1901 4930 0015 file: Tungsten District 341

The earliest report on the district ~~appeared~~ was written by F.B. Weeks (1901, p 319-320). The complete report is reproduced as follows: Item 15

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AN OCCURRENCE OF TUNGSTEN ORE IN EASTERN NEVADA.

By F. B. Weeks.

The existence of a hübnerite-bearing vein about 12 miles south of Osceola, Nevada, was discovered in the early part of 1900. It occurs in the foothills on the west slope of the Snake Mountains, and near the base of Wheeler Peak, which is the culminating point of the range. The region is about 100 miles from Frisco, Utah, on the Oregon Short Line Railway, which is the nearest railroad point. A hasty examination of this locality was made in the course of a reconnaissance trip through this region in August, 1900. Prior to that time a small amount of ore had been gathered from the débris of the surface below the outcrop of the vein, and had been shipped in ton lots. The mineral was also seen to be disseminated through the loose soil of the mountain slopes.

The Tungsten mining district was organized in April, 1900. At the time of this examination a small gasoline plant with crusher and jigging apparatus was being installed so that shipment by the carload is now possible.

The vein in which the hübnerite occurs cuts across the country rock, which is a rather coarse porphyritic granite of the usual quartz-mica-hornblende variety. This granite has a rudely bedded structure, parallel to that of the overlying Cambrian quartzite which dip 20° to 25° SSW. The strike of the vein is N. 68° E., and the dip is 65° NW. The main vein is normally about 3 feet in width. In places it pinches to a few inches in thickness, but resumes its usual width within 30 to 40 feet. Several smaller veins from a few inches to a foot in thickness were seen to outcrop on the slopes and could be traced to the main vein, with which they form a sharply acute angle. The main vein was traced for a distance of 2,100 feet by croppings and floats from its outcrop near the base of the lowest foothill up the slope of the mountain.

A sufficient development of the vein had not been made at the time of the examination to determine the extent of the ore deposition. A tunnel about 40 feet in length had been driven in at the lowest outcrop of the vein, and was the only opening that had been made. The walls of the vein are well defined. Where the vein has its average

thickness it is formed of a milky-white quartz and carries a large amount of the hübnerite. Where the vein is pinched the quartz is schistose and the ore is in thin stringers and of small amount. The ore occurs in solid masses, frequently attaining a thickness of 6 to 12 inches. It is disseminated through the vein material in thick, plate-like forms, and also occurs crystallized with the quartz crystals. Small shoots of ore were seen penetrating the country rock for a few inches. The vein material is readily crushed, and the mineral, on account of its weight, is easily separated by jigging.

Later information stated that the tunnel was extended to a length of 65 feet, the vein widened out to 4 feet, and that the mineral occurs in bunches across the full width of the vein. Scheelite has also been found in small bunches and streaks with the hübnerite.

On one locality on the vein there was a somewhat remarkable occurrence of the ore. It was found in large bunches or blocks averaging 75 per cent of tungstic acid, and from a small space 4½ tons of the tungsten ore had been obtained. From report it was learned that other smaller quartz veins carrying wolframite had been found and located in the immediate vicinity. The veins are said to carry gold in very small amount.

Weeks, F. B., 1901, An occurrence of tungsten ore in Eastern Nevada, in U. S. Geol. Survey, 21st Ann. Rept. 1899-1900, ~~Part VI~~ Seven Parts, Part VI, 656 p. Govt. Printing Office, Washington,

also pub. in E. & M. J., July 6, 1901