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THE COMET-MAESTRIES LODGE, DUNDAS—PROPOSED DRILLING PROGRAMME

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INTRODUCTION

The Comet-Maestries Lode was the most important producer of lead and ferromanganese carbonate flux in the Dundas mining field. The northern section of the lode was worked jointly by the Comet and Maestries Companies between 1891 and 1913. Production has been as follows:—

	Tons.
Ore of grade 26% Pb and 35 oz. Ag/ton including a small amount of ore of 58% Pb and 38 oz. Ag/ton	9,000
Lump galena assaying 65% Pb and 41 oz. Ag/ton	9,000
Second grade ore averaging 12% Pb and 8 oz. Ag/ton	75,000
Ferromanganese gossan mined as flux assaying 5% Pb and 2.5 oz. Ag/ton	90,000
Total	183,000

SKETCH PLAN
OF
COMET MAESTRIES MINE
DUNDAS

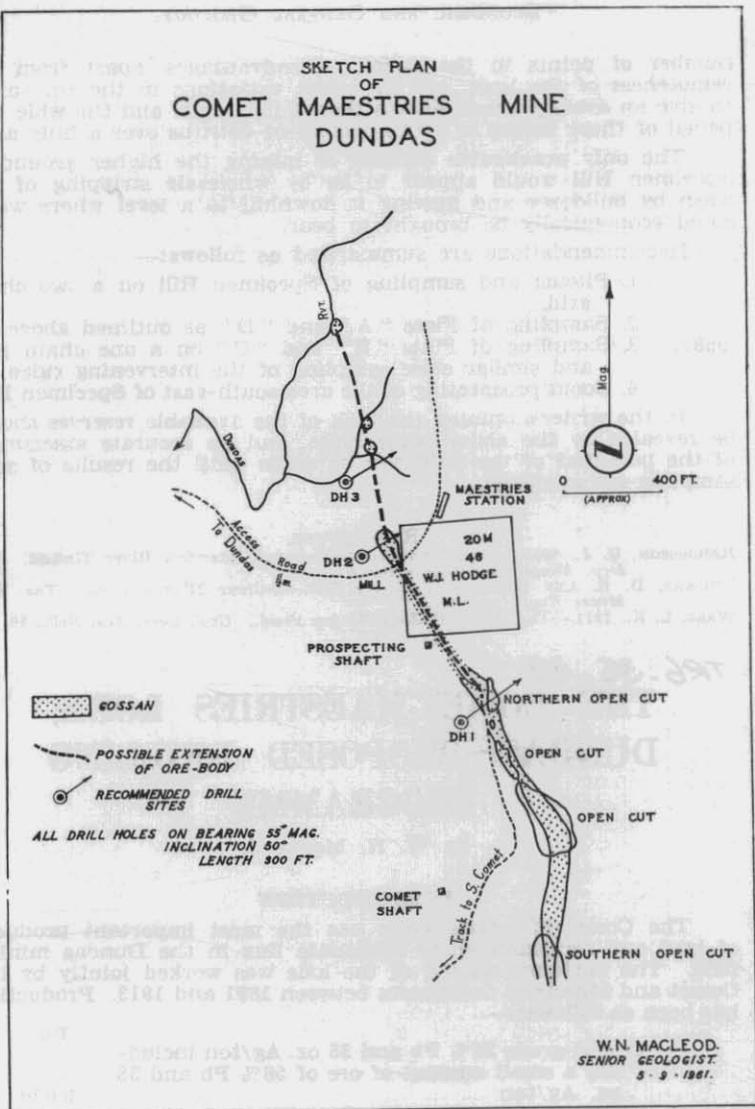
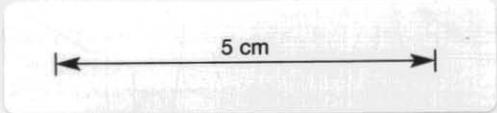


FIGURE 9.



The ore-body has been explored and developed by shallow open cuts and by underground workings to a depth of 400 feet. The main shaft was 405 feet deep and five levels were developed at 160, 210, 260, 335 and 400 feet. The greater part of the production was derived from between the 160 and 335 foot levels.

The lode formation trends about 30 degrees west of north and dips to the south-west at angles between 40 and 65 degrees. The galena is reported to be massive and coarse in grain and occurs as short shoots, bunches and disseminations in the manganese gangue. Oxidization extends to a depth of 400 feet. A feature of the northern section of the lode is the absence of zinc. Fuller descriptions of the ore-body and geological environment have been given by Reid (1925), Finucane (1947) and McKenna (1958).

PROPOSED DRILLING

A possible northern extension of the Comet-Maestries lode is indicated by the frequent wide gossan outcrops between the northern open cut and the hills north of Dundas Rivulet.

One of these is well-exposed at the shallow cutting on the access road at the Maestries mill and others have been located in the thick secondary bush a short distance further north in Dundas Rivulet, and in one of its tributaries.

As far as can be ascertained, the only attempt to investigate the northern extension of the lode has been a prospecting shaft, 70 feet deep, situated 360 feet south of the access road (see Figure 9). No galena was reported in either of the cross-cuts which were driven east and west of the shaft, although the eastern cross-cut traversed 44 feet of ironstone.

As an initial effort to prove the continuity of the lode, it is recommended that two holes be drilled. The first should be sited west of the northern open cut and inclined to intersect the ore-body at a depth of 150 feet. The bearing of the hole should be 55 degrees magnetic and it should be inclined at an angle of 50 degrees below horizontal.

The second hole should be sited west of the low gossan-covered knoll immediately north of the access road. A good site for the drill is to be found about 200 feet north of the road. The hole should have a bearing of 55 degrees magnetic and be inclined at 50 degrees below horizontal.

If promising results are obtained from these two holes, an additional hole should be drilled a further 300 feet north of the second hole to explore the gossan outcrop exposed in the tributary of Dundas Rivulet. The location of the suggested drill sites is shown on figure 9.

REFERENCES.

- REID, A. M., 1925.—The Dundas Mining Field. *Geol. Surv. Tas. Bull.*, No. 36.
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MCKENNA, D., 1958.—Report on the Comet-Great South Comet Line, Dundas, Tasmania. *Rio Tinto Australian Exploration Pty. Ltd. Rep. No. 17/1958.* (Unpublished).