

TR6-21-23

SAJBEN'S PROSPECT "THIS IS IT" GIPPS CREEK

by R. Jack.

LOCATION AND ACCESS

Lease number 22M60 held by D. E. M. Hayes and J. Sajben is located four miles south-west of Storeys Creek and a quarter of a mile north-west of the old Great Republic Mine. Access is by the Gipps Creek road which branches from the main Avoca-Storeys Creek road eight miles from Avoca.

GEOLOGY

Granite is the only rock exposed in the vicinity of the lease; it is pale grey, medium to fairly coarse grained and porphyritic, containing large orthoclase feldspar crystals. Feldspathization with associated tin mineralization has occurred around some of the joints in the granite.

There is a superficial cover of a few feet of granitic gravel over the area and little can be seen outside the workings. The joints or fractures seen in the granite are very minor structures with their general trend being northerly and dipping to the east at from 40° to 75°. Fractures occur at the junction of the unaltered granite and the feldspathized granite, this contact being very irregular and trending northerly to north-westerly. The best tin mineralization occurred along the footwall contact and within the feldspathized granite.

The irregularity of the feldspathization shown by the mapping is associated with alteration of the granite along some of the joints rather than with faulting. No suggestion of faulting was seen in the workings though there is a possibility of concealed faulting between the northernmost workings. Evidence for this is that the strong north-south fracture in the northernmost workings does not appear in the workings a few feet to the south.

WORKINGS

The lessees have sunk three prospecting holes through the surface gravels to approximately 15 feet in depth. These expose the footwall contact of the feldspathized granite. Development towards the hangingwall has been carried out for a maximum of 22 feet without reaching the hangingwall of the feldspathized granite. The central workings have been developed over a length of 35 feet on the footwall side and the northern workings have not yet been developed. From the above operations there is approximately 90 tons of ore on the surface awaiting treatment at their plant which consists of a crusher, stone mill and separating table.

At present, hand drills are being used; to speed up the development modern mining equipment would be of considerable value to the operators.

SAMPLING

The results of sampling are shown on the plan (figure 4); these results indicate that the best tin values are contained in the feldspathized granite near its footwall contact. The material sampled in the southernmost hole is soft and deeply weathered while in the northern end it is hard, unweathered and contains small amounts of pyrite and galena.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Assistance was requested by the lessees for diamond drilling; however, with the irregular nature of the mineralization diamond drilling would not be very satisfactory. Shaft sinking on the hard northern end would not at present be advisable as there is only a very small area exposed and the work would be very slow with the present equipment. However, if this end was developed further at its present level and the good values persist then shaft sinking should be considered. At present the best place for producing ore is the extreme southern end where there is soft ground with good values.

At this stage assistance for shaft sinking at the northern end may be a little premature. However, if this area develops good ore, then shaft sinking may be advisable; to do this development assistance would probably be needed in the way of working equipment.