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Inspection Trip - May 1931

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with Jay Carpenter (NBM)

TELEPHONE CANYON, MINA

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item 4

Belleville Mine

The following day, May 22, 1931, we accompanied Mr. O. J. Belleville of Mina to his gold mine in Telephone Canyon. The location is in the Pilot Range of Mountains 7.2 miles east of Sodaville, Mineral County. The last $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles of the road is up steep Telephone Canyon over a rough road. The rise is 3200' in the $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles, from an elevation of 5,000 feet to 7200' at the end of the road in the canyon, from which a trail winds upward for at least another 800 feet. Transportation is expensive.

The general formation is quartzite of Paleozoic age, which has a NE strike and dips 55° SE. The quartzite is cut by several small fissure veins having a general strike of S 10° E, dip 71° NE. Most of the mining has been done on one small vein, which, although very small—often only 6" to 12" wide, is quite persistent, and in places carries very high values in gold. The veins contain little or no hard quartz, but are filled with soft, black, clayey material containing much calcite, limonite and manganic oxide, which has been enriched near intrusions of Tertiary porphyries and at contacts with faults. In the main tunnel 3 faults were noted, following the quartzite bedding. The offsets are small, the greatest one being about 20 feet laterally. The pay shoots are small lenses of rich free gold, occurring as fine wire.

The mine was discovered by Chas. Woodworth in 1927 and bought by Belleville in 1928, and is covered by 4 mining claims. It has yielded about \$15,000 in all. Thirty-five tons of high grade has been shipped to Selby, and to the Thompson smelter. About 120 tons have been milled in a small plant built by Belleville, consisting of an Ellis ball-mill,

amalgam plates and a 1/2 size Campbell & Kelly table. Water is piped in 700 feet from a well in a ravine. Sufficient water has now been developed a few feet below the tunnel level in a winze, to supply the mill. A tunnel is being driven to cut the vein at 225 feet greater depth. It is now in 260', and has 130' yet to go. The present workings consist of some 550 feet of tunnels and drifts and small stopes.

This mine has attracted attention because of the rich gold and pannings exhibited, and the number of examinations made by mining speculators.

Probably the expense to date has not been met by the output of gold. The best ore probably is above the water level, and may have been mostly removed. At best this mine can only be a small scale operation. The lower tunnel will determine if the owners' hope of larger widths of sulphide milling ore below water level will be realized. In our opinion it is very doubtful. We made a sketch plan of the mine workings and the surrounding geological structure. At this time we do not advise additional examination of the Telephone Canyon area.

RHODES MARSH

Rhodes Alkali Chemical Corporation.

On our return from Telephone Canyon we visited the plant and operation of the above Company, and were pleasantly received by Mr. K.G. Bell, Supt., and Mr. C. A. Brown, Chemist. This company has many acres of shallow evaporating ponds in which crude hydrous sodium sulphate (mirabilite) is being concentrated by solar evaporation. In theory and