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ITEM

KENNETH LEITH

es. It will ultimately mean higher relative importance of processes for changes in the geographic distribution of the iron industry, and a modification of American iron trade with that of

s<sup>1</sup> that when the higher grade deposits are exhausted "the cost of production of lower grade ores and those remote from the end we shall have to resort to which the iron ore is separated from the waste as grains. This upward trend in the utility of the metal will, it may be some centuries from now, be forced to an economy in the use of iron by folk two hundred years ago, when it was at sea, or rusted back to earth, or in this stage, when it becomes a waste. In this stage, when it becomes a waste, it may continue to be the helper of the iron industry, but its power for help will be

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## THE SOUTHERN KLONDIKE DISTRICT, ESMERALDA COUNTY, NEVADA.—A STUDY IN METALLIFEROUS QUARTZ VEINS OF MAGMATIC ORIGIN.<sup>1</sup>

JOSIAH EDWARD SPURR.

### LOCATION.

Several years ago, before the discovery of ore at Tonopah, Nevada, ore was found and mined about nine or ten miles south of this now flourishing district. The production of the older camp has never been great, so that it is little known, but the geological features of the ore deposits and their petrographical relations to the surrounding rocks, inasmuch as they bear directly on certain questions of genesis, are of great scientific interest.

There are two main portions of the district, the Southern Klondike proper and East Klondike, separated by an interval of about a mile.

The occurrence, which it is the purpose of this paper to describe, is located in the Southern Klondike camp proper. In the East Klondike region the ore is associated with Tertiary rhyolite and will not be further considered.

### GEOLOGY.

The country rocks of the Southern Klondike region include sediments, volcanics and granitic intrusives. The district is situated within an area of Palæozoic limestone whose exact age is unknown but which is thought to be Cambrian or Silurian, owing to its analogy to similar rock of determined age in adjacent regions (as at Silver Peak). The limestone area, so far as known, is not more than a few miles in diameter and is surrounded by Tertiary volcanics, chiefly rhyolite.

At the Klondike mines the limestones are cut by a long, dike-like intrusion of a peculiar granitic, highly siliceous rock, which will

<sup>1</sup> Published by permission of the Director of the United States Geological Survey.

be later described. At a distance from the intrusive the limestone is of a fine blue color, sometimes crystalline, often thin-bedded and slaty. As one approaches the dike, especially where this is thickest, the sediments are seen to be highly metamorphosed. Some of the limestone has been altered to marble and the slaty portions have been changed to knotted and spotted schists and dense siliceous hornstone. Microscopic study shows that the schists and hornstones are composed of quartz, muscovite, calcite, epidote, garnet, etc., in varying proportions. In one variety of spotted schist the spots consist of fibrous green amphibole.

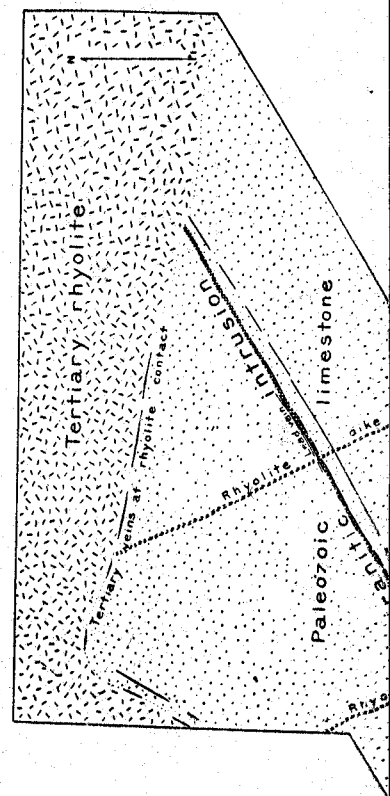
#### NATURE OF THE GRANITIC INTRUSION.

The granitic intrusion, as shown on the map (Fig. 30), extends for nearly a mile with a general course of N. 60° E. and a north-west dip. It has an average thickness of about 15 feet and for most of its course is nearly straight. On the southwest end it terminates in an irregular knob, about 100 yards in its longer, and about one-third as much in its shorter diameter. At the northeast end the dike is cut off by Tertiary rhyolite. It is therefore probably pre-Tertiary in age.

The granitic rock is lithologically of a varied character. Some portions are very fine-grained and others coarse, the two textures grading rapidly into one another. It contains nests of pegmatite, which pass by transitional stages into masses and veinlets of pure quartz. There are also masses of quartz segregated in the midst of the granitic rock, with no intermediate pegmatitic stages.

The principal minerals of the rock are quartz, feldspar and muscovite. These are present in all relative proportions, the variation in mineralogy being especially marked in the large knob which terminates the intrusion at the southwest end. The predominant type contains all three minerals, but in some places large masses are made up of quartz and feldspar only and in others of muscovite and quartz only. All of the rocks contain much quartz.

The intrusive mass may, therefore, be divided into four readily



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## THE SOUTHERN KLONDIKE DISTRICT

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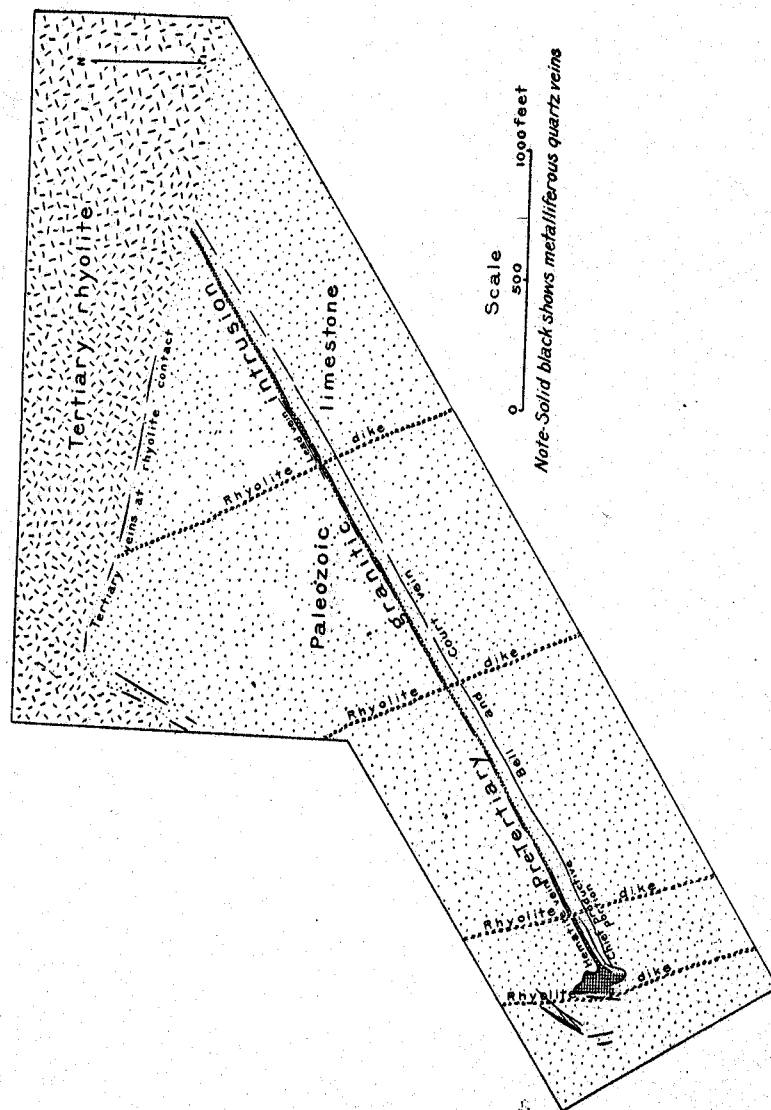


FIG. 30. Sketch map showing geologic conditions in the Southern Klondike district, Esmeralda Co., Nevada.

distinguished phases. Arranged in the order of their relative abundance these are:

1. Quartz-muscovite-feldspar rock (muscovite-granite).
2. Quartz-feldspar rock (alaskite).
3. Quartz-muscovite rock.
4. Quartz rock.

#### DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF ROCK TYPES.

1. *Quartz-muscovite-feldspar rock*.—From a study of numerous thin sections this rock is seen to vary greatly in the proportions of quartz, feldspar and muscovite which it contains, the muscovite, however, being always subordinate to the quartz and to the feldspar. Of the two last-named minerals, sometimes the one and sometimes the other is in excess. The species of feldspar include orthoclase, microcline and albite or oligoclase-albite. All varieties are usually fresh and unaltered, although kaolinization due to weathering is to be occasionally observed.

The muscovite is partly coarse and partly fine. In some thin sections it is all coarse, like the typical muscovite of granite; in others a large proportion is fine-grained and approaches in appearance the fine-grained variety of muscovite which is called sericite and which is often derived from the alteration of feldspar. In this rock, indeed, the feldspar is frequently intergrown with fine, small blades of muscovite and in such cases the latter mineral might be taken on casual examination to be a secondary product. Since the feldspar is fresh, however, the muscovite is undoubtedly contemporaneous with it.

The quartz encloses crystals of feldspar and muscovite and seems to have been the last mineral to crystallize.

There are no dark ferromagnesian minerals present. Accessory minerals include greenish-white garnet and small crystals of hematite, which are pseudomorphous after probable primary pyrite.

2. *Quartz-feldspar rock*.—The quartz-feldspar rock is connected by transitional stages with the quartz-feldspar-muscovite rock and like that rock it has an allotriomorphic granular structure and generally a medium fine texture. The essential miner-

als, quartz and feldspar, are present. The feldspar includes the species orthoclase and is sometimes turbid from being slightly altered along cracks. The result, probably, of weathering. The muscovite is to be carefully distinguished from the muscovite of these rocks.

Accessory minerals include hematite.

3. *Quartz-muscovite rock*.—This rock is connected by transitional phases with the quartz-feldspar rock. It is characterized by its texture with a texture varying from coarse to fine. Typically it contains no feldspar. The essential minerals, quartz and muscovite, are sometimes one and sometimes the other.

The muscovite is of two kinds, coarse and fine. It is often a transition between the two. In general the two sizes belong to different conditions of consolidation. In some sections is made up of coarse muscovite, with typical granitic texture and is usually intergrown with quartz. In some cases it is contemporaneous. In some cases with a radial arrangement) and in some cases fine-grained muscovite is also present with fine-grained quartz, and in some cases a second generation, later than the first. In certain sections the coarse muscovite is the original feldspar. In others the fine. Both varieties sometimes occur in small matted areas of muscovite. The hypothesis, that these minerals are the original feldspars. Nevertheless the coarse and the fine muscovite are contemporaneous formation, as shown by the transition from one to the other; and if the finer is the result of the alteration of feldspar.

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(muscovite-granite).

#### ROCK TYPES.

—From a study of numerous rocks which it contains, the muscovite is subordinate to the quartz and feldspar minerals, sometimes the latter being in excess. The species of feldspar are albite or oligoclase-albite. The muscovite is sometimes altered, although kaolinization is occasionally observed.

The muscovite is partly fine. In some thin sections the muscovite of granite is fine-grained and approaches in appearance the fine-grained muscovite which is called "sericite" from the alteration of feldspar. The muscovite is frequently intergrown with the quartz and in such cases the latter is frequently altered to be a secondary mineral, however, the muscovite is primary.

The quartz and muscovite and feldspar are crystalline.

Accessory minerals present. Accessory minerals include apatite, colorless garnet and titanite.

Small crystals of garnet and small crystals of apatite after probable primary

quartz-feldspar rock is connected by transitional phases with the two types above described. It is characterized by an allotriomorphic granular structure with a texture varying from medium coarse to medium fine. Typically it contains no feldspar whatever. The proportions of the essential minerals, quartz and muscovite, are variable, sometimes one and sometimes the other being predominant.

The muscovite is of two kinds, one coarse and one fine. There is often a transition between the coarse and the fine, but in general the two sizes belong to distinct classes, and illustrate different conditions of consolidation. Frequently most of a given thin section is made up of coarse intercrystallized quartz and muscovite, with typical granitic texture. This muscovite is primary, and is usually intergrown with the quartz, with which it is contemporaneous. In some cases large flakes of muscovite (often with a radial arrangement) are earlier than the quartz. The fine-grained muscovite is also intergrown and contemporaneous with fine-grained quartz, and this intergrowth frequently forms a second generation, later than the coarse quartz and muscovite. In certain sections the coarse muscovite may predominate, in others the fine. Both varieties seem plainly original. In some cases small matted areas of muscovite and quartz suggest, as a possible hypothesis, that these minerals have formed by the alteration of original feldspars. Nevertheless there is no question but that the coarse and the fine muscovite are of similar and nearly contemporaneous formation, as shown by frequent transitions from one to the other; and if the finer muscovite has in places resulted from the alteration of feldspar, the recrystallization must have

als, quartz and feldspar, are present in varying proportions. The feldspar includes the species orthoclase, microcline and albite, and is sometimes turbid from kaolinization. It is occasionally slightly altered along cracks to fine muscovite (sericite), as a result, probably, of weathering processes. This secondary muscovite is to be carefully distinguished from the ordinary original muscovite of these rocks.

Accessory minerals include apatite, colorless garnet and titanite.

3. *Quartz-muscovite rock.*—The quartz-muscovite rock is connected by transitional phases with the two types above described. It is characterized by an allotriomorphic granular structure with a texture varying from medium coarse to medium fine. Typically it contains no feldspar whatever. The proportions of the essential minerals, quartz and muscovite, are variable, sometimes one and sometimes the other being predominant.

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taken place during the rock's consolidation. This change, if there was such, was also probably effected before the consolidation of the quartz, for the quartz encloses not only the coarse muscovite, but in many cases the fine fibres.

Accessory minerals in the quartz-muscovite rocks include pseudomorphs of hematite after pyrite, and occasional small garnets.

4. *Quartz rock*.—Quartz "veins," which are a phase of the intrusive magma, arise by diminution and withdrawal of the feldspar and muscovite. Thin sections of these quartz veins usually show the presence of a small and variable amount of muscovite.

Accessory minerals include hematite and pyrite. In some localities these iron minerals have bunched together in the quartz, so that they make up what often appears to the naked eye to be a mass of pure iron ore. Near the surface the pyrite has altered entirely to hematite and limonite. Thin sections show that in the interstices between the separate hematite crystals there is granular quartz, which has solidified subsequent to the metallic minerals. Fine muscovite is also present.

#### CHEMICAL CHARACTERS.<sup>1</sup>

Following are analyses of the different types of rocks described above:

TABLE I.

1. *Quartz-feldspar-muscovite rock*  
(*Muscovite Granite*).

	Spec. No. 108.	No. 86.
SiO <sub>2</sub>	71.80	75.64
Na <sub>2</sub> O	3.50	4.22
K <sub>2</sub> O	5.20	3.64

TABLE II.

2. *Quartz-feldspar rock (Alaskite)*.

	No. 92.
SiO <sub>2</sub>	70.32
Na <sub>2</sub> O	2.65
K <sub>2</sub> O	7.90

#### METALLIFEROUS VEINS.

Close to the contact of the intrusive granitic mass with the limestone, and following the contact on the southeast side for the whole length of the intrusion, is a quartz vein (see map, Fig. 30) which, near the surface, carries sporadic high values in gold and

<sup>1</sup> Of the accompanying analyses, Nos. 87 and 88 were made by Dr. W. F. Hillebrand, and the others by Dr. E. T. Allen, of the U. S. Geological Survey.

#### 3 and 4. Quartz-muscovite Rocks

	No. 87. <sup>1</sup>		No. 97. No. 98.	
	a	b		
SiO <sub>2</sub>	71.38	72.69	73.64	74.08
Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	14.31 <sup>2</sup>	13.42 <sup>2</sup>		
Fe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	.66	.97		
FeO	.28	.32		
MgO	.25	.26		
CaO	2.22	1.97		
Na <sub>2</sub> O	.15	.21	.54	.92
K <sub>2</sub> O	3.79	3.36	4.84	4.65
H <sub>2</sub> O	1.60	2.36		
H <sub>2</sub> O+	3.03	2.60		
TiO <sub>2</sub>	a little	a little		
CO <sub>2</sub>	1.42	.97		
P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub>	a little	a little		
SO <sub>3</sub>	none	none		
Cl		trace		
F	.17	.25		
S	none	none		
MnO	a little	a little		
Li <sub>2</sub> O				
	99.26	99.38		
Less O=Fe.07		.10		
	99.19	99.28		

silver. Its average distance from the maximum about 100. These are the Bell and Court veins. In the southwest or knobbed end of the intrusion, silver (chiefly in the form of silver carbonate) is relatively more abundant than at the surface itself. There is considerable lead carbonate, below the surface to 50 or 60 feet in both gold and silver, assay \$60 or \$70 gold, or even higher. A pyrite phide occurs, whose oxidation product is silver carbonate. This resembles the

<sup>1</sup> This analysis indicates the presence of silver (probably infiltrated) not revealed by the surface.

<sup>2</sup> Incl. a little TiO<sub>2</sub> and P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>.

<sup>3</sup> With a little TiO<sub>2</sub> and P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>.

<sup>4</sup> By ignition.

consolidation. This change, if effected before the consolidation, encloses not only the coarse fibres.

muscovite rocks include pseudomorphs and occasional small garnets, which are a phase of the reaction and withdrawal of the solutions of these quartz veins. A small and variable amount of

hematite and pyrite. In some places they are banded together in the quartz, and appear to the naked eye to be a surface the pyrite has altered. Thin sections show that in some places hematite crystals there is evidence subsequent to the metallic being present.

#### CHARACTERS.<sup>1</sup>

Different types of rocks described

TABLE II.

Quartz-feldspar rock (Alaskite).

	No. 92.
SiO <sub>2</sub>	70.32
Na <sub>2</sub> O	2.65
K <sub>2</sub> O	7.90

#### US VEINS.

Intrusive granitic mass with the contact on the southeast side for the quartz vein (see map, Fig. 30) showing erratic high values in gold and

87 and 88 were made by Dr. W. F. Allen, of the U. S. Geological Survey.

TABLE III.

3 and 4. Quartz-muscovite Rock. Series Transitional into Quartz Veins.

	No. 87. <sup>1</sup>		No. 97.	No. 91.	No. 88.	No. 116.	No. 90.	No. 96.	No. 99.	No. 117.
	a	b								
SiO <sub>2</sub>	71.38	72.69	73.64	74.08	75.51	76.39	79.40	84.58	94.34	96.82
Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	14.31 <sup>2</sup>	13.42 <sup>2</sup>			14.28 <sup>3</sup>					
Fe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	.66	.97			1.09					
FeO	.28	.32			.38					
MgO	.25	.26			.28					
CaO	2.22	1.97			.34					
Na <sub>2</sub> O	.15	.21	.54	.92	.20	.52	.82	.45	.21	.22
K <sub>2</sub> O	3.79	3.36	4.84	4.65	4.69	3.98	3.68	2.87	.16	.17
H <sub>2</sub> O	1.60	2.36								
H <sub>2</sub> O+	3.03	2.60			3.36 <sup>4</sup>					
TiO <sub>2</sub>	a little	a little			a little					
CO <sub>2</sub>	1.42	.97			a little					
P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub>	a little	a little			a little					
SO <sub>3</sub>	none	none								
Cl		trace			trace					
F	.17	.25			.20					
S	none	none								
MnO	a little	a little			trace					
Li <sub>2</sub> O					trace					
Less O=Fe.O7	99.26	99.38			100.33					
		.10			.08					
	99.19	99.28			100.25					

silver. Its average distance from the intrusive contact is 75 feet, the maximum about 100. This vein is called, from its discoverers, the Bell and Court vein. Its chief productive portion is near the southwest or knobbed end of the dike. The values are mostly silver (chiefly in the form of chloride), with some gold. Gold is relatively more abundant a short distance below the surface than at the surface itself. The most superficial zone, marked by considerable lead carbonate, extends from about 20 or 30 feet below the surface to 50 or 60 feet. Some of these ores are rich in both gold and silver, assaying up to 200 to 300 oz. silver, and \$60 or \$70 gold, or even higher. Occasionally a black-gray sulphide occurs, whose oxidation has resulted in some copper carbonate. This resembles the compound known as *stetefeldtite*,

<sup>1</sup> This analysis indicates the presence of a considerable amount of calcite (probably infiltrated) not revealed by the thin section.

<sup>2</sup> Incl. a little TiO<sub>2</sub> and P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>.

<sup>3</sup> With a little TiO<sub>2</sub> and P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>.

<sup>4</sup> By ignition.



which is a copper-antimony-silver compound, containing generally also gold. Such specimens are said to assay as high as 4,000 oz. to the ton. Some portions of the vein contain bunches of galena, a mineral from which the lead carbonate is probably derived by oxidation. Pyrite, some of it slightly cupriferous, is frequent. Among other minerals of the vein are siderite, calcite and hematite, and in one place a streak rich in wad (manganese oxide) was found. All these minerals, however, are in the petrographic sense accessory, the vein being almost entirely quartz.

From workings near the surface about \$33,000 worth of ore has been shipped, consisting of 100 tons, averaging over \$300 a ton; but the average tenor of the vein is exceedingly low, running from 2 or 3 oz. down to  $\frac{1}{2}$  oz. of silver.

The vein cuts at a small angle across the stratification of the sedimentary rocks, and is essentially a silicified shear zone. It follows the irregular curves of the knob-like mass at the south end of the alaskite intrusion so faithfully as to show a definite genetic connection with the dike. Plainly the shear zone was caused by the disturbance produced by the intrusion.

The quartz of the vein is partly white granular vein-quartz, partly jasperoid. It frequently contains numerous liquid inclusions, which enclose gas bubbles.

The vein described above is the only one that has been productive of commercial ore. There are, however, other vein formations. Parallel to the productive portion of the Bell and Court vein and between it and the intrusive contact, is a vein of jasperoid and quartz, carrying values up to \$1 and \$2 per ton (chiefly silver, with some gold). This jasperoid vein, representing, like the Bell and Court vein, a silicified shear zone parallel to the contact, appears to run into the Bell and Court vein on the south and there unite with it. Other veins of jasperoid or white quartz, or both, less persistent than those above mentioned, occur near the contact, in the intruded limestone. They mostly follow the stratification of the limestone, which is nearly parallel to the strike of the dike, but sometimes are diagonal to the formation. They are often iron-stained, and contain a little silver and gold. Under the microscope they show interlocking grains of quartz containing small crystals of magnetite.

Half a mile northeast of the Bell and Court mine, but close along the vein, the writer studied a segregitic (alaskite) dike. At this place pyrite occur both in the quartz and in the alaskite. Under the microscope contemporaneous with the quartz is a very little accessory contemporaneous limestone, especially near the knob-like mass on the southwest side, there is a hematite which reaches a maximum thickness. This hematite has been shown to be a replacement of original pyrite, which at the contact, in the granite and probably in the limestone masses often contain pure quartz. The hematite is similar in appearance to that of the pyrite, mixed with the hematite in all places. In the hematite, phases arise which are similar to the seminated oxidized pyrite, and by which a nearly pure quartz originates. This quartz is found along the same contact, and is a vein. Such pyrite-bearing quartz occurs closely and occur especially in the most localities, instead of a single vein and small vein-like quartz masses. In the texture with the segregated quartz in the granite. These pyrite- or hematite-bearing veins occur on one margin of the dike, some are entirely wanting. This irregularity in the vertical sense, for in one place there is on a deposit of hematite for 30 feet, and to decrease to almost nothing. In some places small amounts of gold, silver and copper, perhaps \$2 to the ton. None of it is associated with the granitic intrusion, there is, on the



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Half a mile northeast of the productive portion of the Bell and Court mine, but close alongside a barren portion of the same vein, the writer studied a segregation of quartz within the granitic (alaskite) dike. At this locality crystals of galena and pyrite occur both in the quartz and in the adjacent extremely siliceous alaskite. Under the microscope the galena is seen to be contemporaneous with the quartz, and the quartz also encloses a very little accessory contemporaneous muscovite.

In places at the very contact of the intrusive rock with the limestone, especially near the knob which terminates the intrusion on the southwest side, there is a deposit of hard, nearly solid, hematite which reaches a maximum of 10 or 15 feet in thickness. This hematite has been shown to be largely derived from the oxidation of original pyrite, which was formed along the intrusive contact, in the granite and probably also in the limestone. These masses often contain pure quartz in considerable quantity, similar in appearance to that of the Bell and Court vein, and mixed with the hematite in all proportions. By a diminution of the hematite, phases arise which consist of quartz carrying disseminated oxidized pyrite, and by further diminution of the iron a nearly pure quartz originates. These different phases may be found along the same contact, and practically along the same vein. Such pyrite-bearing quartz veins follow the contact closely and occur especially in the granite (at the contact). In most localities, instead of a single vein, there is a band of large and small vein-like quartz masses, which are identical in nature with the segregated quartz bodies found elsewhere in the granite. These pyrite- or hematite-bearing veins sometimes occur on one margin of the dike, sometimes on both, and again are entirely wanting. This irregularity is characteristic also in a vertical sense, for in one place where workings have been sunk on a deposit of hematite for 30 or 40 feet, it has been found to decrease to almost nothing. The hematite is said to carry small amounts of gold, silver and lead, the average value being perhaps \$2 to the ton. None of it has been mined.

About one-half a mile northeast of the knobbed end of the granitic intrusion, there is, on the northwest side of the dike, a

quartz vein similar, in nature and location, to the hematite-bearing veins, but containing considerable galena instead of oxidized pyrite. This "lead vein" may be traced continuously 200 or 300 yards, but is usually barren. It wedges out in the limestone in such a way as to indicate that it fills an opening caused by the granitic intrusion.

*Mineralization Connected with the Tertiary Rhyolite.*—Rhyolite forms several thin southwest-striking dikes, which trend at right angles to the alaskite dike and are intrusive into the limestone, the alaskite, and the veins associated with the alaskite. The veins, alaskite and limestone, are cut off by a large mass of similar rhyolite on the northeast. This rock contains phenocrysts of quartz and orthoclase, in a glassy ground-mass. Biotite is scarce and is usually altered.

Some silicification and ore deposition has accompanied the rhyolite intrusion. In one locality, where a small rhyolite dike has cut across the Bell and Court vein, the ore was very rich for 3 inches away from the intrusive contact, beyond which it was barren. This indicates either subsequent mineralization (later than the original ore deposition), or concentration of preëxisting values by the solutions attendant upon the rhyolitic intrusion. More definite proofs of mineralization mark the contact of the main rhyolite mass, which is intrusive, and trends irregularly but in a generally different direction from that of the alaskitic intrusion. The contact of the rhyolite and the intruded limestone is marked by irregular large reefs of iron-stained quartz and jasperoid, of a nature very similar to that which characterizes the contact of the granitic intrusion. The reefs contain some gold and silver, and have been prospected but not mined. This Tertiary mineralization is not believed to have any immediate genetic connection with the pre-Tertiary mineralization which is the main subject of this paper.

#### GENERAL CONCLUSIONS.

##### NATURE AND ORIGIN OF THE VARIATIONS OF THE GRANITIC ROCK.

*Character of the Magma.*—The granitic magma, intrusive in this locality, was siliceous and alkaline, varying considerably in

the proportion of soda to potash is shown by the analyses from a considerable range of compositions (alaskitic) intrusions has been, for example, by the writer at Silver Peak. It may be characteristic of this class of intrusions, or what is known as to the irregular pegmatitic rocks, which are close to the cases the segregation may be explained by the relatively slight viscosity of the magma, admitted strong currents to bring together materials of like materials. This assumption is a consideration which cannot be repeated. Siliceous magmas are in a relation to the

*Relation of Rock Types.*—The Klondike intrusive rock are of the alaskitic type. The feldspar is alkaline, the rock is albite. When all three minerals are present, which has been called muscovite, muscovite is rare or wanting, and the rock is again, feldspar may be wanting, and the rock, and finally, both muscovite and feldspar when quartz rock results. The quartz rocks in this district is of the alaskitic type, which is analogous to the transition type by the diminution of feldspar, and is found in various districts, as at Silver Peak. The alaskite of the Southern Klondike intrusion is of the muscovite and the feldspar type.

*Origin of Muscovite.*—In the case of two generations of crystals, the result is coarser crystals, the given rock may be made up of either, or both. The muscovite is of two generations. The coarse

<sup>1</sup> The Silver Peak geology is to be published by the writer (published by the

ion, to the hematite-bearing galena instead of oxidized and continued continuously 200 or more feet out in the limestone and an opening caused by the

*Tertiary Rhyolite.*—Rhyolitic dikes, which trend at right angles intrusive into the limestone associated with the alaskite. It is cut off by a large mass of this rock contains phenocrysts of biotite and ground-mass. Biotite

has accompanied the rhyolite. A small rhyolite dike has been found which was very rich for 3 miles beyond which it was barren. Mineralization (later than the concentration of preexisting minerals in the rhyolitic intrusion). To mark the contact of the rhyolite and trends irregularly but that of the alaskitic intrusion. The intruded limestone is stained with quartz and jasper at which characterizes the reefs contain some gold but not mined. This Tertiary has any immediate genetic mineralization which is the main

# IONS.

OF THE GRANITIC ROCK. Intrusive magma, intrusive in limestone, varying considerably in

the proportion of soda to potash and in the amount of silica, as is shown by the analyses from the different portions. This considerable range of composition in different parts of alkaline (alaskitic) intrusions has been observed in other places, as for example, by the writer at Silver Peak,<sup>1</sup> in Nevada, and seems to be characteristic of this class of rocks. It also conforms with what is known as to the irregular segregation of elements in pegmatitic rocks, which are closely related to alaskites. In both cases the segregation may be explained by the assumption of relatively slight viscosity of the magma, which property has permitted strong currents to bring about the migration and massing of like materials. This assumption is warranted by other considerations which cannot be repeated here, but which show that siliceous magmas are in a relatively aqueous and fluid condition.

*Relation of Rock Types.*—The typical minerals of the Southern Klondike intrusive rock are quartz, feldspar, and muscovite. The feldspar is alkaline, the chief species being orthoclase and albite. When all three minerals are present the rock is a type which has been called muscovite-granite. Frequently, however, muscovite is rare or wanting, when the rock becomes an alaskite. Again, feldspar may be wanting, the result being quartz-muscovite rock, and finally, both muscovite and feldspar may be wanting, when quartz rock results. The typical method of transition into quartz rocks in this district is by diminution of the muscovite, which is analogous to the transition of alaskite into quartz rock by the diminution of feldspar, a change which has been observed in various districts, as at Silver Peak. Indeed, in all the phases of the Southern Klondike intrusion, an intimate relation between the muscovite and the feldspar (orthoclase) has been noted.

*Origin of Muscovite.*—In all the rocks there is some evidence of two generations of crystallization, the first having resulted in coarser crystals, the second in relatively fine ones. A given rock may be made up mostly of one generation or of the other, or both. The muscovite, like the quartz, occurs in these two generations. The coarse variety of muscovite is like that

<sup>1</sup> The Silver Peak geology is to be made the subject of a professional paper by the writer (published by the U. S. Geol. Surv.).

variety often called sericite. But the transitions between the two varieties are convincing as to their common origin. In the muscovite granite and in the alaskite, blades of the fine muscovite in feldspar frequently suggest a secondary origin; but in such cases it is probably essentially primary, since similar blades are also enclosed in the quartz of the same thin sections. The fine muscovite in feldspar therefore represents either earlier-crystallized fibres enclosed in later feldspar or the partial alteration of the feldspar to muscovite, before the final consolidation of the rock. That at least part of the fine included muscovite is actually secondary to the feldspar is shown by its distribution in zones parallel with the cleavages and with the margins of the crystals. In the quartz-muscovite rocks there are also often areas of fine muscovite and quartz, which are surmised to be due to the total alteration of original feldspars, but this fine muscovite is transitional in the same thin sections into the coarse muscovite typical of granites, and all have evidently been formed by the same processes.

The analyses of the quartz-muscovite rocks show that they have a chemical composition like that of many quartz-orthoclase rocks or alaskites, the place of the orthoclase of these rocks being typical of granites, and the finer grained phase resembles the taken by muscovite and quartz and having together practically the same chemical composition as the orthoclase.

The conclusion arrived at is that orthoclase has been attacked during consolidation, and partially altered to muscovite of varying degrees of coarseness. There is no reason to separate this secondary muscovite in nature and origin from true granitic muscovite.

The crystallizing agent was probably fluorine in the residual magma, for fluorine has been found to be necessary to the artificial production of mica,<sup>1</sup> and the analyses given above show the presence of fluorine in these rocks, undoubtedly contained in the muscovite. Analyses of muscovites from other districts typically show the presence of fluorine. The coarser muscovite of the rocks may also have been crystallized by the action of fluorine

<sup>1</sup> Doelter, "Chemische Mineralogie," p. 161.

upon the orthoclase molecule concurs with the suggestion.

According to this explanation the original intrusive magma in which as orthoclase where fluorine in the rock or alaskite has resulted. In the mass where fluorine was abundant, it crystallized entirely as muscovite rock. Where, however, fluorine was scarce, the original magma, alaskite, since muscovite cannot be formed without the molecule, and the resulting rock is alaskite. These conclusions connote the crystallization phase of an alaskite with the alaskites rather than the muscovite.

*Relation to Other Districts.*—The alaskites are analogous to those at Belmont and the Southern Klondike. Hebert, in a previous paper,<sup>2</sup> a granitic intrusion in the Klondike has cut through the alaskite, extended by ore deposits. The alaskite is known in the Ural Mountains, as the writer has pointed out in a paper concerning the Russian beresite. In thin sections, as well as in thin sections, as well as in thin sections, the writer believes that the Russian beresite is similar to the alaskite. More recently the writer has found at Silver Peak, Nevada.

The rocks in all these localities show phases of granitic magmas in which alaskite. The presence of fluorine in the magma has permitted irregular crystallization in the presence of fluorine has produced, from the quartz.

<sup>2</sup> "Chemische und Physikalische Mineralogie."

<sup>3</sup> American Journal of Science.

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upon the orthoclase molecule in the magma. This supposition  
concurs with the suggestion of Bischof.<sup>1</sup>

According to this explanation, the orthoclase molecule in the  
original intrusive magma in this district has crystallized entirely  
as orthoclase where fluorine was scanty, and quartz-orthoclase  
rock or alaskite has resulted. In those portions of the intrusive  
mass where fluorine was abundant, the orthoclase molecule has  
crystallized entirely as muscovite, and the result is quartz-musco-  
vite rock. Where, however, the albite molecule was present in  
the original magma, alaskite or muscovite granite has formed,  
since muscovite cannot be formed directly from the albite mole-  
cule, and the resulting rock in this case always contains feldspar.  
These conclusions connote the idea that muscovite-granite is a  
crystallization phase of an alaskite magma, and is to be classed  
with the alaskites rather than with the granites.

*Relation to Other Districts.*—The features of this district are  
analogous to those at Belmont, Nevada, about 70 miles north of  
the Southern Klondike. Here, as the writer has noted in a pre-  
vious paper,<sup>2</sup> a granitic intrusion similar in nature to that at the  
Klondike has cut through Silurian limestone-slates and is at-  
tended by ore deposits. The Klondike rock is also like that long  
known in the Ural Mountains under the name of beresite, which,  
as the writer has pointed out, is likewise the equivalent of some  
of the rock of the Belmont intrusion. From the literature con-  
cerning the Russian beresite, and from the examination of speci-  
mens and thin sections, as well as the recollections of a personal  
visit, the writer believes that the nature and genesis of the Rus-  
sian beresite is similar to that of the rock in these Nevada locali-  
ties. More recently the writer has studied similar phenomena  
at Silver Peak, Nevada.

The rocks in all these localities are regarded as ultra-siliceous  
phases of granitic magmas having the chemical composition of  
alaskite. The presence of much water and mineralizers in the  
magma has permitted irregular segregation of the alkalis.  
Crystallization in the presence of a varying amount of fluorine  
has produced, from the quartz-orthoclase magma, either musco-

<sup>1</sup> "Chemische und Physikalische Geologie," Vol. 2, p. 744.

<sup>2</sup> *American Journal of Science*, Vol. X., Nov., 1900, p. 355.

vite granite, alaskite, or quartz-muscovite rock; and from the quartz-orthoclase-albite magma muscovite-granite or alaskite. Segregation of the quartz has produced quartz veins which are mineralogically transitional either from the alaskites or (in the presence of a considerable amount of fluorine at the time of their consolidation) from the chemical equivalents of the alaskites, the quartz-muscovite rocks.

The whole intrusive mass in the Klondike district then, as well as that at Belmont, is a beresite, like that in Russia, the name signifying the peculiar character of the rock as first described at Beresovsk. Chemically it is alaskite and mineralogically it is muscovite granite (more properly muscovite alaskite), alaskite, and quartz-muscovite rock. If a special name is necessary to denote the variety of granitic rocks, consisting essentially of quartz and muscovite, the name esmeraldite may be applied, derived from the name of the county in which the Klondike district lies.

*The Origin of the Ores.*—In all the above cases where these peculiar beresitic phenomena have been noted, ore deposits are genetically connected with the intrusions. The ore deposits appear to be due to the action of the same residual siliceous magmatic waters and gases which have played so important a part in the consolidation of the intrusive rock. These mineralizers have brought about concentration of metals, which were also residual from the principal and earlier-crystallized portion of the magma.

In the Klondike district, the pegmatitic quartz segregated in the midst of the granitic intrusion, indicates that the end product of crystallization was quartz, which was deposited by residual siliceous magmatic solutions. The more or less metalliferous veins of jasperoid and white quartz at and near the intrusive contact are part of the phenomena of the zone of contact metamorphism, and seem to be due also to the siliceous granitic solutions. The deposits of pyrite and hematite at the contact of the intrusive rock also represent a phase of the contact metamorphism, having probably been formed by residual solutions rising along the contact and depositing quartz, pyrite, and hematite, both in the granite and in the intruded limestone.

## EDITORIAL

With the present number the *American Geologist* is published under the name of *The American Geologist*, incorporated with ECONOMIC GEOLOGY.

This consolidation was contemplated long before the appearance of the new journal before the appearance of the new journal contemplated a part of the plan which has been published.

It is with no little pleasure that the *American Geologist* completes the arrangements for the completion of the arrangements, and offers the opportunity to express their views on the reception which has been extended to the journal by practical men, and because the journal has attained a permanence, which might have been expected after many years of successful publication.

In the early consideration of the questions involved in the establishment of the enterprise, it seemed to them that the journal might best be made of service if it were to be an already established scientific publication, with a slight change in the scope of the journal, and a limitation of articles and diagrams, so that geology would then serve to reach the aim of the journal.

They further felt that to do this it was necessary to discontinue the publication of journals until the purpose and aim of the new venture had been thoroughly recognized, and the misconception of the field to be covered.

*The American Geologist* was published with but little alteration in its scope for a period of eighteen years. It has been the work of many of the ablest geologists in the country.