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An unusual feature of the placer is that the best values are found at shallow depths - 8 inches to 3 feet above a false clay bedrock. The gravel is rough and angular, and considerable clay is present. The clayey material has to be dried and pulverized before satisfactory saving can be made with dry washers. The gold is coarse and rough and averages about 880 fine. Nuggets worth as much as $4.50 have been found.

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USBM I.C. 6902

Item 2

## Scossa District

The Scossa district is in the Antelope Range 50 miles by road north of Lovelock and 28 miles west of Imlay. It was discovered in 1930 by James and Charles Scossa. The value of the ore shipped to smelters or treated locally is estimated to be about $30,000. Seven carloads of ore shipped from the Dawes property are said to have averaged $50 per ton. From 1934 to March 1936, $9,000 in bullion was recovered from ore treated in a small mill owned by Olsen brothers and their associates. The nearest water is in Rosebud Canyon, 2 miles north of Scossa, where wells have been sunk.

The formation comprises slates and mica schists irregularly interbedded with strata of limestones and sandstones. The slates are intruded by small quartz-diorite dikes. The ore occurs in quartz veins 1 foot to 6 feet wide. The dips range from 50° to 75°. The values are chiefly in gold with some silver.

The Scossa strike was made on the North Star claim of a group owned by the Dawes Gold Mine, Inc. Rich ore was found at a place on the surface where the vein is about 6 feet wide. About 18 inches of the hanging-wall part of the vein contains stringers of gold-bearing quartz of high value. For a time after the initial discovery there was considerable activity. The deepest shaft in the district is the Dawes shaft, 400 feet deep as measured on the incline. Total development work is estimated to be about 4,000 feet.

The Dawes property consists of three claims. Lateral workings from the Dawes shaft total 1,000 feet. In 1935 the company erected a mill 2 miles north of Scossa that operated only a short time. Mill equipment consists of a jaw crusher, a 4-foot-diameter ball mill of the Ellis type equipped with 125-pound steel balls, a 6- by 4-foot amalgamating plate, and a small concentrating table. The power for milling is furnished by a Witte gasoline engine.

The Olsen property contains 5½ acres. The shaft on this property is 70 feet deep. Mine workings total approximately 350 feet. The vein averages 16 inches in width and dips 75°. In March 1936 it was the only active property in the district. The grade of the ore mined averages $25 per ton. The ore, which is mined by hand methods, is hauled 3/4 mile to a mill having a capacity of 2 tons per 12 hours. The mill equipment consists of a Straub grinding unit having a 30-mesh screen, and an amalgamation plate 6 inches wide and 2 feet long. Mercury is used in the Straub mill. The ore is screened by hand through a 1-inch-mesh screen. The oversize is stored for future treatment. The undersize is sent to the Straub mill. Power for milling is furnished by a Mecco 6-hp. gasoline engine. Water for milling is hauled by truck from a well 2 miles away. Some mill water is reclaimed. Water consumption is roughly 125 gallons per ton of ore.

George B. Noble of Scossa owns 43 acres in the district. Development work comprises an inclined shaft 150 feet deep and some surface cuts. No lateral work has been done from the Noble shaft. In 1931, when the shaft was sunk, 150 tons of ore were extracted and treated in a custom mill at Rosebud.