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Inspection Trip - May 1931
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dissolved in agitators and the insoluble residues be removed by thickeners of the Dorr type.) The operators are not at all satisfied with the present method of dissolving the crude sulphate. The pit surfaces became coated with slime, and the salts do not dissolve. There, it seems, is a fine field for combined work by the mining and metallurgical engineer, and the industrial chemist. The owners estimate that the marsh will produce 2,000,000 of finished thenardite, which seems conservative.

Rhodes Marsh has been important in the history of Nevada. In pioneer days, during the 60's, salt was packed on camels from there to Virginia City for use in pan amalgamation of the rich silver ores of the Comstock. Much borax was also produced from cottonball (ulexite) obtained from pits on the playa, and about 40 acres of upturn ground attest the extent of such work when borax sold for \$1.00 per pound. We have photographs showing several phases of work and conditions at Rhodes Marsh.

The present company began operations in April, 1930, having acquired the marsh from Harrington Betty, who had operated as the Rhodes Salt & Borax Company.

TONOPAH DIVIDE

After a brief pause at Tonopah to greet officials and friends, we sped on to Divide, arriving mid-afternoon of May 23. There we found Mr. Scott Jameson, who introduced us to Mr. T. Williamson, who is one of the owners and operators of the sensational high-grade silver lease on the Tonopah-Divide.

Anderson-Williamson Lease.

A shaft 25' deep had been sunk on a small surface showing of hornsilver, which rapidly opened up to a rich vein 2' to 3' wide. The

strike is N 5° W, dip 70° E. From the bottom of the shaft short drifts run both north and south, a combined total distance of only 25 feet. The vein material is partly altered and brecciated rhyolite containing metallic hornsilver in the seams, and a little copper stain. From this apparently inconsequential mine opening has been extracted 4 tons of ore of a value of 75¢ per pound which had been shipped to the Selby smelter, (assay value up to 16 ozs. Gold and 16,000 ozs. Silver per ton), and 40 tons which should have a value of \$50.00 per ton was shipped to the Desert Mill at Millers. On the dump were several tons of high-grade, from which specimens were secured for the Mackay Museum. In the face of the drift a good grade of ore in place was observed by us. Rock striations show that the vein has formed in a fissure in which one wall moved down, and to the north, but the ore shoot rakes to the south, and across the line of fault movement.

The discovery was made in March, 1931, by J. Y. Anderson. The partners have it covered by two adjoining lease blocks, each 100' square, 100' deep, for a period of one year, on a sliding royalty scale of 10-15-20% royalty, as the grade of ore increases in value.

The shaft is less than 100 yards from the main Divide Shaft from which several millions was produced. It is a fine demonstration of what can be found and done by leasers.

Jameson-Weaver Lease.

Mr. Scott Jameson, well known mine operator, who has been operating the Tonopah-Divide Mine for 3 or 4 years, on March 15th, took in a new partner, Mr. John Weaver, who during the past two years had carried on quite profitable one-man mining at Tolicha, Nevada.

These men have discovered and opened up a new vein in the old workings in which the value is entirely gold. The strike of this new vein is N. 60° W; the dip almost vertical. It intersects the main Tonopah-Divide vein which was a great producer of silver. The new gold vein differs in type of vein material and mineralization, and was formed at a different time than the silver vein.

This may prove to be an important discovery for Divide and Nevada. Heretofore Divide has been exclusively a silver producer, the ratio of values averaging about one ounce of gold to 1000 ounces of silver. The discovery of a substantial gold vein would change the metallurgical complexion of the district.

On May 20, 1931, Jameson and Weaver sent their first shipment of gold ore to the Desert Mill at Millers, which had been screened to about 3/4 inch size to bring up the grade. Mr. Jameson said that it would assay something more than \$30. per ton. By screening to 1/2 inch size it is believed a \$50. product can be obtained.

The truck haul to Tonopah is \$1. per ton; Tonopah to Millers R.R. freight 50¢; the milling charge \$5.50 (formerly \$4.25); and the returns are based upon a 90% extraction. The increase in milling charge became necessary because of a great falling off in Tonopah ore production.

Other leasers are becoming active at Divide, but as yet none have reached production.