(160)

Item 3

(See also map files)

1 map

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PRELIMINARY REPORT

ON

THE AUSTIN MANHATTAN CONSOLIDATED MINING COMPANY

AUSTIN, LANDER COUNTY, NEVADA,

Examination September, 9,1918.

Report September, 13,1918.

By - W. H. Blackburn.

W.H.B

PRELIMINARY REPORT

ON

THE AUSTIN MANHATTAN CONSOLIDATED MINING COMPANY

LOCATION AND HOLDINGS:

This property embraces the principal producing area of the old Reese River Mining District, that was a very active camp between the years 1862 and 1888. Beside the old productive area the Company owns scattered claims throughout an area of 2-1/2 x 6 miles. Mr. Wm. A. Marshall, the Companys' Agent, says that the present holdings consist of 73 patented claims with an acreage of 630 acres, 43 unpatented claims aggregating about 580 acres, 2 patented mill sites and 1 unpatented mill site.

Upom the 2 patented mill sites are located the present 20 stamp mill and the portal of the 6000 foot tunnel that runs under Lander Hill in which are located the old producing mines.

The Nevada Central Railroad, (Narrow guage) connecting Battle Mountain on the Southern Pacific with Austin comes to within a few hyndred feet of the patented mill sites. Formerly the railroad extended to Lander Hill, though the grades required a Shay Locomotive.

EQUIPMENT:

No hoisting equipment of any kind remains. At the mill and portal of the long tunnel, is located a fairly well equipped machine and blacksmith shop but the tools are old and may be badly worn. At this point is located a 1000 Cu. ft. capacity Burleigh Vertical Cylinder Compresspr. This machine was exhibited at the Centenial Exhibition in Philadelphia in 1876.

The mill construction is of more recent model. The 20-1250 lb. stamps appear to be in running condition as does the gynatory and other crushers. The concentrating tables were dismanteled during the installation of the electro-static process and may be unfit for use. The electro-static process is said to

be a failure. Before and for sometime after 1888 the ore was con centrated and the concentrates shipped to the smelters.

A few rock drills of old type and a number of mine cars complete what is left of the old equipment.

All machinery is of the steam driven type. The nearest electric power would come from Wonder or Round Mountain, Nevada a distance of roughly 55 miles.

VEIN SYSTEM:

The country rock and vein system is best described in the U.S. Geological Survey Bulletin No. 594 pages 95 to 114. None of the numerous inclines and shafts on Lander Hill are open at the present time. An inspection of the surface gives very little information. All that can be seen verifies the state- ment that the fromer production came from numerous small, nearly parallel veins, enclosed entirely in granite. The out crops of veins are small and of poor grade. The values must have increase d with slight depth but the veins retained their small width, 6 inches to three feet, throughout the 1100 ft. depth on their dip. The dip of the veins varies from 15 to 30° from the horizontal. The ore milled must have assayed from $200.00 to $300.00 per ton at times. The total tonnage produeed by the various companies be- fore the consolidation was small yet the ground now owned by The Austin Manhattan has a record of producing over $20,000,000.00.

Silver in various forms is the principal meneral in the ore. During the productive period the price of silver declined from $1.33 to 94¢ per ounce.

The granite enclosing rock shows little alteration at depth. A number of dikes cut through the productive area and a considerable amount of faulting has taken place both before and after vein formation, all of which probably had something to do with ore deposition.

None of the veins underground can be examined at the present time. An examination of maps showed a considerable area

of stoping done and a possibility that ore edges could be examined in the inclines, shafts and drifts could be entered. Large stope area does not indicare large tonnage extracted as the veins were very small.

The Austin Manhattan or Cliffton Tunnel could not be entered on account of foul air. Several years ago the head works at Frost Shaft burned, causing the shaft to cave. This cave shut off the only tunnel ventilation.

This tunnel together with its 2800 ft. branch cut several veins but no record of their value can be found and their identity with the veins of Lander Hill cannot be determined as there is no connection through on vein material. The relative position of the tunnel and the Lander Hill veins both vertically and in plan is shown by the accompanying blue-print.

POSIBILITIES:

The finding of ore immediately is out of the question. The development situation has become complicated by the Frost Shaft cave closing the tunnel ventilation. Artifical ventilation must be used from the start. The handling of water below the Cliffton tunnel would be inexpensive as the flow is reported as small. At the present time about 20 gallons per minute is coming in above the tunnel level.

The development scheme would consist of cleaning and repairing the Clifton Tunnel for 6000 ft. and also the N. E. Branch for 2800 ft. from this work connect with the various vein workings above in order to identify the veins and to ascertain if any commercial ore remained in the stopes. At the same time some work to be done below the tunnel level.

To do this work would involve a considerable expenditure more than I can advise undertaking at present.

The Reese River District as well as the Austin Man-

hattan property should be kept under observation as it is well mineralized section.