Muttleberry District 33400001

The Muttleberry district is in Muttleberry Canyon at the south end of the Humboldt Range 9 miles by automobile road and a little south of west from Lovelock. The last 2 miles of road in Muttleberry Canyon are in poor condition. The principal property is the Old Tiger mine, which shipped some silver-lead-antimony ore in 1910. According to J. T. Reid of Lovelock 40 cars of ore were shipped. In 1919 the property was equipped with a small Gibson mill and concentrator, but after a short period of operation the mill was dismantled and the equipment was removed. Since then the district has been idle except for desultory prospecting. When it was visited there was no activity.

The formation in the district is slate, limestone, and quartzite, capped in places by Tertiary volcanic rocks. Virtually all development work has been confined to the north side of a small ravine tributary to Muttleberry Canyon. Five tunnels have been driven into the hillside within a radius of several hundred yards. The size of the waste dumps indicates that development work totals about 1,000 feet. The ore occurs in a flat, irregular vein in limestone. The values are chiefly in silver and lead, with a little gold. Antimony and a little copper are present. In the ravine below the mine several springs produce about 1 gallon of water per minute.

Two miles north of Muttleberry Canyon on the west slope of the Humboldt Range is a bedded deposit of gypsum in limestone. The deposit is accessible by fair automobile road from Lovelock, a station 6 miles west on the Southern Pacific Railroad. The road from the mouth of the canyon to the deposit, a distance of 1/2 mile, has been washed out, so that this distance must be traversed on foot.

In the early nineties considerable gypsum was shipped from the deposit; parts of the shipping bins then erected are still standing. Subsequently some gypsum was shipped to the Western Gypsum Co. at Reno. Property has been idle for many years.

The geology of this deposit has been described by Jones[9/] and by Louderback.[10/]

The surface showings indicate extensive gypsum deposits. Owing to the dry climate the waters carrying gypsum in solution have evaporated at the surface, forming gypsite, and the gray conspicuous outcrop is a striking feature of this part of the Humboldt Range. The deposits strike parallel to the trend of the range for several thousand feet. Most of the work has been confined to an open-cut about 100 feet wide and several hundred feet long. The face of the open-cut is about 35 feet high and shows considerable folding and faulting of the formation. The gypsum occurs as a porous and friable mass intercalated with thin strata of limestone. Scattered over the surface are 12 prospecting trenches 4 feet wide, 2 feet deep, and 20 to 80 feet long. Gypsum is exposed in virtually all of these trenches. On the south end of the deposit selenite crystals are exposed. No analyses are available.

According to a location notice on the property dated July 1927 the Nevada Placer Gypsum claim covering most of the deposit is 5,280 feet long and 1,323 feet wide. The claim was located by F. F. Emmons of Lovelock and seven associates, and presumably the same group is still in possession.

Nightingale District

The Nightingale district is on the east slope of the Nightingale Range near the Pershing-Washoe County boundary line. The nearest railroad is at Nixon 18

9/ Jones, J.C., Gypsum Deposits of the United States: U.S. Geol. Survey Bull. 697, 1920, pp. 146-149.
10/ Louderback, G.D., Gypsum Deposits in Nevada; U.S. Geol. Survey Bull. 223, 1907, pp. 112-117.