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Item 1

According to Hill9/ at the Pine mine the antimony is present in a silicified fault breccia cemented by quartz intergrown with stibnite. The ledge strikes N. 55° W. and dips 50° SW., being about 40 feet wide and traceable along the strike for nearly 400 feet.

At the Bray mine the stibnite occurs in a network of quartz stringers and as tabular irregular lenses of quartz and stibnite with a little tetrahedrite.

At present prices, the mining of antimony ore is not profitable in Nevada unless the ore is associated with some other valuable metal. At 20 cents per pound, the Big Creek deposits could be expected to produce some antimony.

BIRCH CREEK DISTRICT

The Birch Creek district, also known as Smoky Valley, is in the vicinity of Geneva Peak (altitude 10,994 feet) on the east flank of the Toiyabe Range, 12 miles south of Austin. It adjoins the Reese River district on the south, Big Creek on the east, and Kingston on the north. In 1863 silver-lead deposits were discovered in this area, and the Smoky Valley district was organized. A 20-stamp mill was erected at the mouth of Birch Creek to treat ore from the Big Smoky mine, but it operated only a short time. Although a number of properties were worked in the early days, production was small.

In 1916 John Cahill discovered high-grade gold ore, and the Nevada Birch Creek Mining Co. was organized in 1919 to carry on development work. Some gold ore was shipped from the property, but in recent years it has been inactive.

Nevada Birch Creek Mining Co.

The Nevada Birch Creek Mining Co., G. L. Belanger, secretary and treasurer, owns a group of eight unpatented claims.

Development includes two adits, the longest 475 feet in length and cutting the vein at a depth of 150 feet from the surface. Underground workings total about 2,000 feet. There is no mining or milling equipment on the property.

The prevailing rocks in the vicinity of the mine are andesite, rhyolite, and granodiorite. Gold ore occurs in bunches in a steeply dipping vein that strikes nearly north and south. Gold is in a free state in a gangue of quartz, fluorite, sericite, and crushed country rock stained with iron oxides.

At the mouth of the canyon below the mine several shafts have been sunk in the alluvium for placer gold. One shaft was sunk to a depth of 150 feet without finding bedrock. The material on the dump consists largely of granodiorite fragments. The results of this work were discouraging.

9/ Hill, James M., Some Mining Districts in Northeastern California and Northwestern Nevada: Geol. Survey Bull. 594, pp. 121-123.