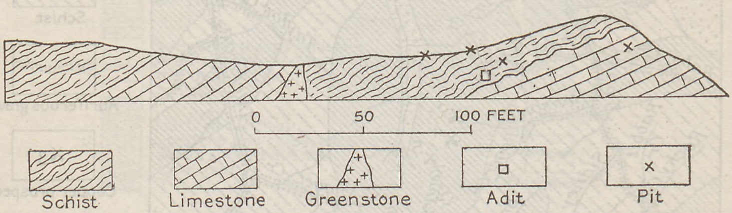

FIGURE 14.—Generalized sketch of exposures on east bank of Kruzgamepa River at Wheeler prospect.

The Wheeler prospect (fig. 13, No. 1) lies at the mouth of Iron Creek, and mine openings have been made in both sides of Kruzgamepa River. On the east bank several pits have been dug near a limestone and schist contact, and a short adit has been driven to cut the contact. Where not timbered the adit is now filled with ice, and almost no wall rock is visible and no ore was seen in place. The section exposed along the river bank near the prospect (fig. 14) shows at the north end 50 to 75 feet of blue marmarized limestone, succeeded to the south by 40 feet of quartz-muscovite schist, which in turn is succeeded by 50 feet of limestone, above which schist occurs. A greenstone, apparently intrusive, occurs at the lower contact of the upper limestone with the schist. The mineralization occurred along the contact of the lower limestone and the schist. The contact shows considerable deformation, the limestone and schist being infolded and the limestone rendered slightly schistose. The beds strike N. 70° W. and dip 10° N.

The schist at the contact shows an abundance of pyrite, but the limestone was only slightly mineralized, if at all. Galena is said to have been found in small quantities, both in the schist and in the

[47] Smith, P. S., op. cit. (Bull. 433), p. 142.

limestone. The ore consists of finely crystalline galena and pyrite in a gangue of quartz and calcite. Some chalcopyrite is also probably present, as malachite stain is seen in places.

On the west bank of the Kruzgamepa two "kidneys" of galena have been uncovered in a schistose limestone near its contact with a chloritic schist. One body of ore has been removed; a part of the other is still to be seen, but its relations to the inclosing rock are obscured by slide. The ore is exposed in an open cut 30 feet long driven northwest on the river bank and 15 feet above the stream. A shaft said to be 22 feet deep, sunk in line with the open cut, did not penetrate the overlying schist and exposed nothing but barren rock.

The mineralized zone is typical of a contact between limestone and schist along which adjustment has occurred. The limestone forms the footwall and adjacent to the schist is highly contorted, crenulated, and closely folded with schist. The limestone itself has become somewhat schistose at the contact, but the extreme deformation extends only 20 feet into the limestone, and beyond this zone it shows its normal crystalline, slightly schistose character. This zone seems to have been a locus of adjustment in the folding at this locality, as other contacts exposed along the river bank show less intense deformation of the limestone.

The ore is not well exposed but seems to have a lenticular form. The section seen was only a few feet in largest dimension. It seems to lie entirely within the limestone and is probably 30 feet or more from the contact. No schist was seen in immediate proximity to the ore.

The ore consists of finely crystalline galena with a little sphalerite and considerable pyrite in a gangue of quartz and calcite. The structural relations suggest that it may have been formed by replacement. Thin sections show that the sulphides occur both in the calcite and in the quartz in replacement relations, but some hand specimens show them as veinlets cutting quartz.

Mr. O. E. Wheeler, the owner, gives the following assay returns on samples of ore determined by Hoover & Strong, Denver. It is not known how the samples were taken: East side, lead 22.87 per cent, silver 20 ounces to the ton; west side, lead 14.2 per cent, silver 14.5 ounces to the ton.

Only a small tonnage of ore is in sight. The ore uncovered has been in disconnected masses along the zone of shearing and offers little encouragement for further prospecting.

The copper prospects of the Iron Creek district have been described by Smith.[48] No commercial ore bodies have been found in this

[48] Smith, P. S., U. S. Geol. Survey Bull. 345, pp. 242–243, 1908.

district, but in view of the mode of occurrence of the copper ores the prospects will be described in some detail.

The mineralization occurred in the limestone that forms the ridge east of Iron Creek. Mineralized rock has been found in a number of places on the ridge between the headwaters of Benson and Penny creeks. Prospecting has been confined to very shallow surface work, except at one locality where a 90-foot shaft has been sunk, and an adit driven. (See fig. 13, No. 4.) The shaft and adit were not accessible at the time of the writer's visit. Although the deposit has not been explored sufficiently to determine definitely the nature of the occcrrence, some of the features observed are worthy of record. The sulphide minerals, chiefly chalcopyrite and some pyrite, occur in quartz which has replaced the limestone and was probably introduced along the bedding planes of the limestone. Wherever observed the mineralized rock is banded, and the banding is conformable with and resembles in detail the banding of the limestone with which the siliceous rock is interbedded. Adjacent to the replaced limestone the normally blue limestone is usually bleached to pale blue or even white. The bleaching of the limestone may produce a banding of colors in the unsilicified and unmineralized rock. In many places beds of limestone show bleaching and recrystallization where no mineralization has taken place. That the bleached aspect of the limestone is due in some way to the process of mineralization and not to lithologic variation in the limestone itself is evident, as it is commonly seen adjacent to the silicified limestone and it is not continuous along the strike of a bed. As the quartz has probably been introduced along the limestone bedding planes the ore bodies can be expected to conform with the structure of the limestone country rock, but this inference can be proved only by underground exploration, though it is supported by all exposures of the silicified and of the bleached limestone where unmineralized. It is probable that here, as observed elsewhere on Seward Peninsula, the major adjustment in the limestone, where it occurs interbedded with schists and has been folded, has taken place along its bedding planes. This adjustment has made the bedding planes the equivalent of fractures and the easiest paths of circulation for later solutions. Fractures transverse to the bedding must also have formed, and exceptions to the bedded occurrence of the veins must be expected. Such an exception is seen near the head of Penny River, but all other exposures observed suggest strongly the bedded occurrence.

Shearing occurred at more than one horizon, and it is practically certain that more than one horizon is represented by the mineralized rock exposed here. The country rock is chiefly limestone, interbedded with which occur beds of schist 10 to 50 feet thick. None of the exposures show positively the relations of the shear zones to the schist. Schist that carries sufficient malachite to class it as an ore occurs, and copper-stained schist is common. Some specimens of schist ore were seen to carry a little sulphide. Although the silicified limestone observed is interbedded with normal limestone and none was seen at the schist contact, at least some of the openings were probably near the contact.

The silicified rock is of the replacement type that shows many small irregular cavities resulting from shrinkage. Thin sections of the rock indicate that replacement was complete and that quartz is the only gangue mineral. The quartz is shattered and strained and is traversed by sericite and chlorite in small veinlets. Polished specimens show chalcopyrite to be the principal and in places the only sulphide. It occurs in bands roughly parallel to the bedding of the limestone. The bands of sulphide are usually one-eighth inch or less, rarely an inch in width. Limonite surrounds and cuts the sulphides in the surface ores, which are the only ores available for examination, so that the original sulphide content and the relative proportions of sulphide to quartz can not be definitely stated. The fresh sulphide observed occurred within 5 feet of the surface and where seen probably did not form more than a small percentage of the ore. The most characteristic physical property of the ore is its banded structure, which is due to several factors, the sulphides occurring in the quartz and the iron oxide resulting from their decomposition, the shrinkage cavities of the quartz, the banding of the replaced limestone, and the copper carbonates that occur in the openings in the quartz and along the former bedding surfaces of the limestone. All these minerals are roughly alined in parallel arrangement and concordant with the bedding of the unmineralized limestone.

Sulphides of copper are not invariably present where there has been silicification of the limestone. In following one of these croppings along its dip, it may be found that the silica followed certain ill-defined channels along the limestone bedding, as a result of which it will grade laterally into limestone, also that the sulphide is present throughout some parts of the quartz rock and absent in others. The fact that it everywhere shows copper minerals at the surface is due to the presence of the copper carbonates, which will be found to disappear at depth. Although these suggestions are the least favorable that might be offered, they probably represent about what should be expected in developing such deposits. These deposits appear to be of the same type as those developed at Copper Mountain, in the upper Grand Central basin, to be described below.

Malachite is the most common of the oxidized ores, although azurite also occurs. Other secondary copper minerals seem to be absent. A polished surface of chalcopyrite ore shows sulphide surrounded and cut by limonite. Three types of oxidized ore occur—

schist, quartz, and botryoidal malachite. In the quartz-muscovite schist the malachite occurs along the cleavage surfaces and has the same relation to the quartz as the mica. In the siliceous ore carbonates occur as filamentary coatings of fracture surfaces, along planes of banding, and in open spaces through the rock. Some chalcopyrite is present with the carbonates. Crystalline malachite in radial structure with some botryoidal surfaces forms the highest-grade ore known to the miners. Iron oxide is an abundant constituent of all the oxidized ore.

The Wheeler copper prospect (fig. 13, No. 4) is at the head of Sherrette Creek on the east side and near the top of the mountain, near the head of Lula Creek, the north fork of Benson Creek. The development workings consist of several small pits and an adit 200 feet long, driven S. 50° W. to connect with a 90-foot shaft. The adit is now partly filled with ice and completely frosted over, so that no rock can be seen. It was driven in limestone and encountered no ore. The shaft was sunk on a cropping of malachite, which at the surface was 8 feet wide. At a depth of 25 feet schist was encountered, dipping south. The schist is stained by malachite and persisted in the shaft to a depth of 60 feet, where barren limestone was encountered, into which the shaft penetrated 5 feet. No drifting was done. The shaft is now filled with ice.

The only mineralized rock to be seen in place occurs at the open cut leading to the collar of the shaft. Here the limestone is closely folded, marmarized, and in places schistose. It was originally dark blue, but has been bleached white along certain zones and has a banded appearance. Schist infolded in the limestone is stained with malachite and contains some stringers of quartz.

Assay returns on ore from this property shipped to the Tacoma smelter are given by Mr. Wheeler, as follows: The surface malachite, taken above a depth of 20 feet in the shaft, assayed gold, none; silver, 0.33 ounce to the ton; copper, 35.68 per cent; iron, 7.60 per cent; silica, 15.40 per cent. About 8 tons of this material was shipped. Schist ore taken below a depth of 25 feet in the shaft assayed gold, 1.82 ounces to the ton; silver, 5.16 ounces to the ton; copper, 17.18 per cent. About 2½ tons of this ore was shipped. Another shipment of 14 tons was made, but no assays of it are available.

Nothing can be seen of the lode from which this ore was taken, but Smith[49] describes it as a zone of mineralization 5 feet wide in schist. It appears to occur in a schist layer in the limestone. A quartz vein striking north was observed near this copper locality. The quartz is iron stained, but no work has been done on it, so its size and relations are not observable on the talus-covered slope. Two open cuts on the saddle at the head of Benson Creek exposed nothing but lime-

[49] Smith, P. S., U. S. Geol. Survey Bull. 345, pp. 242-243, 1908.

stone. The limestone is blue, coarsely crystalline, and banded by zones of white marble, one-quarter inch to 3 inches wide. It is slightly schistose and badly fractured. The dip is almost vertical. A fault striking N. 25° E. is exposed in one pit. The limestone south of the fault surface is much shattered.

Near the top of the mountain at the head of Benson Creek, south of the saddle (fig. 13, No. 3), a drift has been made in silicified limestone, which shows copper metallization. The workings, which are but 8 feet deep, give the best exposure of the copper ore seen in the district. At the face of the drift the following section is exposed:

Section at face of drift at head of Benson Creek.

	Feet.
Blue limestone	6
Silicified limestone with no copper	1½
Copper ore containing quartz and copper sulphide and carbonate	5
Limestone	1
Blue limestone.	

The mineralized rock is a silicified limestone, the bedding of which is still apparent and conformable with the overlying blue limestone, which strikes N. 10° E. and dips 5°–10° E. Close folding of the limestone is shown in the trench leading to the pit. The face of ore as exposed is an alternation of roughly parallel bands of malachite, quartz, sulphides, and iron oxides. The layers of ore minerals are discontinuous and are interspersed throughout with quartz, without order of succession. They vary from minute films to layers half an inch in width. The sulphide is chiefly chalcopyrite, which is surrounded by iron oxide.

The ore body seems to be related to the bedding of the limestone. It occurs with limestone on both footwall and hanging wall, and there is no indication of vein or lens form. However, it has not been opened along the dip, and this relation is not proved. No schist is exposed, but the folded limestone seen in one trench suggests the usual occurrence at the limestone and schist contact. The section exposed along the ridge between this locality and the shaft is made up of limestone, including a few schist zones 50 to 100 feet thick. The sulphides are clearly related to the quartz, which was probably injected as tiny veinlets along closely spaced bedding shear zones and replaced the adjacent limestone. On the top of the hill, half a mile to the south, four pits have exposed silicified limestone, but only a trace of mineralization was observed. The silicification is here clearly related to shearing in the limestone, as no schist is present.

Three openings have been made on a copper cropping at the head of Sherrette Creek, on the east side of the ridge (fig. 13, No. 5). The pits are shallow and filled with débris, so that no structural data can be obtained. Mineralized quartz and schist occur on the dumps. The mineralization is of the same type as that in the Wheeler prospect.

Two 20-foot cuts have been made in limestone on the west slope and near the top of the ridge, at the head of Left Fork (fig. 13, No. 6). In the more easterly one a little quartz-malachite ore is exposed, some of which carries sulphides. Little can be seen of the structural relations, but the ore appears to conform with the bedding. The only relation evident is that of copper to quartz. The quartz shows many openings, some of which are lined with projecting crystals. The copper carbonate occurs chiefly as fillings of the cavities and coatings on fractures.

About 100 feet northwest of these cuts a pit uncovers a quartz zone conformable with the bedding and unaltered limestone. The quartz is probably continuous with that at the cuts, but here the open texture of the quartz is less evident and almost no malachite is seen—a fact which points to irregularity of mineralization along the quartz zones, dependent upon the texture. This statement applies to the oxidized ore only. As is seen elsewhere, the sulphide content, though irregular, is not related to the open texture.

On the point of the hill near creek level, just above the forks of Left Fork (fig. 13, No. 7), an opening in limestone exposes carbonate ores of copper. Both azurite and malachite are present. The cut is very small, exposing a face of about 10 by 5 feet, so that few structural data are obtainable. The limestone strikes N. 20° E. and dips 25° E. No schist is exposed. The relation of quartz to limestone here is somewhat different from that seen elsewhere. A lens-like mass of quartz lies in general at a slight inclination to the bedding of the limestone. Several small stringers and apophyses from the lens cut the exposed face. The limestone and quartz contact is in places clean-cut, blue massive unaltered and unmineralized limestone adjoining the vein. Elsewhere the limestone near the vein is silicified and the original banding preserved. All the copper minerals seen are associated with the quartz and are oxidized. They coat fractures and occur as a drusy filling of cavities in the quartz.

Although the banded character shown by the ores of the Wheeler copper prospect is evident in some of the material here, the relation of the quartz is more of the vein type. It suggests that the quartz has followed fissures which in general were openings along beds of limestone but in places cut across the limestone beds. The replacement of the limestone was incidental to the introduction of the quartz. Several shallow pits have been made along the ridge southeast of this locality. They have exposed the typical quartz rock; but it shows little or no mineralization.

Several open cuts have been made on a strong showing of the quartz on the west side of the ridge about midway between the headwaters of Left Fork and Hardluck Creek, but there is hardly a trace of copper mineralization. The character of the quartz body has not changed, the open texture of the quartz and the well-terminated crystals lining cavities are the same, and some decomposed sulphide is disseminated through the rock, but the copper minerals seem to have largely disappeared. The limestone here is shattered and almost schistose. It strikes N. 30° W. and dips south. The exposures show nothing of the relations of the quartz and limestone.

Just south of the saddle between Shoal and Last Chance creeks a 6 by 8 foot shaft 10 feet deep has been sunk on an outcrop of quartz (fig. 13, No. 8). Although exposed for only a few feet along the strike it appears to be a distinct vein and in this respect is different from other exposures. The vein is 5 or 6 feet wide, strikes N. 50° W., and dips west. The limestone 100 yards to the east strikes N. 70° W. and dips 20° S. At its contact with the vein the limestone is altered to a calcareous schist for a width of a few inches. Both schist and limestone show a little sulphide mineralization adjacent to the vein. The quartz is mineralized by decomposed sulphides, some of which were probably chalcopyrite. Very little copper stain is present, however, and the vein is chiefly a slightly iron-stained bull quartz. The silicified limestone does not occur here, the limestone being calcareous to the vein walls.

About 200 yards to the south, at the head of Penny Creek, several openings on quartz in limestone show only very slight copper stain. The exposures do not show the relations. The copper almost disappears southward along the ridge. No further openings or croppings were observed.

On the east bank of Iron Creek about a mile above the mouth of Bertha Creek (fig. 13, No. 2) a small open cut exposes a lode of the type occurring on the ridge at the head of Benson Creek. The material is silicified limestone containing a little sulphide and some malachite stain. The lode occurs in the blue limestone but is poorly exposed and not well defined. It is about 3 feet wide where seen.

About 200 feet north of this locality a vein of coarsely crystalline calcite has been opened. The calcite is cut by veinlets of quartz and contains fresh pyrite in abundance. Some pyrite also occurs in the quartz veinlets. The relations of the vein are not exposed. Both schist and limestone occur on the dump and suggest that the vein is at or near to the contact.

COPPER MOUNTAIN.

Some copper-bearing rock has been found on the two slopes of Copper Mountain, whose drainage is carried southward into Nome River and northward into Kruzgamepa River. This area lies about 25 miles north of Nome. The general features of the geology are shown on the accompanying map (fig. 15), which is based on Moffit's survey.[50] A broad belt of schist, locally including beds and lenses of limestone, forms the country rock of the mineralized area. To the south the schist is overlain by heavy limestones which include some minor beds of schist. On the lower northern slope of the mountain there is a small area of gneissoid granite, which was intruded in the schist.

So far as it could be determined the copper mineralization was of the same type as that on Iron Creek, already described. The zones of mineralization occur in bleached and in places silicified beds or lenses of limestone which are interlayered with the schist. In these

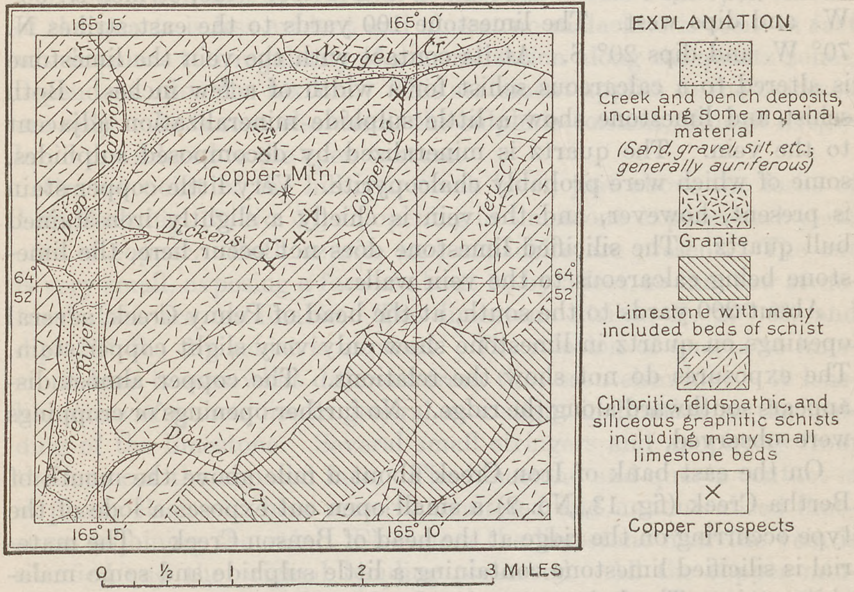

FIGURE 15.—Geologic sketch map of Copper Mountain area.

zones sulphides occur in association with quartz. The quartz is of open texture, and shows shrinkage cavities. The most prominent feature of the ore is its banding, which is due in part to the preservation of the original limestone bedding and in part to the disposition of the ore minerals.

Microscopic examination of the bleached but apparently unsilicified and unmetallized limestone shows it to be practically all calcite. Muscovite occurs in small amounts along bedding planes. Veinlets of quartz that are parallel and oriented with the micas are numerous. Angular crystals of quartz occur through the calcite and are especially abundant near the veinlets. The relations of the quartz suggest

[50] Moffit, F. H., Geology of the Nome and Grand Central quadrangles, Alaska: U. S. Geol. Survey Bull. 533, 1913.

that it was introduced along cleavage surfaces and replaced the limestone. In the silicified limestone in which copper sulphides occur the replacement is complete, and quartz, with a little mica, forms the gangue of the ore.

Malachite and azurite are the most abundant ore minerals, as the workings have been confined to the oxidized zone. Sulphides occur, however, within a few feet of the surface. Pyrite and chalcopyrite are about equally abundant. Galena is present in small amounts at one of the shafts on Dickens Creek. Bornite is common as an associate of chalcopyrite and in places is the only copper sulphide in the ore. The amount of mineralized rock that might be classed as ore and the details of the occurrence of the ore can not be determined, as the workings are all inaccessible.

The occurrence near the north point of Copper Mountain is of interest in that it is one of the two prospects in southern Seward Peninsula which are in the vicinity of recognizable intrusive granite. A small body of sheared biotite granite crops out on the slope below the tunnel (fig. 15). The granite is rather finely crystalline but shows porphyritic and chilled marginal phases. Small dikes of dense finely crystalline light-green rock cut the mass. Both dikes and granite are cut by later quartz veins. The contact is not exposed, but blocks of limestone in contact with the chilled phase of the granite were seen as float. The limestone is marmarized, and pyrite occurs here and there at the contact, but the rock shows no other evidence of metamorphism. The granite is intruded in schist that is in contact with the silicified limestone in which the mineralization occurred. About 50 feet of schist lies between the granite outcrop and the mineralized zone. No direct relation between the igneous rock and the mineralization was observed. The facts that the mineralized zone is associated with uncrushed quartz and that the sheared granite is cut by undisturbed quartz veins suggest that movement affecting both the sedimentary contacts and the igneous intrusive prepared the openings which are now occupied by the mineralized quartz and the quartz veins, respectively.

On Copper Creek about a quarter of a mile above the railroad several openings have been made in a limestone bed which shows zones of alteration and some copper mineralization. The country rock here is schist, with which occur beds of limestone 50 to 100 feet thick. A fall is formed where the creek crosses the contact and affords an unusually good exposure of the alteration and mineralization of the limestone. The limestone, normally blue, is bleached for a thickness of 12 feet to white or pale bluish white. In places this alteration affects the rock in zones and gives the limestone a banding parallel to the bedding. Both the bleached and the unbleached limestone are coarsely crystalline, and some of the bleached rock resembles pure calcite. Distortion of the limestone along the contact with the schist was not observed at this exposure. Several zones of schist a few inches thick are interbedded with the limestone, but the rock itself is massive. Two openings have been made in the altered zone at the fall. On the west bank of the creek a 10-foot incline and an 8-foot shaft have cut into but not across the zone. The rock shows little silicification and no copper minerals. On the east bank, 200 feet away from the first opening, an incline has been driven on the same zone. The limestone dips 28° S., and the incline follows the dip. At the time of visit ice filled the opening within 20 feet of the surface. The rock here is banded blue and white, and the bands are from a few inches to a foot or more in width. As a whole it is little silicified, but there are two zones of entirely silicified rock conformable with the bedding. They are 3 and 5 inches wide and separated by a foot or more of unsilicified rock. The quartz rock has a banded character, due in part to the white and blue colors, in part to copper carbonate, and in part to bornite, which with the carbonate seems to occur along former planes of lamination. The mineralized rock appears to be the result of a replacement of limestone and the silica to have been introduced along the bedding planes.

The almost complete absence of quartz in the western prospect indicates a very erratic distribution of this mineral. The presence of unmineralized quartz indicates further restriction of the sulphide mineralization. Where sulphide minerals of this type have been observed, they occur in silicified portions of bleached limestone. The bleached limestone, however, is not everywhere silicified, and the quartz is not everywhere metallized. The next overlying limestone shows only a very little copper stain, although its altered basal portion is as prominent as the limestone just referred to. The upper contact of this bed of limestone is also altered, but without being silicified, so far as observed. There are certainly two zones of alteration here, and probably three, as no surface indications of faulting can be observed.

The neighboring schists are highly mineralized and are cut by veins of the quartz-calcite type. One quartz vein 2 feet wide can be traced for a quarter of a mile on the upper creek. The quartz-calcite veins show sulphide mineralization both in the quartz and in the calcite.

Work has been done on a similar copper showing on the divide between Copper and Dickens creeks. A number of pits, trenches, and shallow shafts have been made on a zone of bleached limestone, which is as much as 300 feet wide, is lenticular in outline, and extends in a N. 40° E. direction for a distance of a quarter of a mile. The openings are now caved or filled with water, and no exposures of ore in place can be seen. Moss covers the saddle and hillside, so that the stratigraphic relations are obscured, and only mineralized rock from the dumps is available for examination. Chalcopyrite, bornite, and pyrite are the most abundant sulphides. Galena occurs in small amounts at one shaft. Azurite and malachite are present with the sulphides. The sulphide and oxide minerals occur in a roughly parallel arrangement, giving the ore a banded appearance.

This zone is too high stratigraphically to be correlated with the zones of Copper Creek. The circumscribed nature of this type of mineralization is emphasized here by the apparent elliptical form of the area of altered limestone.

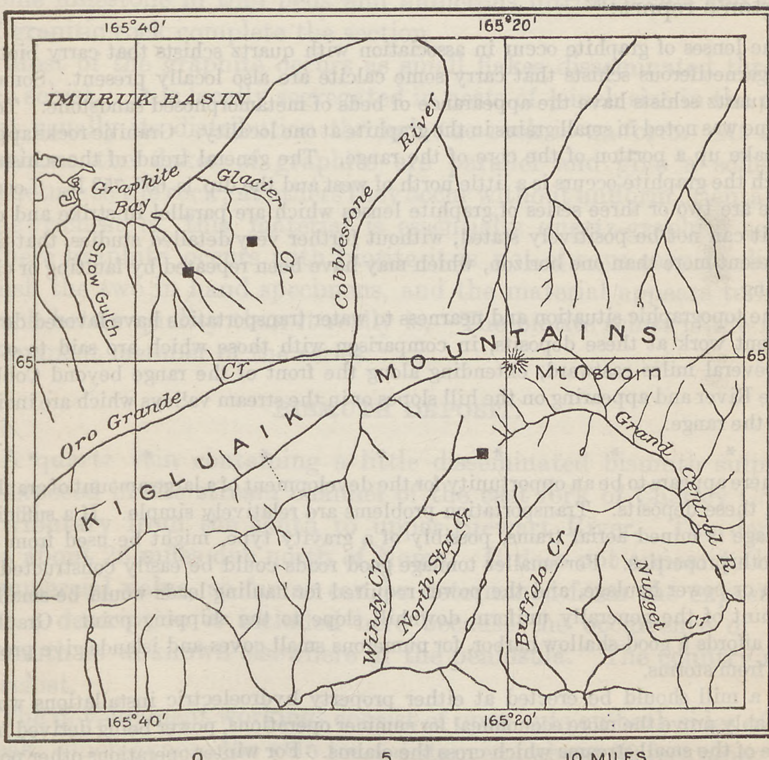

FIGURE 16.—Map showing location of graphite deposits (■) in the Kigluaik Mountains.

GRAPHITE DEPOSITS IN THE KIGLUAIK MOUNTAINS.

Graphitic schists are common in the Kigluaik Mountains, and in many places the graphite is sufficiently abundant to warrant their investigation as possible commercial deposits. Several hundred tons of graphite has been mined on the north slope of the mountains, where commercial ore bodies have been developed on two properties only a few miles from tidewater at the Imuruk Basin. (See fig. 16.) Development work on these two properties is at present suspended. Harrington [51] has described these deposits as occurring in lenses associated with the schist and gneiss that form the country rock of the northern slope of the Kigluaik Mountains. Such graphitic deposits have been traced for several miles west of Cobblestone River on the outer slope of the mountains and are reported to occur farther in the range. Considerable work has been done on the properties, but most of the graphite shipments have been made from the eastern property, owned by the Alaska Graphite Co., which has built a wagon road to tidewater. The second group of claims is owned by the Uncle Sam Alaska Mining Co. The following description of these deposits is taken from Harrington's report: [52]

The lenses of graphite occur in association with quartz schists that carry biotite, but garnetiferous schists that carry some calcite are also locally present. Some of the quartz schists have the appearance of beds of metamorphosed sandstone. Tourmaline was noted in small grains in the graphite at one locality. Granitic rocks appear to make up a portion of the core of the range. The general trend of the schists in which the graphite occurs is a little north of west and the dip is 60°–75° N. Locally there are two or three series of graphite lenses which are parallel in strike and dip, but it can not be positively stated, without further very detailed studies, that they represent more than one horizon, which may have been repeated by faulting or close folding.

The topographic situation and nearness to water transportation have favored development work at these deposits, in comparison with those which are said to occur for several miles eastward, extending along the front of the range beyond Cobblestone River and appearing on the hill slopes or in the stream valleys which are incised into the range.

* * * * * * *

There appears to be an opportunity for the development of a large amount of graphite from these deposits. Transportation problems are relatively simple. If a sufficient tonnage is mined aerial trams, possibly of a gravity type, might be used from one or both properties. For smaller tonnage good roads could be easily constructed for team or power haulage, and the power required for hauling loads would be small on account of the generally uniform downhill slope to the shipping point. Graphite Bay affords a good shallow harbor, for numerous small coves and islands give protection from storms.

If a mill should be erected at either property hydroelectric installations would probably prove the more economical for summer operations, power being derived from some of the small streams which cross the claims. For winter operations other power would be necessary.

Graphite deposits also occur south of the crest line of the Kigluaik Mountains, where they were long ago found by Moffit,[53] but not being as accessible as those described above, they have attracted but little attention. Such deposits are found in the upper part of the Grand Central basin, where they have an eastern trend. The best

[51] Harrington, G. L., Mineral resources of Seward Peninsula: U. S. Geol. Survey Bull. 692, pp. 364–366, 1919.

[52] Op. cit., pp. 365, 367.

[53] Moffit, F. H., Geology of the Nome and Grand Central quadrangles, Alaska: U. S. Geol. Survey Bull. 533, pp. 135–136, 1913.

deposit seen in that region occurs on the West Fork of Grand Central River in the schist which overlies the limestone forming Mount Osborn and in which the valley of West Fork is cut. This schist probably belongs to an older series than those which are described in connection with the other deposits and are confined to the mountain area. It is essentially a siliceous biotite schist and is intruded by many igneous sills and dikes. In general it strikes N. 80° E. and dips 15°–25° S.

The best exposure of the graphite-bearing beds occurs along the divide between West Fork of Grand Central River and Windy Creek. The schist includes quartz-biotite, garnet, and graphitic varieties. Some limestone in thin beds and numerous intrusive sills and dikes of granitic rock complete the section.

Most of the graphite occurs as small flakes disseminated through the schist. It is locally segregated in nests of ¼-inch size in the rock, but usually its distribution through the rock is uniform. At some horizons the flakes of graphite are parallel and give a schistose structure to the rock; at others they occur without uniform orientation. The richest of this material is essentially quartz-graphite schist. Where graphite occurs with biotite it is not always easy to distinguish the two in hand specimens, and the material appears to be of much better quality than it really is. The biotite schist is the most prominent member of the series.

BISMUTH DEPOSIT.

A quartz vein containing a little disseminated bismuth sulphide is exposed in the stream channel of the east fork of Charley Creek, a tributary from the south to upper Stewart River. The deposit lies about 25 miles due north of Nome. It does not appear to be of commercial value, so far as can be determined from the exposures, but a description is included here because the occurrence of vein bismuth is unknown elsewhere in the peninsula. The country rock is schist.

The development workings consist of open cuts on both sides of the creek, which expose the vein for a distance of about 50 feet along the strike and 10 feet in depth. Two parallel quartz veins 10 and 5 inches wide, striking N. 80° W. and dipping 50° N., are separated by a foot or more of schist. The quartz is of the open-textured type and shows numerous cavities lined with well-terminated crystals. Microscopically the vein is made up of quartz with a little white mica. The veins have been intruded along joint planes in the chloritic schist country rock, which strikes east and dips 30° S. The wall rock is quartz-muscovite schist containing considerable chlorite and some biotite. A little graphite and pyrite are also present. The veins can not be traced beyond the creek bottom, the valley sides being covered by moss and talus, and they are exposed here only because the creek has cut a narrow gorge in this part of its course.

No ore was seen in place. A small quantity of mineralized quartz on the dump contains bismuthinite, occurring in tiny veinlets through the rock. Cross veinlets concentrated here and there form dark patches in the white, opaque vein material. There is no means of estimating the sulphide content of the vein, as the portion now exposed was not seen to contain any. The mineralized material on the dump contains only 1 or 2 per cent of sulphide, and the metal content of the vein is probably very small. The vein has been reported to contain platinum in considerable amounts, but reliable assays made for the Geological Survey show no trace of platinum.

ANTIMONY DEPOSITS.

Antimony in the form of stibnite is rather widely distributed on Seward Peninsula.[54] It occurs at several localities in the vicinity of Nome, in the Manila-Lost Creek area, described below, on Big Hurrah Creek in the Solomon district (p. 204), in the York district,[55] and at the Omalik mine, in Fish River basin.[56]

The deposits in the Manila-Lost Creek area have thus far proved to be of the most importance. A number of antimony-bearing lodes have been found in this area, which lies about 20 miles north of Nome. Here the southward drainage goes into Nome and Snake rivers, and the northward drainage into Stewart River. As shown on the accompanying map (fig. 17), which is based on Moffit's survey, the country rock consists of a great series of schists, with some interbedded limestone, which is overlain by a heavy limestone formation that also includes some beds of schist. These rocks are cut by a few granite stocks and dikes.

In the vicinity of Manila Creek a number of antimony-quartz lodes, some of which are gold-bearing, have been prospected. At the Hed & Strand mine, on Dahl Gulch, a tributary of Lost Creek, and at the Sliscovich mine, on Manila Creek, considerable development work has been done and some antimony ore has been produced. The Hed & Strand property has been described by Mertie,[57] and the Sliscovich by Chapin.[58] Little or no progress has been made since their visits. A number of other prospects have exposed ore between Cold Creek and Manila Creek and on the divide between Manila and Hobson creeks, but the workings are shallow, and except

[54] Brooks, A. H., Antimony deposits of Alaska: U. S. Geol. Survey Bull. 649, pp. 50, 59, 1916.

[55] Knopf, Adolph, Geology of the Seward Peninsula tin deposits: U. S. Geol. Survey Bull. 358, 1908.

[56] Smith, P. S., and Eakin, H. M., A geologic reconnaissance in southeastern Seward Peninsula and Norton Bay-Nulato region, Alaska: U. S. Geol. Survey Bull. 449, pp. 131-133, 1911.

[57] Mertie, J. B., jr., Placer mining on Seward Peninsula: U. S. Geol. Survey Bull. 662, p. 436, 1917.

[58] Chapin, Theodore, Lode development on Seward Peninsula: U. S. Geol. Survey Bull. 592, p. 403, 1914.

for ore on the dump show nothing concerning the occurrence of the antimony.

The ores of this locality are typical of most of the antimony ores of the peninsula. In the area examined the stibnite is commonly associated with the later quartz veins. Kidneys of stibnite accompanied by very little quartz have been found along shear zones in

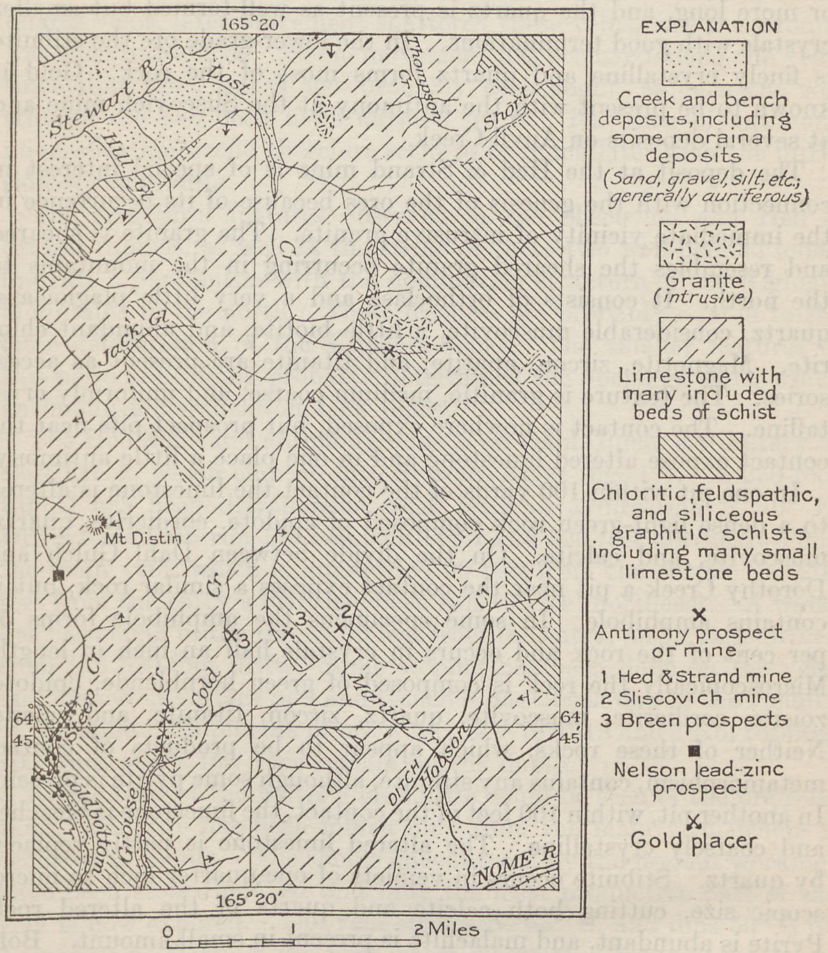

FIGURE 17.—Geologic sketch map of Manila-Lost Creek area.

schist at the Boulder lode on Waterfall Creek (p. 231), and in the Winsted tunnel on Anvil Creek (p. 238), but the ore bodies are small.

Where associated with the quartz veins the stibnite seems to have been introduced since the formation of the veins. Apparently after the intrusion of the quartz veins movement continued to take place along the vein fissures and they were reopened and the veins shattered. Antimony-quartz solutions were then introduced.[59] At some localities the stibnite occurs as irregular bodies between the vein and its schist wall and as nests and stringers in the vein itself, but at most localities it is present only as veinlets in the quartz.

The stibnite is usually accompanied by some pyrite and a variable amount of contemporaneous quartz. In the purest specimens the stibnite occurs as distinct acicular crystals, some of them an inch or more long, and the quartz is present as well-formed but smaller crystals with good terminations. In the lower-grade ore the stibnite is finely crystalline and quartz forms most of the rock. Gold is known to be present with the antimony at the Sliscovich mine and at several deposits on Anvil Creek.

The deposit at the Hed & Strand mine is of special interest in connection with the genesis of the ores because of its occurrence in the immediate vicinity of intrusive granite. The granite is sheared and resembles the sheared granite occurring in the mountains to the north. It consists of orthoclase and a very little plagioclase, quartz, considerable muscovite, a little biotite, and abundant chlorite. Magnetite, zircon, apatite, and titanite are present as accessories. The texture is granitic, medium coarse, and uniformly crystalline. The contact is nowhere exposed, but prospect pits near the contact expose altered limestone and in one place a little antimony.

In one pit within 100 yards of the contact the limestone is altered to a dense light-green rock composed of epidote, cordierite, quartz, muscovite, and calcite. On the divide between Dahl Gulch and Dorothy Creek a pit near the contact exposes a similar rock, but it contains amphibole. In some specimens the amphibole forms 50 per cent of the rock and occurs in crystals half an inch in length. Microscopically the rock is composed of green hornblende, epidote, zoisite, cordierite, muscovite, quartz, zircon, titanite, and calcite. Neither of these rocks, which appear to be products of contact metamorphism, contains any stibnite, although some pyrite is present. In another pit, within 100 feet of the contact, the limestone is bleached and coarsely crystalline. The altered limestone is partly replaced by quartz. Stibnite occurs in veinlets of one-quarter inch to microscopic size, cutting both calcite and quartz of the altered rock. Pyrite is abundant, and malachite is present in small amount. Both occur in or coating fractures. Calcite veins are numerous in the limestone, and one vein was seen to contain a crystal of stibnite 1 inch long.

Although the data obtainable do not afford definite proof, it is probable that the epidotized limestone is the result of contact metamorphism. It is not certain, however, that the stibnite is in any way related to the granite. Stibnite is not seen to occur with the

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[59] This interpretation of the facts has already been made by Brooks (Bull. 449, p. 52, 1911).

contact rock. It is present with the silicified limestone but is of later origin than the alteration of that rock. It is probable that an opening was formed at the granite contact, along which the stibnite solutions entered. Further evidence that the antimony mineralization was not related to the granite is found in the structural relations. The granite has been badly sheared. The age of greatest movement in the rocks of the region antedated the formation of the quartz veins, later movement shattered these veins, and the stibnite was then introduced. Some movement has occurred along the veins since that time, but it has probably been slight, as even the soft stibnite ore has been little affected by it. The time of antimony mineralization would therefore seem to be much later than the intrusion of the granite.

The structural features observed in the Sliscovich and Hed & Strand tunnels, as well as the strike of these two well-defined lodes, indicate a parallelism with the dominating structure of the Kigluaik Mountains to the north. These features are probably related to the later deformation of the Kigluaik rocks. The smaller features of this period of folding probably determined the openings along which antimony mineralization took place.

The Hed & Strand antimony mine is on Dahl Gulch, a tributary of Lost Creek, which empties into Stewart River (fig. 17). A 250-foot tunnel has been driven near creek level in a direction S. 40° E. Drifts have been run 145 feet southwest and 520 feet northeast along the main vein, which is intersected 90 feet from the entry. At 200 feet from the entry a drift has been run 190 feet northeast. A winze has been sunk in the tunnel 60 feet from the entry, and a raise driven from the 520-foot drift. Some stoping has been done on the vein, and numerous surface pits and trenches have been dug in the vicinity of the mine. Shipments of ore were made in 1915 and 1916, totaling 106 tons, and a few tons remain on the dump.

At the time of the writer's visit little could be seen of the ore relations. Stibnite has been mined only from the main vein, where it occurred in shoots. The shoots encountered by the present workings have been stoped out, so that only the least productive part of the vein is now exposed. The vein strikes N. 65° E. and dips 50° NW. According to Mertie,[60] the vein where intersected by the tunnel was 4 feet thick and consisted of white quartz and stibnite. The stibnite occurred as a body 2 feet thick along the footwall. As exposed along the drift the vein shows repeated pinch and swell. Where not stoped the vein is present only as a thin stringer and in places seems to disappear entirely. Near the end of the northeast drift the quartz has a gray color, due to finely crystalline stibnite, occurring in tiny veinlets through it. Elsewhere it contains only pyrite in veinlets.

[60] Mertie, J. B., jr., Placer mining on Seward Peninsula: U. S. Geol. Survey Bull. 662, p. 437, 1917.

At the end of the northeast drift a 2-inch quartz vein intersects the drift at an angle near 90°. An eighth of an inch of pyrite occurs between the quartz and the wall rock. Specimens of massive arsenopyrite, said to come from this locality, were shown to the writer and are reported to be silver-bearing. This veinlet does not seem to be related to the main vein. In the southwest drift near the adit a small amount of ore remains at the edge of a stope. Two types of ore are present—quartz vein material cut by veinlets of stibnite and acicular stibnite including crystals of quartz. The quartz is here frozen to the footwall and is 2 inches thick; 1 inch of gouge separates the quartz from 1 inch of stibnite, and 3 inches of gouge occurs between the stibnite and the hanging wall. The stibnite is evidently later than the quartz vein and has been introduced along the hanging wall, filling fractures in the quartz vein and occupying open spaces between the vein and the hanging wall. Later movement along the vein has broken the contacts between the quartz and stibnite and between the stibnite and the hanging wall.

The wall rock is chlorite schist, and the hanging wall is everywhere slickensided. At the end of the southwest drift the footwall is altered to sericite schist and is highly mineralized by pyrite. This alteration was not seen to be common.

The drift running northeast at 200 feet from the entry exposes little. It follows a stringer of quartz one-fourth inch to 4 inches wide. The walls are slickensided and in places show gouge. No antimony was seen. At 30 feet from the adit the drift intersects an 8-inch quartz vein, which is offset 2 feet in crossing the drift.

A zone of antimony-quartz mineralization appears to extend from the divide between Hobson and Manila creeks to Cold Creek. The relations of the lodes to the geology can be made out only at the Sliscovich mine, for little can be learned from the surface. The steep slopes are covered with coarse talus of chlorite and feldspar schist; the gentle slopes with moss. Quartz float is abundant through the talus, and a number of veins are probably represented.

At the head of the right fork of Manila Creek a quartz vein not fully exposed but apparently several feet wide strikes S. 80° E. and dips 40° S. It was located by Joe Sliscovich as a quartz lode. No evidence of mineralization was observed, and almost no work has been done on the property.

Just east of this exposure, along the strike of the vein, several pits have exposed quartz which shows mineralization and structure similar to those of the copper ore of Iron Creek and Copper Mountain. It is an open-textured banded quartz rock which contains abundant sulphide, chiefly pyrite, and some malachite stain. The source of this material is not clear. It is not exposed well enough to indicate whether it is a vein or rock in place. Its isolated occurrence suggests that it might be a drift boulder derived from the ridge above.

The ridge at the head of the right fork of Manila Creek consists of limestone underlain by schist. Several pits along the contact zone expose bleached limestone and in places a calcareous muscovite schist stained by malachite. The copper stain is associated with the mica, and the rock is similar to the schist ore of Iron Creek. The quartz rock referred to above may have originated along this contact, although the bleached limestone exposed at the contact is not noticeably silicified or metallized.

A hundred yards southeast of the copper-stained rock on the ridge several openings have been made on antimony ore. The veins were not exposed at the time of visit, but ore on the dump shows that the mineralization was essentially the same as at the Hed & Strand mine, the rock consisting of quartz cut by veinlets of stibnite. The country rock is chlorite schist.

The Sliscovich antimony-gold mine is near the head of Manila Creek (fig. 17). Details of the occurrence are reported as follows by Chapin,[61] who visited the property in 1913:

This property was staked in 1905. The vein, which strikes N. 60° E. and dips 45° NW., was traced on the surface for over half a mile, nearly across the basin of Manila Creek. Besides a number of prospect pits two openings have been made to develop the lode. A short distance below the point of discovery a 50-foot adit was driven to crosscut the lode, but no further work was done at this place. The main opening is at an elevation 100 feet lower. There an adit was driven 315 feet to the lode, which was opened by an inclined shaft for 100 feet.

The lode is composed essentially of dull, opaque quartz and stibnite, the sulphide of antimony, in approximately equal amounts, although slight variations in the proportions of the two minerals appear from place to place. Near the surface the antimony predominates, and in places nearly pure stibnite occurs in small bunches. A number of assays and analyses have been made on samples of the ore, all of which show rather constant antimony, gold, and silver. An analysis made on a small shipment of ore said by the owners to have been obtained by accurate sampling of the vein was submitted for chemical determination and showed the following:

Gold and silver not published.	
Antimony (Sb)	35.05
Sulphur (S)	13.79
Silica (SiO_2)	48.80
Molybdenum (Mo)	None
Qualitative arsenic (As)	None
Wet lead	Trace
	97.64

Lime and magnesia present but not determined quantitatively.

No development work has been done on the property since Chapin's visit. In 1915 the high price of antimony induced the mining of the antimony portion of the vein. A stope was begun about 30

[61] Chapin, Theodore, Lode developments on Seward Peninsula: U. S. Geol. Survey Bull. 592, pp. 403–404, 1914.

feet from the bottom of the shaft, driven 30 feet to the north and 40 feet to the south along the vein, and extended within 25 feet of the floor of the adit. Only rock containing high percentages of stibnite was removed, and the waste incident to such mining was dumped into the shaft. The stopes were not well timbered, and the roof is sloughing, so that only that part of the vein at the upper limit of the stope can be seen.

Where the vein is intersected in the adit it is only a few inches wide. At a depth of about 25 feet in the shaft it swells, and this is the portion that has been removed. At one place it was seen to consist of 13 inches of stibnite and 32 inches of quartz. It appears to be a compound vein similar to the Hed & Strand vein, consisting of a quartz portion on the hanging wall through which occur veins and nests of stibnite, and a stibnite portion on the footwall in which the stibnite includes some quartz. Gouge occurs on both walls and between the two portions of the vein.

The relative proportion of the quartz and stibnite phases of the vein varies from place to place. The stibnite portion is said to thin out entirely in places, but the quartz portion to persist. The quartz phase may show almost no stibnite, a little, or much. Some nests of very pure coarsely crystalline stibnite occur through the vein. The antimony mineralization was clearly later than the introduction of the gold-bearing quartz vein.

Few structural data can be had from the working, due to timbering, frosting, and sloughing of the walls. A number of fractures can be made out, striking N. 30°–60° E. and dipping 45°–80° W. Gouge marks some of the surfaces, and several are filled by thin seams of quartz. One fault surface, almost horizontal, extends for 150 feet. The wavy character of the surface is noticeable. Here as elsewhere irregularity seems to mark the fractures in schist and is reflected in the pinch and swell of the veins.

An opening has been made on an antimony-bearing quartz vein on the ridge west of Manila Creek, about half a mile south of the Sliscovich mine. A shallow shaft is now caved, and the ore is not seen in place. To judge by the material on the dump, the vein is probably not more than 8 inches thick.

A number of openings have been made on antimony veins by Henry Breen, who has staked six claims between Clear Creek and the divide between the right fork of Manila Creek and Hobson Creek. (See fig. 17.) Several trenches and pits on the east bank of Clear Creek expose antimony ore. These are sunk in chlorite schist at a limestone and schist contact. The limestone is bleached but not noticeably silicified. Details of the occurrence of the ore are obscured by wash in the trench. In one cut the mineralized rock is exposed for about 6 feet. The part seen is 2 feet thick; the base is concealed, being overlain by gravel. The bottom of the pit is about at the limestone contact. In the ore on the dump stibnite is associated with quartz-calcite gangue. The relations are not clear, owing to the decomposed nature of the material, but the occurrence is probably one of stibnite in quartz, which lies in the limestone at a schist contact. Some stibnite also occurs as veinlets cutting schist.

A dozen or more pits have been dug S. 70° E. of the Cold Creek locality and on the west slope of the ridge between Steep and Manila creeks. No ledge is exposed. The country rock is chlorite schist. Some ore on the dumps would seem to indicate a vein trending about N. 45° E. and possibly 2 feet wide. The ore consists of stibnite and quartz and is similar to the other antimony ore of the locality.

The Christophosen antimony property is at the head of Waterfall Creek, about 5 miles west of the Sliscovich mine. (See fig. 19.) The lode is in a schist country rock. Development work consists of two tunnels and several open cuts. The upper tunnel, now caved and inaccessible, is said to be 105 feet long; the lower tunnel is 270 feet long and driven N. 25° W. According to Mertie,[62]

> The tunnels are said to intersect a stockwork of iron-stained schist and quartz in which the stibnite occurs as lenticular masses. None of the antimony stringers are over 12 inches in thickness.
>
> In the open cuts it is apparent that a shear zone striking about N. 20° E. runs through the property. The attitude of the faults is about vertical. This zone is about 100 feet thick and is heavily iron-stained and mineralized by pyrite, pyrrhotite, stibnite, and gold.

Little is exposed in the one tunnel which is accessible. About 60 feet from the portal a quartz vein, apparently a lens, is intersected which strikes N. 50° E. and dips 80° S. It is followed for 12 feet along its strike and apparently stoped. No evidence of mineralization is seen. At 70 feet from the entry a 3-foot quartz vein strikes N. 70° W. and dips north. The tunnel is driven in graphitic schist and exposes little quartz, other than that mentioned. On the dump quartz of the later-vein type contains considerable pyrite.

A 2-foot vein of quartz containing a little stibnite is exposed by the open cuts. It strikes N. 60° E. and dips north but can be traced for only a short distance. Quartz containing some stibnite occurs on the dumps of several open cuts. The antimony mineral, here as elsewhere, is later than the quartz occurring as veins through it. Concentrations of well-crystallized stibnite show included and evidently contemporaneous crystals of clear quartz, some of which have good terminations. The mineralized schist of the shear zone is exposed in several open cuts. The rock is a graphitic quartz schist containing a little sericite. It is highly iron-stained. Very little

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[62] Mertie, J. B., jr., Lode mining and prospecting on Seward Peninsula: U. S. Geol. Survey Bull. 662, p. 439, 1916.

quartz-vein material occurs through the mineralized shear zone. According to Mertie,[63]

About 2½ tons of high-grade stibnite has been mined at this property and sold. The stibnite assays over 58 per cent antimony and carries also some gold and silver. Assays of the crushed schist and quartz in the shear zone also show a little gold.

ZINC-LEAD DEPOSIT ON STEEP CREEK.

The Nelson zinc-lead prospect is on the south slope of Mount Distin, near the headwaters of Steep Creek, a tributary of Goldbottom Creek (fig. 17). The developments consist of a 40-foot tunnel, a 30-foot open cut, and several pits. At the time of visit the tunnel was partly filled with water and inaccessible.

The country rock is limestone, with which is interbedded quartz-mica schist. Along a limestone and schist contact the limestone is bleached for a width of 30 feet. It strikes N. 15° W. and dips 18° W. Galena, sphalerite, and pyrite occur in the bleached limestone. At the mouth of the tunnel several stringers of sulphide occur parallel to the bedding of the limestone. The best exposure of the mineralized zone was seen in the open cut, where it is 6 feet wide. Almost every foot of face exposed, both laterally and vertically, shows sulphide, but the occurrence is very irregular and discontinuous. Veinlets of sulphide in the limestone parallel to its bedding constitute the usual mode of occurrence. One 2-inch veinlet of rather pure galena cuts the bedding and dips west at an angle of 35°. It is accompanied by gritty gouge, so badly decomposed that the relation of the sulphide to the gangue is not determinable. Viewed in the large the face of ore has a parallel structure, due to the arrangement of the veinlets. In detail the parallel zones are made up of smaller veinlets branching in all directions. The limestone here is not silicified. The sulphides occur as veinlets and replacement deposits in the limestone. Sphalerite is a common accessory mineral of the galena ores of Seward Peninsula but rarely occurs as the dominating sulphide. Mertie [64] has described such an occurrence in the headwater region of Penny River (fig. 19), as follows:

A zinc prospect consisting of two claims owned by G. Christophosen is on the ridge between Penny River and the head of Oregon Creek, at an elevation of 1,600 feet. The prospect lies N. 64° E. from the mouth of Nugget Creek.

The ore occurs in a small saddle on the ridge, in a narrow band of limestone country rock. A short distance away, on both sides of the saddle, the country rock is schist, and this rapid alternation of limestone and schist is a characteristic geologic feature in this vicinity. The strike of the country rock is N. 30° E. and the dip about 30° SW. There appears to be no well-defined vein but instead an iron-stained zone of mineralization, which trends approximately S. 8° E. The lode was located originally by float in the valley of Penny River. Development work consists mainly of a caved shallow shaft.

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[63] Mertie, J. B., jr., op. cit., p. 439.
[64] Idem,. p. 447.

The ore is sphalerite, with a little pyrite, in a quartz gangue. Two kinds of quartz are present—the white, opaque variety and the clear, vitreous quartz. The latter appears to be either contemporaneous with the ore deposition or at least closely connected with it genetically. The ore is said to carry also some gold.

NOME REGION.

The richest placers developed in Seward Peninsula are those within a few miles of Nome, notably on Anvil, Dexter, and Glacier creeks. Gold placers have also been found at several localities in a belt some 15 miles wide and extending inland for some 20 miles. It is to be expected that where the richest placers have been found the greatest concentration of gold in bedrock would also occur. In spite of this apparently favorable condition and a large amount of prospecting, no commercial lode deposits have yet been developed in this region. It should be remembered, however, that mining costs, owing chiefly to the high price of fuel, mine timber, supplies, and transportation, are very high. A lode whose gold content was so low as to prohibit profitable exploitation under these conditions of high cost might be of commercial value if such conditions could be changed. Most of the prospecting has been done in search of gold, and both vein and shear-zone deposits have been explored. A number of deposits of antimony (stibnite) and several of tungsten (scheelite) have also received some attention.

The nature of the antimony mineralization has been described on page 225 and need not be mentioned further. Tungsten has been found in bedrock at Sophie Gulch, on Twin Mountain Creek,[65] in lodes on the north side of Glacier Creek, and on the divide between Glacier and Anvil creeks. In the tin deposits of the York district wolframite is associated with cassiterite. In the deposit cited above the tungsten mineral is scheelite. At Sophie Gulch it occurs as a contemporaneous constituent of the quartz-calcite veins and accompanying sulphides which have impregnated the schist adjacent to the veins. At Good Luck Gulch it is recognized microscopically, associated with pyrite, arsenopyrite, and quartz, replacing limestone. As it seems to be contemporaneous with both the later quartz veins and the arsenopyrite, more than one age of tungsten mineralization is certain. Scheelite is fairly common in the placers. It is known at Bluff and in the Council, Solomon, and Fairhaven districts and is probably widely distributed, perhaps as a minor constituent of the later quartz veins.

Quartz veins are very common in the Nome region. They occur as stringers and as massive veins as much as several feet in width. Free-milling gold is known to be present in veins as narrow as a quarter of an inch, but the gold content of all veins so far as known is uniformly

[65] Mertie, J. B., jr., op. cit., p. 437.

low. The feldspar type of vein is best known in this district, and the conspicuous veins are usually of that type. No great enrichment of the country rock seems to be assignable to the quartz veins. It seems more probable that enrichment has been effected by the formation of mineralized shear zones and that the gold has been derived from arsenopyrite, which is the usual metallic mineral of those zones. Two types of shear zone in which sulphides are abundant are known. In one the ore occurs in the schist; in the other it occurs along walls of the later quartz veins.

The relation of arsenopyrite to the later quartz veins is similar to that of stibnite. After the deposition of the veins movement reopened the fissures and shattered the veins, and solutions bearing arsenopyrite, gold, a little pyrite, and very little quartz were introduced along the reopened fissures, filled fractures in the veins, and impregnated the schist wall. Unaltered sulphides in these deposits are rarely exposed, and details of the associations can not be seen. The deposits appear at the surface as zones of decomposed schist, stained red by iron oxide. The intense mineralization as shown by the decomposition extended for only a few feet from the vein wall and diminished rapidly with increasing distance from the vein. Where the fresh sulphide can be seen it is chiefly arsenopyrite. The decomposed schist pans gold. Polished and thin sections have not shown free gold to be included in or associated with the sulphides, and the gold mineralization may in part be independent of the sulphides. Mertie [66] cites a mill run made on one of these deposits in which the sulphides are said to have assayed $48 to $65 a ton in gold.

The mineralization of the shear zone in schist is comparable to that of the schist adjacent to the later veins, which has just been described. Sulphides, chiefly arsenopyrite, impregnate the schist. Stringers of quartz cut the schist, usually not in great numbers, but at Sophie Gulch and on Glacier Creek zones of this type are exposed in which the veinlets form regular stockworks. The limits of the zones are not well defined, the sulphide mineralization having gradually diminished with increasing distance from the main surfaces of shear. The weathered outcrops are stained with iron oxide. According to report, the schists show a gold content on assay, and gold can be panned from the decomposed materials.

Many lode claims have been staked in the Nome region during the last 20 years, and on some of these claims considerable underground exploration has been done. Though a little gold ore has been mined and milled from some of these prospects, and a few tons of antimony has been produced, no commercial ore bodies have been blocked out. For the sake of elucidating the principles governing the distri-

[66] Mertie, J. B., jr., Lode mining and prospecting on Seward Peninsula: U. S. Geol. Survey Bull. 662, p. 432, 1916.

bution and mode of occurrence of gold in the bedrock, the principal prospects will be described. At the time of the writer's visit to this field in 1920 many of the old workings were caved and inaccessible. Fortunately, some record of the lodes is available, through the reports of Mertie [67] and Chapin,[68] who examined the region in 1913 and 1914. In the following descriptions extensive use will be made of these reports. The locations of the prospects here to be described, which lie close to Nome, are given on the accompanying maps (figs. 18 and 19).

Attempt to find a gold-bearing calcite lode is shown by some openings made by M. Charles at the head of Cooper Gulch, about half a mile east of Anvil Mountain. Here there are some small

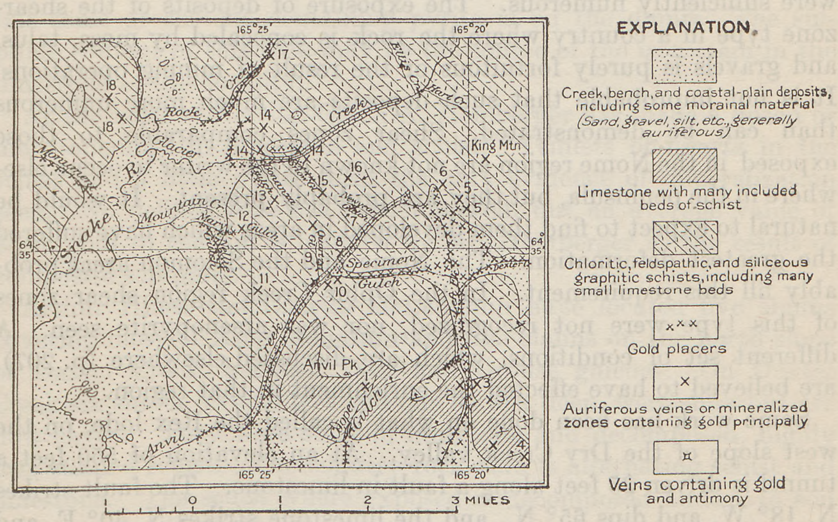

FIGURE 18.—Geologic sketch map of Anvil Creek and vicinity, 4 miles north of Nome.

reticulated veins of calcite which strike N. 30° E. Nothing encouraging the hope of finding a valuable lode was seen at this locality. The calcite veins and stringers carry some quartz and are iron-stained, showing the presence of a sulphide.

It is important to note the relation between the arsenopyrite deposits and some of the more productive placers of the peninsula as observed in the lodes at Bluff, at Koyana Creek, and on West Creek in the Solomon region (pp. 186, 198). The arsenopyrite-bearing rock is perhaps the most conspicuous type of mineralized rock in the Nome region, where it is known to occur on Goldbottom Creek, Good Luck Gulch, Boulder Creek, Gold Hill, Rock Creek, Sophie Gulch, Snow Gulch, Glacier Creek, Mountain Creek, New

[67] Mertie, J. B., jr., Lode and placer mining on Seward Peninsula: U. S. Geol. Survey Bull. 662, pp. 425-440, 1917.

[68] Chapin, Theodore, Lode developments on Seward Peninsula: U. S. Geol. Survey Bull. 592, pp. 397-407, 1914.

Years Gulch, and Anvil Creek and is suspected of being the source of the iron-stained schist of Dexter and Dry creeks. The known distribution of arsenopyrite in the Nome region as the principal sulphide mineral of the later quartz veins and of the shear zones suggests that it may be the same mineralization which has locally enriched the bedrock in this area and from which much of the gold of the rich placers has been derived. For many years prospectors have postulated a mother lode that supplied the gold for the rich placers of the Snake River drainage basin and the beach deposits. It is improbable that any one continuous lode exists. Relative enrichments such as are cited here would be sufficient to effect a tremendous concentration in the stream gravels if such enrichments were sufficiently numerous. The exposure of deposits of the shear-zone type in a country where the rock is concealed by moss, talus, and gravels is purely fortuitous or the result of mining operations. It is not improbable that such deposits are much more numerous than can be demonstrated. Shear zones comparable to those exposed in the Nome region are not known to the writer to occur elsewhere in the peninsula, but they are probably present. It would be natural to expect to find them developed in areas which have suffered the greatest deformation. The Nome and the Solomon areas probably fill this requirement. In the Ophir Creek region shear zones of this type were not recognized, nor was arsenopyrite seen. A different set of conditions, which are discussed elsewhere (p. 207), are believed to have effected the enrichment in that region.

Some work has been done on what is called the Rex lode, on the west slope of the Dry Creek valley. At an elevation of 550 feet a tunnel is driven 25 feet along a fault in limestone. The fault strikes N. 18° W. and dips 65° N., and the limestone strikes N. 40° E. and dips 10° N. A slightly iron-stained calcite vein, 1 foot or less in width, lies along the fault. The owner claims an assay of $3 to $5 in gold to the ton on this material. Another 25-foot tunnel 50 feet lower exposes the same vein. About 200 feet south of this second tunnel three tunnels have been driven on different veins and are now caved. One was 180 feet long. At an elevation of 480 feet a tunnel is now being driven N. 70° W. along an 8-inch vein of calcite. Here only calcite has been seen, and no quartz or sulphide minerals were observed.

A number of claims are staked on the Red lode, along the valley of Dry Creek, between elevations of 400 and 500 feet. East of the road just below East Gulch a pit exposes iron-stained schist similar to that observed on Dexter Creek. Both limestone and schist occur on the dump, and the hematitic material is probably related to the contact. A shaft 40 feet above the pit just mentioned is now caved. Limestone and quartz-chlorite schist but practically no quartz occur on the dump. On the east side of Dry Creek, at an elevation of 500 feet, a 25-foot tunnel, now caved, and a 30-foot trench 50 feet above it have been opened on a fault zone in limestone. The fault zone strikes N. 40° W. and can be traced on the hillside. The limestone along the fault is brecciated and stained by hematite and limonite, which are accompanied by considerable calcite. No sulphides were seen. The oxide mineralization here probably resulted from ground waters circulating along this shattered zone and is illustrative of what may be the conditions giving rise to the iron ores of the Cub Bear mine on Cripple River.

An open cut at an elevation of about 770 feet on the east side of Dry Creek exposes iron-stained limestone. The cut is now caved, but some greenstone containing pyrite is on the dump. The sulphide content of this rock may be the source of the iron stain in the limestone at this locality.

At the head of Newton Gulch A. Homberger has made a dozen or more openings in limestone and schist. Veinlets of quartz in the schist and a little pyrite form the only evidence of mineralization seen. No defined lode has been followed, but an average value of $5 in gold to the ton is claimed by Mr. Homberger as the result of composite sampling.

Arthur Hines and Charles McLaughlin have located five claims covering most of King Mountain and five claims on the north slope of Dexter Creek, between Deer and Grouse gulches. On Dexter Creek six shafts, five 20 feet and one 56 feet deep, were sunk but are now caved. They were sunk in limestone and decomposed, highly iron-stained schist. The country rock here is alternating schist and limestone. The schist where exposed is decomposed almost to soil and stained yellow. Little quartz is seen, and the decomposed material is said not to pan a color, but to assay $3 to $24 a ton in gold. The owners also claim that it contains platinum. Platinum in rock of this type would be entirely exceptional, and its presence or absence should be determined by a competent chemist.

South of these claims, at the mouth of Grouse Gulch, there is an old tunnel at creek level, said to have been 400 feet long and to have cut decomposed schist that showed an average of $11.80 a ton in gold for 150 assays. This schist is about half calcite and half quartz, with a very little sericite.

The bedrock of Dexter Creek is alternating limestone and schist. Very little quartz is seen, but the thin schist zones are highly mineralized and much decomposed. On Grass Gulch and Left Fork the rock is chiefly limestone with a little interbedded schist and almost no quartz. The limestone is bleached white at certain horizons, chiefly at schist contacts. Miners working here say that the richest placer ground is found on the bleached limestone.

Bursick & Kern have made 8 or 10 openings at the base of King Mountain on the south and southwest sides. All are in schist and expose very little quartz. No evidence of mineralization was observed. A 20-foot tunnel in schist exposes a few inches of quartz but no trace of mineralization. At an elevation of 640 feet Bursick & Kern have a cut 30 by 50 feet in white limestone. The adjacent schist is well mineralized. The limestone resembles the bleached limestone that accompanies the mineralized rock elsewhere. The bed is 4 feet thick but is neither silicified nor mineralized. On Nekula Gulch, a quarter of a mile to the southwest, is the Caribou Bill claim, one of the richest placers mined in the district.[69]

New Years Gulch, a tributary to Anvil Creek, is cut through a zone of mineralized schist and quartz-feldspar veins similar to the zones exposed on Glacier and Rock creeks. The zone is 25 feet wide and strikes N. 40° W. (?). The iron-stained schist is said to pan gold. The vein material is reported to carry arsenopyrite and pyrite, but none was seen by the writer. An assay made for the Survey on this oxidized schist did not show any gold.

At the Hendrickson prospect, on the north side of Anvil Creek between New Years and Specimen gulches, a 150-foot adit exposes a little quartz, limestone, and schist. The limestone is highly mineralized. Pyrite and arsenopyrite occur abundantly in small crystals in a slightly schistose type of limestone, and pyrite occurs also in a nonschistose phase. The quartz shows some arsenopyrite mineralization. According to Mertie,[70] the adit is reported to crosscut a belt of mineralized country rock for 120 feet, and within this belt lies a rich zone 15 feet wide, which assayed $11 to $12 a ton in gold. A shaft on the opposite side of the creek is filled with water.

On the east bank of Anvil Creek just below New Years Gulch hydraulic work exposes much jointed schist that is well mineralized and on weathering is discolored. In some places the discoloration is more intense than in others and might well represent higher concentration of sulphides, of which New Years Gulch is an extreme example. Quartz veinlets occur throughout the schist.

Some of the gold from the hydraulic bench on Anvil Creek just above Specimen Gulch is attached to quartz, some is clean, and one nugget showed only hematite in the crevices. All the nuggets are angular and probably local. The attached material suggests that the gold may be derived in part from the quartz stringers and in part from the sulphides.

On the north bank of Anvil Creek, opposite the mouth of Specimen Gulch, a tunnel 70 feet long has been driven in graphitic schist. The

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69 Collier, A. J., Gold placers of parts of Seward Peninsula, Alaska: U. S. Geol. Survey Bull. 328, p. 200, 1908.

70 Mertie, J. B., jr., op. cit., p. 431.

opening was made by J. C. Widstedt in 1899, and several tons of antimony was mined. The stibnite occurred in kidneys in the schist but not in large quantities. The schist in the vicinity of the stibnite kidneys is well mineralized by pyrite and arsenopyrite. Samples of the ore show coarsely crystalline stibnite and a little pyrite. It is said to have assayed $72 a ton in gold, $28 in silver, and some copper. Little can be seen in the tunnel, because of the sediment covering the walls.

On the west bank of Quartz Gulch, about halfway up the gulch, a shaft was sunk by Mr. Widstedt on an antimony-bearing quartz vein. The shaft is now full of water. The material on the dump consists of quartz, schist, and stibnite. The stibnite is finely crystalline and is associated with pyrite and a little arsenopyrite. In the quartz rock stibnite occurs in veinlets. Where stibnite predominates the relations of the quartz are not clear.

On the hillside northwest of this locality is another shaft now caved, out of which antimony is said to have been mined; only schist shows on the dump. On the east side of Quartz Gulch a small open cut exposes several parallel quartz stringers in iron-stained schist. The decomposed zone is 12 feet wide. Finely crystalline stibnite occurs in tiny veinlets in the quartz.

On the west side of Anvil Creek opposite the mouth of Specimen Gulch an open cut exposes a shear zone in schist. The schist is about half calcite and half quartz, with much graphite and a little muscovite. It is badly crumpled and iron stained. Numerous indistinct quartz veinlets cut the schist. Pyrite was the only fresh sulphide seen. Beginning 100 feet south of this exposure and continuing for several hundred feet a series of these sheared and iron-stained zones in schist are exposed by a cut made in building a road along the side hill. The occurrence is similar to that of the Boulder lode and other sheared zones which are known to pan gold and is probably representative of a type of sulphide mineralization common in the Nome district but not generally exposed. On the west side of Anvil Creek below Quartz Gulch several tunnels have been driven but are now caved and inaccessible. No ore was seen on the dumps. One of these tunnels was evidently driven on a limestone and schist contact. Quartz-calcite veinlets occur in both limestone and schist, and sulphides are prominent in both. At the mouth of Quartz Gulch on the Scotia claim a 10-foot tunnel exposes an 8-inch quartz-calcite vein, cutting schist. Both schist and quartz contain pyrite and arsenopyrite.

On the east bank of Anvil Creek a quarter of a mile below Specimen Gulch two shafts have been sunk by Charles Olsen on antimony-gold-quartz veins. One, 54 feet deep, is now caved; the other, 100 feet deep, is full of water. The 54-foot shaft, according to Mr. Olsen, was sunk on a 4-foot vein of quartz that strikes a little west of north and carried only a little gold. At a depth of 49 feet stibnite was encountered which continued to 54 feet, where the shaft was abandoned. The stibnite portion of the vein was more than 5 feet wide. The 100-foot shaft is 100 feet west of the 54-foot shaft. It encountered stibnite at 60 feet, which continued on the hanging wall to 100 feet, and at that depth the shaft was abandoned because of water. These veins dipped west and had 10 feet of talc schist on the hanging wall. The ore occurring on the dump is very finely crystalline stibnite with some pyrite and quartz through it. It is said to have assayed $21 to the ton in gold, $2.05 in silver, and some copper.

On the ridge between Anvil Creek and Snake River, southwest of Quartz Gulch, at an elevation of 650 feet, a big ledge of white, opaque (bull) quartz has been exposed by Peterson & Lamoreaux in an open cut and short tunnel. This body of quartz is 8 feet or more thick, strikes S. 45° W., and dips about 45° NW. It is heavily iron stained. The vein is not clean cut but shows stringers going off into the black schist country rock. Strongly developed fractures striking N. 35° W. are present in the quartz, as well as other irregular fractures and faults. This quartz has the appearance of having suffered considerable metamorphism and is probably an old quartz vein formed prior to the gold mineralization of the region. It is reported that galena was found disseminated in some of this quartz. A near-by shaft, about 40 feet deep, is filled with water.[71]

The Eureka and Borasco claims, usually known as the Jorgensen property, lie on Mary Gulch, a tributary of Mountain Creek. Here several openings have been made on quartz veins in mineralized mica schist and marmarized limestone. Oligoclase feldspar is prominent in some of the vein rock. Pyrite, arsenopyrite, and galena occur in veins cutting the quartz, and Mertie [72] reports scheelite from the same locality. The galena occurs in veinlets in the quartz but was not seen in association with the other sulphide and may represent a different period of mineralization. Scheelite may belong to either the quartz or the sulphide period of mineralization. The schist is highly mineralized with arsenopyrite and pyrite. The sulphides are concentrated along the vein, and in the weathered outcrop the schist adjacent to the vein is altered to hematitic material. This intensely iron-stained zone may extend a foot or more from the vein. It is reported that gold can be panned from this rock and that the vein carries gold. Shearing along the vein is apparent. The order of mineralization would seem to be as follows: Quartz, probably carrying a little gold and scheelite, was introduced first. Later movement, in part at least along the vein, reopened the fissure and shattered the quartz. Contemporaneous with or later than this movement sulphides carrying gold filled fissures in the vein and impregnated the

[71] Mertie, J. B., jr., op. cit., p. 432.
[72] Idem, p. 435.

schist wall rock. The gold content of this and of most of the quartz-feldspar veins of the area about which anything could be learned seems to occur chiefly in the sulphides.

About 200 feet above the forks of the creek a cut exposes quartz in limestone. The habit of the quartz occurring in the two formations is well contrasted. In the schist the veins are extremely irregular in the strike and dip and are subject to rapid pinching and swelling. In the limestone the veins are, as a rule, more clean cut but in places subject to irregularities. At this locality the quartz has followed in general the bedding of the limestone, but in two places it cuts the bedding and fills irregular openings. The quartz in the limestone shows some galena but seems to be less well mineralized than that exposed in the schist.

The Golden Eagle and Gold Bug claims of the West group are near the head of Bonanza Gulch, half a mile south of Glacier Creek, near the top of the divide between Anvil Creek and Nome River. Here a 120-foot adit has been driven on a vein of the quartz-feldspar type. It shows a little pyrite and arsenopyrite. The country rock is quartz-mica-chlorite schist and where exposed, adjacent to the vein, is intensely iron stained. This soft hematitic material is said to pan gold. The width of the mineralized schist zone is not determinable. It strikes about N. 70° E. The face of the drift exposes a nearly vertical 8-inch vein in a zone of soft, highly altered schist. The exposures do not show the structural features.

About 200 yards north of the west end of Hot Air bench, between Glacier and Rock creeks, a trench exposes a quartz-feldspar vein in which sulphides are abundant. Arsenopyrite and pyrite occur in veinlets that cut the feldspar and quartz. There is a noticeable association of the sulphides with the feldspar of the vein. The relations of the vein to the bedrock could not be determined.

On the south side of Glacier Creek above Snow Gulch several short tunnels are driven on quartz-feldspar veins. In one tunnel 100 yards above the gulch the vein exposed is 1½ feet thick. Arsenopyrite and pyrite occur in veinlets through the quartz and feldspar of the vein.

On the north bank of Glacier Creek, opposite the mouth of Snow Gulch, a tunnel driven 20 feet in schist exposes a 1-foot quartz-feldspar vein. The country rock, quartz-chlorite schist, strikes N. 60° W. and dips 20° N. The vein strikes east and dips south at an angle ranging from practically nothing to 45°. The schist is highly folded and irregular. The vein pinches and swells from 3 inches to 1 foot within the 6 feet of length exposed. An 8-inch lens of quartz is exposed above the vein but extends for only 2 feet. A 1-inch stringer dips north and merges with the vein. The quartz shows little or no mineralization, but the schist adjacent to it is well mineralized with arsenopyrite and pyrite.

A zone of mineralized schist impregnated by quartz is exposed in a small gully on the south bank of Glacier Creek just above the mouth of Snow Gulch. The occurrence is similar to that of Sophie Gulch. The zone appears to strike N. 30° E. Its width is not determinable. The schist has been literally shattered, and the fractures strike and dip in all directions. The schist included between veinlets is commonly curled and contorted along what probably are the surfaces of greatest movement. The veins are of the quartz-feldspar variety and from 1 to 3 inches in width. They are extremely irregular, pinching and swelling, forming lenses and blowouts, and ending as abruptly as they begin. They are all contemporaneous, branching and anastomosing and conforming with the fractures in the schist. The fissures filled are clean cut, and the vein walls are well defined. Between the veins and especially adjacent to them the schist is intensely iron stained. Only extremely decomposed material can be seen, so that the nature of the sulphide mineralization by which it was formed is not determinable. It is probably another exposure of that type of rock containing disseminated sulphides, which in places is known to carry gold and which may be very common, as the softness of the material would permit its exposure only under exceptional conditions. Both moss and talus would effectually conceal it.

The quartz veins are probably later than any considerable movement along the intruded zone, as no offsetting was observed. The sulphide mineralization of the schist was, at least in part, later than the introduction of the quartz, as arsenopyrite, the most abundant sulphide of these zones, occurs as veins in the quartz. How far the sulphide mineralization may have extended from the vein has not been determined, but to judge from the intensity of the decomposition colors it was largely concentrated within a few inches of the vein. This criterion is fairly reliable, as water circulation is not confined to the vein fissures, and the wall rock is cut in great detail by incipient fractures and is decidedly porous rather than dense, even in its most unaltered parts.

The localization of the schist mineralization largely along the fissures filled by quartz indicates the same control for the sulphide mineralizing solution as for the quartz. The old avenues of entrance were open, whether due to incomplete filling of the fissures by quartz or to later shattering that affected the vein walls. Free gold can be panned from many of these zones of decomposed schist. The quartz-feldspar veins are known to carry gold. Whether the gold is the product of a separate mineralization or related to the sulphide mineralization is not definitely known. According to Chapin,[73] the sulphides at the New Era tunnel do not pan free gold. The decomposed schists carrying the same sulphides in many places pan gold. At Bluff (p. 186) the ore is similar to that which is in part free milling and in part base.

At creek level, just west of Hot Air bench, on the north bank of Glacier Creek, two 30-foot open cuts and a 15-foot adit expose a vein of the quartz-feldspar type. The country rock is chlorite schist, which strikes east and dips 40° S. The vein is 8 inches thick and conforms in general with the irregular strike and dip of the schist. A fault in the schist at the tunnel face strikes N. 70° W. and dips 45° N. The vein has been terminated by the fault gouge on the west side of the drift and cuts the fault surface on the east side of the drift. It is almost certain from observations made on this vein that it is later than any period of serious deformation of the schist. It is shattered but not displaced. No sulphide mineralization of the vein was observed.

The Hot Air bench, on the north bank of Glacier Creek, was a large producer of placer gold. The bedrock is schist, and quartz is not plentiful. The schist is mineralized, but the shear zones observed in the bedrock of Rock and Anvil creeks are not seen here. It hardly seems possible that this gold could have been of local derivation. Microscopically the schist proves to be a quartz-albite variety in which chlorite is the most abundant micaceous mineral and muscovite is prominent. Sillimanite and titanite occur as accessories, and arsenopyrite seems to be the sulphide.

The New Era tunnel, on the west side of Snow Gulch, near its head, is now caved and inaccessible. The country rock of Snow Gulch is a succession of limestones and schists, and the tunnel is driven along one of the schist zones. Quartz, limestone, and calcareous schist on the dump are not representative of the mineralization, which is described by Chapin[74] as follows:

> The lode, as judged by specimens from the dump, is composed of stringers of quartz with much included schist, both quartz and schist containing considerable pyrite and arsenopyrite. The arsenopyrite occurs as small irregular bunches and as isolated crystals in both vein matter and schist and appears to be contemporaneous with the quartz. Some of the pyrite may perhaps have the same relation, but most of it is of later origin than the arsenopyrite and fills fractures which penetrate that mineral. A small amount of albite occurs with the quartz.
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> *   *   *   *   *   *   *
>
> No visible gold could be detected in any of the samples taken from this tunnel, nor can free gold be obtained on crushing the ore. The gold is contained in the sulphide and extends into the wall rock for a considerable distance.

[73] Chapin, Theodore, Lode developments on Seward Peninsula: U. S. Geol. Survey Bull. 592, p. 400, 1914.
[74] Idem, p. 400.

West of Snow Gulch, at an elevation of about 450 feet, a trench 50 feet long and 12 feet deep at the face exposes a quartz-calcite vein in limestone. A 12-foot shaft and a 20-foot shaft on the strike of the trench expose the ledge for 100 feet to the southwest. The vein is 2 or 3 feet thick, strikes N. 20° E., and dips 15°–30° W. It conforms in general with the bedding of the limestone. A very little sulphide was seen in both limestone and quartz. Continuing along the direction of these openings, in a line N. 25° E., twenty or more pits have been sunk in quartz-muscovite schist. A little quartz, about equivalent to the quartz occurring in the schist anywhere, is on the dump at each opening, but no ledge is exposed. The pits extend for half a mile or more.

On one of the Big Four claims, on the east side of Snow Gulch above the Miocene Ditch tunnel, a 20-foot shaft and several open cuts have exposed a quartz vein system in limestone. The veins are of the quartz-calcite type, are of open texture, and contain a little sulphide. Free gold was observed in one vein at the contact of the vein and the limestone. In the shaft the veins occur dominantly with the bedding of the limestone but are also transverse to it. They appear to be fairly continuous and not to exceed a few inches in width. The limestone is underlain by schist, and several openings are made in the contact. The schist is highly mineralized.

Where the Government road crosses Rock Creek there is an outcrop of limestone which shows considerable sulphide mineralization. The mineralized limestone is dark blue to black, much contorted, slickensided on some surfaces, and cut by small veinlets of quartz. The microscope shows that it is partly replaced by quartz, being about half quartz and half calcite. The only sulphide observed is pyrite.

The folding in the limestone and schist is exposed on the creek bank. Along the crest of an anticline, where the limestone is in contact with schist, both rocks are unusually well mineralized. The schist resembles that of the Boulder and California lodes, being highly iron stained. No well-defined quartz veinlets occur in the mineralized rock, and apparently the mineralizing solutions contained little or no silica. Here, as at Good Luck Gulch, however, the sulphide accompanies the quartz in replacing limestone. The crest of a fold is here seen to have afforded an opening favorable to the introduction of the mineralizing solutions.

On the north bank of Rock Creek, 200 yards northwest of the road crossing, a caved 10-foot shaft exposes a 2-foot vein of the quartz-feldspar type. The vein strikes N. 30° W. and dips 90°. Several openings south of the creek are along the strike of this vein and possibly on it.

On the south bank of Rock Creek, just below Sophie Gulch, two tunnels, a shaft, and an open cut have been made on a quartz-feldspar vein. The tunnels are driven S. 75° E. and S. 25° E. about 100 feet apart, and the shaft is probably sunk at their intersection. Both tunnels are caved, and the shaft is filled with water. The vein strikes N. 65° E. and dips 50° S. It is partly exposed by a cut and appears to be 3 or 4 feet thick. The feldspar of the vein is albite. It also contains a little pyrite, arsenopyrite, and ilmenite. The country rock is quartz-chlorite schist, which is iron stained at the surface. Material on the dump of the shaft contains fresh sulphides, the ilmenite occurring on fractured surfaces in the quartz.

This is the property referred to by Mertie as the Stipec and Kotovic property. He says: [75]

The tunnel cuts a 12-foot vein of white opaque quartz which is greatly shattered and iron stained. A mill run on this material has shown it to contain 250 pounds of concentrates to the ton of rock milled and $6.25 a ton in free gold. The concentrates, which are chiefly arsenopyrite and pyrite, are said to assay from $48 to $65 a ton in gold. It is said by the owners that the schist in the mineralized zone carries more gold than the mineralized quartz.

In a hydraulic cut (Reinisch pit) on the north bench of Rock Creek opposite Sophie Gulch free gold was observed in a quartz stringer cutting black schist made up essentially of quartz, muscovite, and carbon. The stringer consists of white, vitreous quartz, about half an inch wide, which abounds in openings. In places the fissure is clearly incompletely filled, well-terminated crystals projecting from one wall, while no quartz occurs on the wall opposite. The gold seems to occur on the crystalline quartz and to be later than the quartz, but the evidence is too meager to warrant a positive statement of this relation. The miners report that gold usually occurs between the quartz and the wall rock.

Mertie [76] has described the occurrence of scheelite on Sophie Gulch as follows:

The property known as the Sophie lode, on Sophie Gulch, a tributary of Rock Creek, consists of one patented placer claim and two lode claims. Residually weathered tungsten ore was mined here by placer operations in 1916. * * * The results of microscopic work on this lode will be included in a later report.

The country rock at this place is an iron-stained, thin-cleaving, foliated mica schist. the cleavage of which, measured at one place in the pit, strikes north and dips 23° E, It shows also a vertical jointing trending N. 35° W. Many well-developed fissures are present, striking N. 45° E. and nearly vertical or dipping steeply to the northwest. These are filled with iron-stained shattered quartz. Such veins range in thickness from a fraction of an inch to a foot or more. There is great irregularity in these quartz stringers, most of them thickening in places and thinning in others; also stringers run out into the country rock. Iron-stained fault planes striking N. 18° W. and dipping 54° E. cut both the country rock and the quartz stringers, and along these there is little or no quartz but considerable iron-stained gouge material.

[75] Mertie, J. B., jr., Lode and placer mining on Seward Peninsula, U. S. Geol. Survey Bull. 662, p. 433, 1917.

[76] Idem, p. 436.

The scheelite occurs for the most part along the sides of quartz stringers and disseminated in the mica schist. Locally the scheelite is present in the quartz. It is reported that gold occurs in the iron-stained schist outside of the zone of scheelite mineralization, but no gold is reported to have been found in the scheelite-bearing rock. Besides scheelite, however, arsenopyrite, pyrite, and galena are found in the form of later veinlets definitely cutting the quartz.

It is said by the owners that the belt of scheelite mineralization is about 50 feet wide and has so far been traced about 500 feet in each direction from the open cut. The trend of this zone appears to be that of the iron-stained quartz veins and stringers—that is, about N. 45° E. The northwest side of the lode is reported to carry more scheelite than the other side. Two shafts—one 32 feet deep, northeast of the open cut, and the other 28 feet deep, southwest of the cut—have been driven to ascertain the value of the ore along the lode. It is said that these shafts show a higher content of scheelite in depth than at the surface.

The writer can supplement the above description by his own observations. The veins are all contemporaneous, cut the schist in all directions, and form complex patterns on the walls of the cut. They are of the quartz-feldspar and quartz-calcite types, are badly shattered, and crumble under the pick. Adjacent to the quartz and extending several inches or a foot from the vein the schist is intensely iron-stained, having the appearance of hematite. Where the veins are close together the entire body of intervening schist may be so altered. Arsenopyrite, galena, and pyrite occur in veinlets through the quartz. Arsenopyrite is also seen in the wall rock of the vein and is probably the mineral from which the hematite is derived. The iron-stained and highly mineralized schist is said to carry gold. A specimen of scheelite-bearing quartz vein material from this locality showed the scheelite to be yellowish brown and the quartz clear and colorless. White calcite is a prominent constituent of the vein rock.

At the mouth of Sophie Gulch a tunnel has been driven on a quartz-feldspar vein in a zone of mineralized and highly iron-stained schist. The tunnel is caved and inaccessible. Vein material on the dump contains arsenopyrite.

Just east of the mouth of Sophie Gulch a hydraulic pit on the south side of Rock Creek exposes highly mineralized chlorite schist that strikes N. 40° E. and dips 20° E. The schist is cut by 23 quartz veins from 1 to 8 inches wide in an exposed width of 28 feet. The veins are roughly parallel and alined about with the strike of the schist. Arsenopyrite, galena, and stibnite were observed in the veins, which are of the open-textured quartz-feldspar type. The schist is mineralized, and hematite occurs along the vein walls. Concentrates from the sluice boxes at this pit are chiefly scheelite, quartz, and schist. Placer gold with very delicate structure and attached to quartz also occurs and is undoubtedly derived from a local bedrock source.

Half a mile above Sophie Gulch, on the south bank of Rock Creek, a tunnel is driven S. 55° E. in chlorite schist. The working is inaccessible. Ore on the dump is quartz-feldspar vein material containing arsenopyrite and pyrite. The schist adjacent to the quartz is impregnated with fresh sulphides and is in all probability the equivalent of the hematitic schist which is of common occurrence on Rock Creek and which pans gold in many localities. The arsenopyrite mineralization seems to have been later than the vein and probably followed the same fissure as the quartz.

Two openings have been made on quartz veins on Gold Hill, in the Snake River valley between Monument and Thompson creeks. At an elevation of about 150 feet, opposite the mouth of Rock Creek, an open cut exposes a vein of the quartz-feldspar type. No sulphides were observed in the quartz, but it is said to assay $3.50 to the ton in gold. The country rock is much contorted quartz-chlorite schist, which in the vicinity of the vein is highly iron-stained and is said to pan free gold. The vein is about 2 feet thick, strikes N. 25° W., and dips south. The attitude of the vein is conformable with the structure of the schist, being very irregular and changing from horizontal to vertical where exposed. Small quartz veinlets ramify through the decomposed schist in the vicinity of the vein. Near the top of the hill a trench exposes a similar vein in highly decomposed and iron-stained schist.

On the north bank of Albion Creek, tributary to Rock Creek, a shaft said to be 50 feet deep has been sunk on a quartz vein. The shaft is now partly filled with water. No vein is in sight, and only a little quartz and some slightly mineralized schist appear on the dump. The vein is said to have given assays of $120 a ton in gold but to have pinched out. No work has been done on the property for years. The country rock is chlorite schist. Quartz stringers are abundant in the schist at this locality.

Two openings have been made in schist and in vein quartz at the mouth of Good Luck Gulch, a tributary of Snake River from the east 3 miles north of Rock Creek. The southerly opening consists of a 40-foot trench trending N. 75° W. The banks of the trench are caved, and no rock is exposed in place. The schist is highly iron-stained and decomposed. Some quartz vein material occurs on the dump, and several sacks of ore apparently from this working are stacked on the river bank near by. The material is highly mineralized. Pyrite and arsenopyrite occur in a gangue of quartz and calcite, through which muscovite in small flakes is scattered in considerable amount. Arsenopyrite is the more abundant of the sulphides. A single small crystal of scheelite is seen in thin section. In hand specimen the rock is blue and calcareous. It is probably a replaced limestone, but there is no field evidence to verify this conclusion.

Several pits along the strike of the lode expose no rock in place. Material on the dump includes iron-stained schist and a little banded quartz rock containing pyrite and similar in appearance to the copper ores of Copper Mountain (p. 217). The bedrock occurrence of this material can not be seen.

About 100 yards north of these pits a trench 30 feet long is driven N. 85° W. along the strike of a vein which dips 70° S. The vein is almost covered by débris. Where exposed it is 1 foot wide at the surface and 3 inches wide where it disappears in the trench floor. Material on the dump indicates that the vein may have had a thickness of 3 or 4 feet in one place. The vein is of the quartz-feldspar type and shows openings lined with quartz crystals. Pyrite and arsenopyrite occur through the quartz. The including rock is highly mineralized quartz-mica schist that strikes N. 75° W. and dips 25° N.

Many of the streams tributary to Nome River from the west between Alpha Creek on the south and Last Chance Creek on the north carry auriferous gravels, and these have locally yielded much placer gold. These creeks therefore apparently traverse a zone which is locally auriferous about 8 miles in length and 2 miles in maximum width. More accurate evidence of bedrock mineralization has been found at many localities in the form of auriferous zones and small quartz veins. Moffit [77] in 1906 noted the presence of mineralized bedrock in this zone as follows:

A large amount of highly mineralized quartz is present in schist exposures south of Good Luck Gulch. The quartz is much crushed and in general occurs as stringers, although at one place a mass 4 or 5 feet wide is exposed in a small outcrop. A prospect hole shows much rotten iron-stained quartz. The schist also is filled with iron oxide, in which some pyrite still remains. Panning shows the presence of gold.

Several quartz veins, the largest of which is about 5 inches thick, occur near the mouth of Boulder Creek. Assay values of $3 to $4 a ton in gold were obtained from samples taken here.

On Pioneer Gulch the best ground of the residual placers occurs just below a number of small quartz stringers cutting the schist bedrock. One of these stringers 3 inches thick showed considerable free gold. Similar occurrences are known in other parts of the region, but nowhere has the number or size of the mineralized veins been sufficiently great to constitute an ore body.

Moffit [78] noted the presence of scheelite and hematite pebbles associated with the placer gold of Bangor Creek, which contained fragments of scheelite weighing half a pound. The placers of Last Chance Creek, he states, carry scheelite, hematite, magnetite, and pyrite.

In 1907 Claus Rodine found a gold-bearing ledge on Twin Mountain Creek. Since then gold-bearing lodes have been found at a number of other localities in this belt. The general features of the bedrock geology are simple, for the belt is made up almost entirely of schist,

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[77] Moffit, F. H., Geology of the Nome and Grand Central quadrangles, Alaska: U. S. Geol. Survey Bull. 533, p. 131, 1913.

[78] Idem, p. 87.

which here and there includes some beds or lenses of limestone. There are, however, considerable local variations in the geology, for the schist includes feldspathic, micaceous, chloritic, and graphitic varieties. The schists in general trend north and are closely folded and much faulted. The evidence in hand goes to show that the mineralized zones are in general parallel to the schist, though there are some local variations from this strike.

Alpha Creek, the most southerly of the streams in this belt, has produced considerable placer gold. This gold is but little worn and probably of local bedrock derivation. The creek is cut in gravel, and the country rock is exposed only where a small area has been cleaned in mining. The bedrock exposed is chiefly quartz-mica schist and is well mineralized. Many quartz stringers cut the schist. The quartz is of a clear vitreous granular variety containing some fresh and considerable decomposed sulphide. A. C. Stewart is said to have had $12 assays on some of these stringers, but a composite sample of the quartz veinlets assayed for the Survey did not show any gold content. A little limestone and a little quartz from a larger vein than any seen occurs in the wash, but the gravel consists largely of the local schist and quartz stringer material. This occurrence would appear to be assignable to local quartz veins in schist bedrock, but the veinlets that would logically seem to be the source gave negative returns when assayed. Either the gold is not uniformly disseminated through the quartz or it is concentrated in certain veins. It is quite probable that the gold may have come from the mineralized schist and not from quartz veins.

There has been more prospecting of lodes on Boulder Creek and its tributary Twin Mountain Creek than in any other part of this belt. Here a large group of claims was located in 1915 by W. L. Cochrane and Claus Rodine, of the Dakota-Alaska Mining Co. This and other groups extend from Alpha Creek on the south across Sledge and Boulder creeks and up Twin Mountain Creek nearly to its head. Another group of lode claims covers much of the valley of Boulder Creek.

A vein of quartz has been opened on the north slope of Sledge Creek about 1½ miles above its mouth (fig. 19). This vein, as shown in a cut about 20 feet long, is about 2 feet wide, strikes N. 40° E., and dips 70° E. It is made up of quartz and orthoclase feldspar. Some masses of feldspar measuring several inches were seen in the vein. The quartz is iron-stained, but no sulphides were observed in it.

Mertie[79] has described the lodes of Boulder Creek as follows:

A number of lode claims on Boulder Creek owned by W. L. Cochrane and Claus Rodine are being prospected. The Boulder lode, embracing several of these claims,

[79] Op. cit., pp. 427–429.

is on the southwest side of Boulder Creek at an elevation of about 250 feet. Development work on this lode up to November, 1916, consisted of a tunnel driven 92 feet into the hillside on the southwest side of the creek. The direction of the tunnel, 60° W., is about the same as that of the cleavage in the schistose rock. The rock through which the tunnel is being driven is a much altered schist, heavily impregnated by iron-bearing solutions and cut by numerous veins and lenses of white, opaque quartz and also by thin stringers of limonitic material.

It is apparent that the gold in the tunnel has a genetic relation to the iron minerals, but it is not believed by the writer that the white, opaque quartz had any direct connection with the gold mineralization, for the quartz shows the effects of shattering and iron impregnation in a measure comparable with the schist itself and therefore was present prior to the mineralization. The presence of the white, opaque quartz is believed to be merely fortuitous, though it may have had an indirect influence on the mineralization by assisting mechanically or chemically in the precipitation from the mineralizing solutions.

The only quartz seen by the writer other than the white, opaque quartz was a veinlet of clear granular quartz, about three-eighths of an inch thick, near the face of the tunnel. Evidently the mineralization took place with very little deposition of silica by the auriferous solutions.

About 50 pounds of stibnite was taken from an open cut at the surface a short distance west of the tunnel. Scheelite in well-developed crystal outline has also been found in the white quartz in the tunnel. It is rather likely that the scheelite represents another stage in this mineralization, or possibly an entirely different period of mineralization.

At the time of the writer's visit to this lode the tunnel had been driven 85 feet, and although there was much evidence of mineralization in the iron-stained schist sulphides in any notable amount had not been found. Subsequently, in further driving of the tunnel, sulphide ore was encountered in the lode material. Specimens of the last material taken from the tunnel were sent to the writer by Mr. Rodine and prove to contain both pyrite and arsenopyrite.

The Boulder lode is similar in many respects to the California quartz lode on Goldbottom Creek—that is, it is a lode of the disseminated type—a mineralized body lying probably in a zone of shearing. Mr. Rodine says that the trend of the lode, or, in other words, of this zone of disturbance, is about N. 3° E. If this is the correct direction of the lode, it would appear that the tunnel has crosscut about 76 feet of the mineralized zone, and in striking the sulphide ore the tunnel is probably entering the higher-grade ore.

Assays have been made about every 10 feet in this tunnel, and these, known in a general way to the writer, are considered favorable in so large a body of mineralized rock. If the assays are reliable, there is here evidently a good-sized body of low-grade ore. Yet the owners should do a great deal more prospecting on the lode, particularly drill-hole prospecting, to determine its width and extension before making preparations for a milling plant.

On the northeast side of Boulder Creek another tunnel 35 feet long has been driven on the Dakota lode, which embraces 13 claims. The country rock here is limestone, with a minimum of iron staining and practically no sulphides. Veins of white, opaque quartz and of calcite are present, but there seems to be little indication of any intense mineralization.

Bedrock is uncovered in a pit in the creek bed on claim No. 1 below Discovery, Boulder Creek. The country rock is an iron-stained schist, the cleavage of which strikes N. 60° W. and dips 30° SW. A fault zone trending N. 30° W. and dipping southwest cuts through the schist at this locality. A vein of the white quartz near by strikes N. 60° E. and dips steeply northwest. The fault zone is greatly iron stained and cut by limonitic stringers. This material pans gold, and some very rich pieces of gold-bearing white quartz have been taken from this locality.

An open cut on the northeast side of Boulder Creek farther downstream has exposed a good-sized ledge of the white quartz. This is chiefly of interest on account of the presence of pyrite and pyrrhotite together in the quartz, the pyrrhotite being much less plentiful in the Nome district than pyrite or arsenopyrite.

When the writer examined this locality the mine workings were not accessible, but he was able to make more detailed observations on some of the bedrock geology than Mertie.

A 20-foot cut in the hillside near the mouth of Boulder Creek on the north bank exposes a quartz vein. The country rock is chlorite schist, striking N. 15° E. and dipping 15° E., which is highly contorted and shows considerable decomposed sulphide. The vein occurs as several stringers which in part cut across and in part conform with the schistosity. It swells to a foot in width and pinches to a few inches within a few feet. It is of the quartz-calcite type. No mineralization was observed.

On the north bank of Boulder Creek about 200 yards below the mouth of Twin Mountain Creek a 35-foot tunnel is driven in limestone. Several small stringers of quartz and calcite are intersected. Pyrite occurring in calcite is the only metallic mineral observed.

Near the mouth of Twin Mountain Creek and on the east bank two tunnels have been driven on veins of the quartz-calcite type. One is caved and inaccessible; the other, 40 feet long, is driven in chlorite schist and exposes a quartz-feldspar vein 15 feet from the portal. This vein swells from 1 inch to 1 foot in thickness and pinches to a stringer within 4 feet. Pyrite and a little arsenopyrite occur in veinlets through the quartz, and scheelite is said to be a constituent of the vein. The tunnel is driven S. 85° E. The schist strikes N. 5° E. and dips east. The vein in general conforms with the strike and dip of the schist.

The bedrock of Twin Mountain Creek is schist for several claims above the mouth. The gold it contains is hardly assignable to the influence of limestone, but rather to quartz veins, which are plentiful. Miners claim that the gold comes from an older and higher channel. The creek is incised in high terraces which merge with the terraces of Boulder Creek.

The Boulder lode is on the south side of Boulder Creek about a quarter of a mile above the mouth of Twin Mountain Creek. The workings consist of the tunnel described by Mertie and a shallow shaft. Both are now caved and inaccessible. The lode is evidently a shear zone in schist. The schist is highly stained with iron oxide, and some quartz occurs in stringers through it. To judge from the alinement of the workings and from traceable scars in the hills north of Boulder Creek valley, the strike of the lode is about north.

Limestone both underlies and overlies the schist zone of the lode, which is about 100 feet wide. The underlying limestone shows close folding both along its strike and along its dip, a feature which is well shown on the differentially weathered fracture surfaces of the beds. The stratigraphic position of the mineralized schist zone is shown by exposures along a ditch in the creek bank. West of the lode limestone immediately overlies it. The limestone strikes N. 10° E. and dips 20° W., thus conforming in general with the strike of the lode. Overlying this limestone, which is 50 feet or more thick, schist predominates in the section to the head of Boulder Creek. One considerable bed of limestone occurs about half a mile to the west, but it dips east and may be the same limestone which overlies the lode, duplicated by folding. To the east of the lode the series is predominantly limestone, with interbedded schist. The limestone occurs in thicknesses of 50 to 100 feet, and its structural relations are complex. East, west, and northeast dips are recorded within a few hundred feet. The included beds of schist are well mineralized.

Apparently the lode represents a zone of shearing in the schist at the contact of a zone which is predominantly limestone with a zone which is predominantly schist. The limestone near the lode is completely marmarized and shows intense deformation in detail and everywhere a complexity of structure. No doubt shearing occurred along all the schist zones in the limestone, for they are well mineralized, but the greatest adjustment occurred at the margin of the limestone mass, and this became the most favorable opening for later mineralizing solutions.

The lode rock is quartz-mica schist, in which chlorite and muscovite are abundant. Quartz is not present in any great amount. The material on the dump is of the later open-textured quartz-calcite vein type. Sulphides are abundant in the schist and occur also in the quartz and limestone and in calcite veins in the limestone. Pyrite is most common. Both pyrite and arsenopyrite occur as veinlets in the quartz. Mertie reports stibnite in the lode.

The lode in many respects is similar to that occurring on Goldbottom Creek. Two "runs of gold" are claimed for placers of Boulder Creek. Rough gold occurs below the point where the creek cuts the Boulder lode and is thought to be derived from the lode. The creek gold above the lode is fine and is assigned to the old stream gravels of the terraces that occur along the slopes.

The Lilly lode is on the saddle at the head of Twin Mountain Creek (fig. 19). Here a shallow trench at the limestone and schist contact exposes limestone cut by quartz veinlets and some iron-stained graphitic quartz schist. The limestone is somewhat silicified and shows decomposed pyrite in places, but no other sulphide was seen.

A few hundred feet west of this locality a 12-foot drift is run along a quartz vein in limestone. The limestone is an outlier on the schist and covers only an acre or so. No mineralized rock was seen in place, but a little mineralized quartz occurring in veinlets of $\frac{1}{4}$-inch size, closely spaced and parallel to the lamination of carbonaceous schist, contains pyrite, malachite, and probably chalcopyrite. The relations of these minerals to the country rock could not be determined.

Considerable placer gold has been mined on Pioneer Gulch, 2 miles north of Bangor Creek. Here the bedrock is not exposed, but Moffit has described the placers as being of residual origin. The alluvial gold is angular, and some of it is attached to quartz, indicating its source in the near-by bedrock. An old shaft on the creek bank is inaccessible, but to judge by the material on the dump it was opened on a quartz-calcite vein of the open-textured type, containing a little pyrite and arsenopyrite.

Last Chance Creek, where there has been considerable placer mining, is 2 miles northwest of Pioneer Gulch. Here Moffit noted the occurrence of scheelite. Near the mouth of Waterfall Creek, a tributary to Last Chance from the north, are exposed quartz veins which cut chloritic schist. The schist is highly folded, contorted, and fractured, and dips in general about 45° NE. Opaque quartz of the later-vein type containing a little pyrite occurs in veins from 1 inch to 1 foot wide along a shear zone in the schist. The zone strikes in general east and dips north. The quartz veins both follow and cut across the schistosity of the country rock. They are contemporaneous, as they do not offset or terminate one another but merge. This type of vein occurrence becomes prominent farther south in the Snake River valley. The Christophosen antimony lode, at the head of Waterfall Creek, has been described on page 231.

The California quartz lode is on Henry Gulch, a small tributary of Goldbottom Creek about half a mile from the Goldbottom-Mountain Creek divide. It is 20 miles north of Nome (fig. 19). The developments consist of a 70-foot shaft sunk on an incline of 60° and a 12-foot open cut in the creek bank. The shaft is said to have been sunk on the lode and to have left the lode at a depth of 33 feet. It was filled with water at the time of the writer's visit, and the lode was exposed only in the open cut. The property is equipped with a stamp mill having a theoretical capacity of 10 to 12 tons in 24 hours. Water power is supplied by a ditch 3 miles long, with intake on Fred Gulch. The mill equipment consists of a Blake Hercules jaw crusher, a battery of three 1,000-pound stamps, and a Pinder table. Most of the gold is recovered on the plates, the table having proved unsatisfactory, owing to sliming of the ore. No ore has been milled for several years, and the equipment is not in the best state of repair. Practically no work has been done here since Mertie's visit in 1916. The lode occurs along a shear zone in the Nome schist, about 300 feet from the limestone area of which Mount Distin is a part. Mertie [80] describes the lode as follows:

The lode matter consists of shattered quartz and country rock, which are heavily iron stained and mineralized. The ore body lies along a shear zone, which has a general strike of N. 15° W. The shearing seems to have taken place along a number of faults, with this general strike and with variable dips to the northeast, but to have been concentrated along the hanging-wall side of the shear zone. The hanging wall is therefore marked by a well-defined fault, with slickensided walls. Below the hanging wall, for about 4 feet, the lode matter is greatly crushed, iron stained, and mineralized, and it is from this part of the lode that the ore has so far been taken. The footwall is not well defined, the lode merging gradually into the country rock on that side.

The country rock in this vicinity is chlorite and sericite schist, with considerable graphitic slate and some thin bands of limestone. These rocks contain a system of old quartz veins, which are parallel to one another and lie conformably with the cleavage of the schist, striking N. 40° E. and dipping 50° SE. The shear zone, which strikes N. 15° W., cuts diagonally across the quartz veins, and the character of the lode matter is therefore variable. At one locality it may be entirely the red, iron-stained shattered schist; at another it may be dominantly the mineralized vein quartz. * * *

The lode system is crosscut by the creek and well exposed. The mineralizing solutions were effective for a considerable distance laterally, for the iron staining is plainly apparent for 300 feet upstream from the lode and for a considerable distance downstream. The owner says that this zone of shearing may be traced 1 mile to the northwest and 2 miles to the southeast.

Pyrite and arsenopyrite are the principal mineralizing agents, but here and there a little free gold may be seen. In this as well as in most other gold lodes in the Nome district very little quartz has been introduced with the mineralizing solutions. Stibnite is reported to be present in seams 2 inches or less in thickness, but these were not seen by the writer. Hydrous manganese oxide is present in the gouge. Molybdenum and tungsten also are reported from assays.

The 4 feet of ore along the hanging wall is said to have a value of about $50 a ton, as indicated by assays, but the owner has been able to obtain only from $8 to $10 a ton from the plates. It is therefore inferred that much of the gold is either mechanically intergrown with the sulphides, in particles of microscopic or submicroscopic size, or chemically combined with the sulphides.

Several quartz veins 1 to 3 feet wide that crop out on the north side of the creek appear to be on the strike of the lode and a part of it. On the north bank, 75 feet west of the veins, a highly mineralized schist crops out which has no counterpart on the south bank. It is said that the fault surface of the lode has been traced along a sinuous course to this outcrop. Microscopically the rock is found to be a carbonaceous quartz-muscovite schist, containing considerable chlorite and a little sillimanite, zircon, and tourmaline. Sulphides are abundant.

Gold is said to occur throughout the mineralized schist of the lode. The schist is essentially a graphitic quartz-mica schist. Both mus-

[80] Op. cit., pp. 426-427.

covite and biotite are present, the latter largely altered to chlorite. Pyrite and arsenopyrite are plentiful.

No quartz ore was seen in place, but a sample of the better grade of gold-bearing quartz taken from the shaft was given to the writer. Microscopically the rock is seen to contain some oligoclase feldspar, and it is probably related to the quartz-feldspar veins. It includes considerable schist and in places is essentially schist cut by quartz. Free gold can be seen in the quartz. Arsenopyrite and pyrite are abundant, and apparently contemporaneous with the quartz. Stringers of quartz that cut the schist are of the later vein type but were not found to contain feldspar.

About 1 mile below the California quartz lode mine, on the west bank of Goldbottom Creek, a 60-foot tunnel is driven in chlorite schist. A small outcrop of quartz occurs above the tunnel, and several stringers of vitreous quartz showing a little pyrite are cut by the tunnel. No definite lode is apparent.

Two small tunnels have been driven and a shallow shaft sunk near the head of Goldbottom Creek on the south bank just above the forks. All the workings are now caved, and neither the lode nor the inclosing rock can be seen, on account of the cover of moss and earth. Some graphite schist, vein quartz, and mineralized siliceous rock, probably a silicified limestone, lie on the dumps, also some limonitic gossan material. There is no evidence upon which to judge concerning the size of the vein or its occurrence. No work has been done here for years, but work is said to have been in progress for a considerable time.

The most conspicuous and plentiful material on the dumps is the silicified limestone, in which considerable sulphide occurs. The rock abounds in openings into which well-terminated quartz crystals project. The openings are in general parallel, fissure-like, and discontinuous. Many of them are filled with calcite. Pyrite seems to be the only sulphide. It occurs in small isolated crystals, in nests, and in roughly parallel streaks. The sulphide does not fill the openings but occurs through the quartz. The rock is noticeably banded, owing in part to the open texture and calcite filling and in part to the arrangement of the sulphides. The quartz vein material indicates a vein of the later type. Openings occur in it, but no sulphide was observed. The schist is of a graphitic quartz variety in which the graphite occurs in distinct flakes. No sulphide was observed in the schist.

Two prospects which are somewhat north of the Nome district proper are of interest and will be described. One of them is on Buffalo Creek, a headwater tributary of Nome River, and lies well within the Kigluaik Mountains. The other is in Slate Creek valley, about 15 miles to the east.

The Buffalo Creek lode is on the west slope of the valley about 1 mile from the mouth of the stream. It is a quartz vein about 2 feet wide, strikes N. 45° E., and dips south. The vein follows a shear zone in schist of the Kigluaik group and ranges in dip from 45° to horizontal. The footwall is much sheared, but the nearest determinable wall rock is biotite schist. The vein is iron-stained quartz but shows no mineralization. A tunnel is driven in the soft, decomposed schist footwall for 20 feet parallel to the ledge but does not cut it.

The deposit on Slate Creek, staked under the name "Osmun lode," is described by Chapin [81] as follows:

> A prospect is being opened on Slate Creek, a small stream which flows into Kruzgamepa River from the south 4 miles east of Salmon Lake. The lode is a mineralized dike cutting greenstone. The rock is badly weathered, so that its original character is in doubt, but it appears to have been a fine-grained quartz-feldspar rock in which all the feldspar is now replaced by sericite and kaolin. The dike has been fractured and filled with ferruginous calcite that has partly replaced the included fragments and the walls. A later fracturing of the lode was healed by irregular veinlets composed of quartz and calcite deposited simultaneously. No assays of this lode were made, but small amounts of gold were obtained by crushing and panning the rock. The ledge, which is about 3 feet wide, strikes east and dips 70° N.
>
> A short distance south of the open cut mentioned is an outcrop of rock which appears to be another dike about 10 feet thick and parallel to the one described. It is an even-textured rock of gray color and very fine grain and, like the other dike, was probably a quartz-feldspar intrusive. Quartz, the only original mineral now found in it, occurs with a finely granular mass of epidote. Traversing the rock in many directions are irregular veinlets composed mainly of a green silvery micaceous mineral which proves to be chlorite. With it are associated a number of other vein minerals—quartz, albite, calcite, epidote, and a colorless amphibole which is probably tremolite. This dike is not thought by the prospectors to be of economic value, and work has therefore been confined to the other lode.
>
> The country rock is a fine-grained greenstone. It is evident that this was originally a basic igneous rock, but it has been entirely recrystallized. Green hornblende is the most conspicuous mineral, but considerable amounts of chlorite and epidote are present. Garnet and pyrite are abundant and may be readily seen in the hand specimen. Albite fills the interspaces and includes rutile and titanite and fragments of other minerals.

The Steiner lode is on the west side of Penny River about 4½ miles from the coast of Bering Sea, at an elevation of about 200 feet (fig. 19). Here a shaft has been sunk 105 feet and a drift run 220 feet N. 50° W. The shaft was started on a quartz-feldspar vein striking east, which is not now exposed. It is said to have been 5 to 10 feet wide and traceable for 1,000 feet on the surface. The quartz continued to a depth of 60 feet in the shaft and then dipped north. The shaft was continued 45 feet and a drift was run to intersect the vein but did not reach it. The quartz is said to have assayed $7 a ton in gold. The drift is run in quartz-mica schist and graphitic quartz schist.

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[81] Op. cit., p. 405.

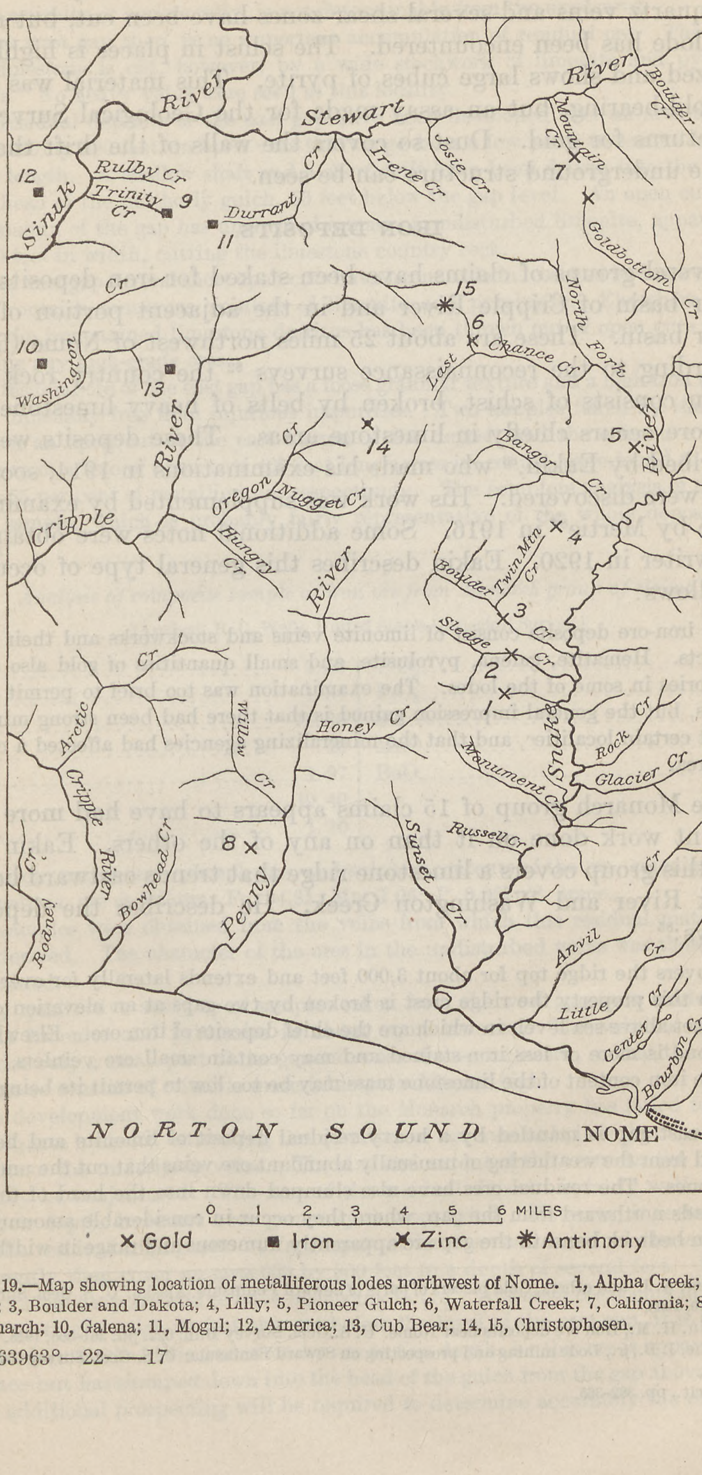

FIGURE 19.—Map showing location of metalliferous lodes northwest of Nome. 1, Alpha Creek; 2, Sledge Creek; 3, Boulder and Dakota; 4, Lilly; 5, Pioneer Gulch; 6, Waterfall Creek; 7, California; 8, Steiner; 9, Monarch; 10, Galena; 11, Mogul; 12, America; 13, Cub Bear; 14, 15, Christophosen.

The schist at the end of the drift strikes north and dips 45° W. A few quartz veins and several shear zones have been cut, but no definite lode has been encountered. The schist in places is highly mineralized and shows large cubes of pyrite. This material was said to be gold-bearing, but an assay made for the Geological Survey gave no returns for gold. Dust so covers the walls of the drift that little of the underground structure can be seen.

IRON DEPOSITS.

Several groups of claims have been staked for iron deposits in the upper basin of Cripple River and in the adjacent portion of Sinuk River basin. These are about 25 miles northwest of Nome (fig. 19). According to the reconnaissance surveys [82] the country rock of the region consists of schist, broken by belts of heavy limestone. The iron ore occurs chiefly in limestone areas. These deposits were first described by Eakin,[83] who made his examinations in 1914, soon after they were discovered. His work was supplemented by examinations made by Mertie[84] in 1916. Some additional notes were obtained by the writer in 1920. Eakin describes this general type of occurrence as follows:

The iron-ore deposits consist of limonite veins and stockworks and their residual products. Hematite, galena, pyrolusite, and small quantities of gold also occur as accessories in some of the lodes. The examination was too brief to permit detailed studies, but the general impression gained is that there had been strong mineralization at certain localities, and that the mineralizing agencies had affected a considerable area.

The Monarch group of 15 claims appears to have had more development work done on it than on any of the others. Eakin states that this group covers a limestone ridge that trends eastward between Sinuk River and Washington Creek. He describes the deposit as follows:[85]

It covers the ridge top for about 3,000 feet and extends laterally for over a mile. Within this property the ridge crest is broken by two gaps at an elevation of about 1,000 feet above sea level, in which are the chief deposits of iron ore. Elsewhere the limestone is more or less iron-stained and may contain small ore veinlets, but the average iron content of the limestone mass may be too low to permit its being classed as ore.

The east gap is mantled by a heavy residual deposit of limonite and hematite, derived from the weathering of unusually abundant ore veins that cut the underlying limestones. The residual ores have also slumped down into the head of the gulch that leads northward from the gap, where they occur in considerable amounts. The veins in bedrock beneath the gap are apparently numerous and range in width from a

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[82] Collier, A. J., and others, Gold placers of parts of Seward Peninsula, Alaska: U. S. Geol. Survey Bull. 328, pl. 10, 1908.

[83] Eakin, H. M., Iron ore deposits near Nome: U. S. Geol. Survey Bull. 622, pp. 361-365, 1915.

[84] Mertie, J. B., jr., Lode mining and prospecting on Seward Peninsula: U. S. Geol. Survey 662, pp. 444-446, 1917.

[85] Op. cit., pp. 362-365.

few inches to about 30 feet. They are approximately vertical, but their persistence, either vertically or horizontally, is not determinable from the exposures.

In the west gap there is no important accumulation of residual ore. The underlying limestone is cut, however, by a wide stockwork of limonite and pyrolusite veinlets. No heavy veins were seen at this locality.

The residual deposits of the east gap have been developed over an area approximately 600 by 800 feet, in open cuts that range from a few yards to several hundred feet in length. A shallow shaft and a short drift have been driven into the deposit in the head of the northerly gulch, 50 feet below the gap level. An open cut at the south margin of the gap has uncovered a mass of undisturbed limonite, apparently a vein 30 feet in width, cutting the limestone country rock.

In the west gap several short open cuts have been made in loosened bedrock material which contains numerous veinlets of limonite and pyrolusite. Elsewhere on the claims the iron-stained limestone detritus has been thrown out of open cuts without revealing any high-grade ores.

The residual ore of the east gap has a loose granular texture and a high iron content, and is unusually free from injurious impurities. Two samples taken by the writer, one from an open cut at the east margin of the deposit and the other a composite sample from a line of open cuts 400 feet long across its center, were found to contain 53 and 55 per cent of metallic iron, respectively. The complete analysis of the composite sample, which is probably fairly representative of the whole deposit, is as follows:

Analysis of composite sample of iron ore from Monarch group of claims.

[Analyst, R. C. Wells, United States Geological Survey.]

SiO_2	5.53	TiO_2	None.
Al_2O_3	1.34	P_2O_5	.13
Fe_2O_3	78.30	S	Trace.
MgO	.10	MnO	1.37
CaO	1.97	BaO	Trace.
H_2O	10.40		
CO_2	1.10		100.24

The iron, manganese, phosphorus, and sulphur contents of the ore, calculated from this analysis, are as follows: Fe, 54.81; Mn, 1.06; P, 0.057; S, trace.

No samples were obtained from the veins from which this residual material has been derived. The character of the ores in the undisturbed veins was therefore not determined.

Only qualitative analyses of samples taken from the west gap were made. They contain limonite and pyrolusite in about equal amount. The veinlets appear to comprise only a small part of the general mass of the stockwork, so that the iron and manganese content of minable material is probably not high.

The development work done so far on the Monarch property has failed to furnish an adequate basis for estimating the quantity of ore available in either the residual deposits or the underlying veins. The size and extent of the veins for the most part can only be conjectured. The area of the residual deposits is fairly well outlined, but their depths have not been generally demonstrated. However, it seems certain that the residual high-grade ores aggregate at least several hundred thousand tons. Apparently they cover an area 600 by 800 feet to a depth of several feet. In places shafts 12 feet deep are said to have been sunk in ore. Although ore occurs in the head of the northerly gulch 50 feet or more below the level of the east gap, it is unsafe to assume that the divide is underlain by ore to this depth, for this ore is apparently not in place but has slumped down into the head of the gulch from the gap above. Obviously additional prospecting will be required to determine accurately the reserves of high-grade residual ores and to demonstrate the availability of the undisturbed vein ores. The stockwork of the west gap will also require careful investigation to determine its value. The relatively high manganese content of the veinlets and the reported association of gold with the manganese strengthens the possibility that this deposit may prove of commercial value.

The limestones on the property away from the gaps contain from 5 to 40 per cent of iron. The average content is probably nearer the lower figure, and if this proves true it seems doubtful that much of this material can be considered as commercial ore.

Mertie's interpretation of the facts available in regard to this ore body is in general accord with that of Eakin, but he has added some further details as follows:

The country rock is limestone, which has been brecciated and replaced by limonite. Hematite is present only as a subordinate constituent. A specimen of the ore taken from a trench at the head of Iron Creek shows on a polished surface massive limestone with numerous angular inclusions of iron-stained limestone, residual fragments of the shattered country rock. Pyrolusite, in places intergrown with calcite, is present in veinlets that cut the limonite and the replaced limestone. These relations and the probable genesis of this iron deposit will be discussed more fully in a later paper on the iron resources of Alaska. For this report it is sufficient to say that the iron ore now exposed on the ridge and in Iron Creek is a residual concentration, a surficial enrichment of an underlying lode. The iron content of this lode at depth can not be judged from the surface indications; in fact, it is entirely possible that this deposit is only a surface capping, or "iron hat," covering some other metalliferous deposit. The occurrence of galena and sphalerite with limonite in the Galena group near by, the presence of similar limonitic material in considerable amount in a silver-lead lode in the Inmachuk basin, and the constant association of limonitic material and other iron minerals with most of the gold lodes on the peninsula might be cited as evidence of this possibility.

Another group of claims has been described by Mertie [86] as follows:

The Galena group, consisting of nine claims, is about 2 miles southwest of the Monarch group on the divide between Sinuk River and Washington Creek. These claims, though prospected chiefly for their iron content, have also surface indications of both lead and zinc, in the form of galena and sphalerite.

It appears that the ore-bearing solutions have followed in large measure one or more of a system of joint planes in the country rock. On the Sunrise claim, one of this group, the country rock is crystalline limestone, the cleavage of which strikes east and dips 25° S. This limestone is cut by a number of joint planes, the more prominent of which had the following strikes and dips: N. 40° E., 65° NW.; N. 80° E., 70° N.; N. 15° W., 90°. Disseminated galena in a quartz gangue occurs along the vertical joint plane. This ore is said to show considerable values in gold.

An open cut on the Oso claim shows disseminated sphalerite, with a little pyrite, in the crystalline limestone. The extent of the zinc mineralization is not known. In a pit at another locality on the Oso claim the same system of jointing as above described was exposed, and vein quartz, with some iron-stained vein material, occurs along a joint plane striking N. 10° W. and dipping 75° N. Lilac-colored fluorite was also seen in this pit, but its exact relation to the mineralization could not be determined.

On the Fox and the Williams claims disseminated galena accompanied by quartz was observed in limestone and calcareous schist.

Considerable botryoidal limonite was seen on the dump at a prospect on the Kentucky claim.

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[86] Op. cit., p. 445.

The following description of the ore deposits of two groups of claims is taken from Eakin's report.[87]

The Mogul property consists of four claims situated on the Sinuk River and Washington Creek divide about 1½ miles east of the Monarch property. No development work has been done here, the locations being made on the strength of a few acres of the blossom of ore veins that cut the limestones locally. Evidence of the veins is found in heavily iron-stained limestone detritus that has a scant admixture of limonite nodules and vein fragments. There is little evidence as to the size and extent of the veins or the possibilities of commercial development.

The American group includes four claims situated at the base of a limestone ridge west of Sinuk River, below American Creek, 2 miles northwest of the Monarch property. The locations are said to cover an "iron-ore bed" over 50 acres in extent. The only development work done consists of a few pits 6 to 8 feet deep, and no analyses have been made of the ore. The locality was not visited by the writer.

The Cub Bear group of iron claims lies near the head of Cripple River on the divide between Cripple River and an eastern tributary of Washington Creek, at an elevation of about 1,000 feet. The developments consist of 12 trenches 20 to 30 feet long and 3 feet deep. The country rock is chiefly limestone, with a little interbedded schist. The mineralization occurred in a well-defined saddle between two knolls. The limestone of the eastern knoll strikes N. 10° E. and dips 15° E.; that of the western knoll strikes N. 10° E. and dips 20° W. Structurally the mineralization occurred along the crest of an anticline. The mineralized zone is exposed only by the trenches, as tundra covers the saddle. The trenches are alined about N. 5° E., which is approximately the strike of the country rock. Six openings are made on the north of the saddle, and six on the south. The trenches on the south expose limonite chiefly, with some hematite. The material is essentially iron-stained limestone, through which some small veinlets of iron oxide occur. The rock is badly fractured and seamed with incompletely filled veinlets of calcite. Only surface débris is exposed by the pits, and no rock of ore grade is seen on this side of the saddle. On the north side several of the trenches have exposed massive botryoidal limonite of good quality. A cellular limonite is also present on the dumps, and manganous oxide in small amount occurs with it. The quantity of ore on the dumps does not exceed a few tons. No ore in place is exposed.

The occurrence is very poorly exposed by the workings and elsewhere is covered by moss. Mertie reports sulphides to be present with the ore at the Mogul group of claims and suggests that the iron may merely be gossan material capping a sulphide vein. It is not possible to say whether this represents the gossan of a sulphide vein or not. No sulphide was seen. The zone of mineralization is probably 50 or 100 feet wide and, as observed, seems to occur along the shattered crest of a fold, which suggests that the iron oxide may be but a deposit resulting from the circulation of ground waters along this zone.

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[87] Op. cit., pp. 364-365.

INDEX.

RECENT SURVEY PUBLICATIONS ON ALASKA.

[Arranged geographically. A complete list can be had on application.]

All these publications can be obtained or consulted in the following ways:

1. A limited number are delivered to the Director of the Survey, from whom they can be obtained free of charge (except certain maps) on application.

2. A certain number are delivered to Senators and Representatives in Congress for distribution.

3. Other copies are deposited with the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C., from whom they can be had at prices slightly above cost. The publications marked with an asterisk (*) in this list are out of stock at the Survey but can be purchased from the Superintendent of Documents at the prices stated.

4. Copies of all Government publications are furnished to the principal public libraries throughout the United States, where they can be consulted by those interested.

The maps whose price is stated are sold by the Geological Survey and not by the Superintendent of Documents. On an order amounting to $5 or more at the retail price a discount of 40 per cent is allowed.

GENERAL.

REPORTS.

*The geography and geology of Alaska, a summary of existing knowledge, by A. H. Brooks, with a section on climate, by Cleveland Abbe, jr., and a topographic map and description thereof, by R. U. Goode. Professional Paper 45, 1906, 327 pp. No copies available. May be consulted at many public libraries.

*Placer mining in Alaska in 1904, by A. H. Brooks. In Bulletin 259, 1905, pp. 18–31. 15 cents.

The mining industry in 1905, by A. H. Brooks. In Bulletin 284, 1906, pp. 4–9.

*The mining industry in 1906, by A. H. Brooks. In Bulletin 314, 1907, pp. 19–39. 30 cents.

*The mining industry in 1907, by A. H. Brooks. In Bulletin 345, 1908, pp. 30–53. 45 cents.

*The mining industry in 1908, by A. H. Brooks. In Bulletin 379, 1909, pp. 21–62. 50 cents.

*The mining industry in 1909, by A. H. Brooks. In Bulletin 442, 1910, pp. 20–46. 40 cents.

The mining industry in 1910, by A. H. Brooks. In Bulletin 480, 1911, pp. 21–42

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