0780 0005

194

Item 4

In conclusion, it can be stated that the general impression gained by the writer in a brief visit to the camp is that the district may be worth investigating from the viewpoint of working the properties on a leasing basis. The area contains numerous narrow interlacing veins that are ore-bearing over a large area. A condition such as this in an old camp from which the cream has been skimmed naturally lends itself to the leasing system, whereby a number of men, working separately or in groups of two or three, can mine ore from comparatively small veins unsuited for mass production, provided metal prices are favorable, an equitable royalty schedule and fair milling rates are established, and the lessees can have their ore treated in a local custom plant, which they themselves cannot afford to erect. Some of the best ground could be reserved for company operations. The writer was informed that a custom mill equipped with 20 stamps operated in the district from 1906 to 1911. This mill was erected by J. S. Cain and employed amalgamation with subsequent cyanide leaching of the amalgamation tailings. Ore was ground to 30-mesh. The mill ran entirely on custom ore and had a capacity of 60 tons per day. The increased price for gold is an important factor in considering an investigation of the possibilities of the district.

The writer has been informed that a number of the old mine dumps carry values from $6 to 11 per ton and that approximately 35,000 tons of such material is available in 12 different dumps. This information would have to be checked by thorough sampling.

0780 0005

BASALT DISTRICT (Buena Vista)

Basalt is a station on the narrow-gage railroad that operates between Mina, Nevada, and Keeler, Calif. It is 22 miles west of Coaldale, Esmeralda County, Nev., and is accessible from this place by an excellent highway.

A deposit of diatomaceous earth approximately 3 miles long and 1/2 mile wide occurs in the vicinity of Basalt. This deposit has been prospected by a number of shafts and open cuts. The deepest shaft is 135 feet and the bottom is still in diatomaceous earth. The depth of the overburden, which consists of desert wash and a few basalt boulders, is not more than a few feet. Although this occurrence of diatomaceous earth has been known since 1905, only small shipments have been made. The last shipments were made in 1927 and 1928, when about 5,000 tons of the material was shipped to Los Angeles for filtering and construction purposes. For all practical purposes the supply of diatomaceous earth is unlimited.

Somerville Group

Robert D. Somerville of Basalt owns a group of 16 claims of 40 acres each, covering part of the deposit. The earth could be mined easily with a power shovel, and, in one place the distance to the railroad is not more than 1/4 mile. When shipment is made by rail, the material would have to

be transferred from narrow-gage to standard-gage cars either at Mina, Nev., or Keeler, Calif.

On the Somerville ground, about 2 miles east of Basalt, is a deposit of pumicite. This deposit was shown to the writer and reported to be alunite. Microscopic examination of the material, however, shows that it is composed entirely of fine grains of silica. The deposit is 10 feet wide and dips 60 degrees; both walls are diatomaceous earth. It has been prospected by an open cut about 15 feet long and a maximum of 10 feet deep.

Diatom Company

A company called the Diatom Company, controlled by Langlois Brothers, 717 South San Pedro Street, Los Angeles, Calif., also owns 16 claims covering the diatomaceous earth. Most of the production of the diatomaceous earth has been made by this company.

BELL DISTRICT

The Bell, also known as the Cedar Mountain District, is in the Cedar Mountain Range in eastern Mineral County near the Nye County border. It includes the camps of Omco, Simon, and Copper Contact. Simon is 22 miles by road northeast of Mina, and Omco lies 4 miles north of Simon. The principal properties in this area are the Simon and Omco mines.

Simon Silver-Lead Mines, Inc.

The Simon mine was discovered in 1879, at which time small quantities of lead ore mined from the gossan were shipped. Its importance was not discovered, however, until 1919, when silver-bearing lead-zinc ores were discovered in the sulphide zone below the gossan that had been prospected in 1879.

In 1921 the Simon Silver-Lead Mines Co. erected a 100-ton flotation mill at the mine. In 1923 this company was reorganized under its present name and the mill enlarged to handle 250 tons per day. Up to 1927 the mill, operating at four different periods, had treated 93,000 tons of ore and produced 6,258 tons of lead and 5,311 tons of zinc concentrates having a gross smelter value of $741,378. The mill closed in January 1927.

Property consists of a contiguous group of patented and unpatented claims amounting to 600 acres. In the acquisition of this acreage the present company absorbed 7 smaller companies.

The Simon mine is opened by a 3-compartment vertical shaft 800 feet deep and a winze sunk to a depth of 200 feet from the 800-foot level. Total underground workings comprise in the neighborhood of 25,000 feet. The shaft and underground workings are reported to be in good shape, but, recently the mine has been allowed to fill with water to the 450-foot level.