

U2 1861-1920/11-12

Mount Zeehan, (Sections 559M and 909M).
This mine and the Silver Queen are the only ones yet regularly at work below the water level. The main shaft is 136 ft. 6 in. deep; and at 120 ft. drives have been put in to the east and to the west. The eastern drive is 141 feet long, and cuts what is known as No. 3 lode at 113 feet. On this a drive has been made 24 feet northerly, and another 12 feet southerly. The lode is strong and well defined, but not rich in galena so far. I have already pointed out that this is no reason for undervaluing the mine, as poor places must exist, or even predominate, in every lode. The western drive is 252 ft. 6 in. long, and at 232 feet 6 in. cuts No. 2 lode at the point where an air-shaft, now being sunk on it, will come in. This air-shaft was down 90 feet. The lode showed ore in greater or less quantities all the way down. In the bottom it was from 18 inches to 3 feet wide, and showed galena, carbonate of iron, and blende. This lode runs about 17° E. of N. On the surface it has been traced for six or seven chains, showing good ore. Another lode, known as No. 1, running N. of 40° E., comes into No. 2 lode just as the air-shaft, and appears to be a branch of it, though it is quite possible that these lodges may fault one another. The relation of the north-eastern lodges to those running a north-westerly course has yet to be determined throughout the field. This No. 1 lode has been traced for 13 chains on surface. It is small, and winds about a good deal. About 90 feet south of the air-shaft a shaft 36 feet deep has been sunk on No. 2 lode. Here the lode was 5 feet wide, composed mainly of carbonate of iron and barytes with veins of galena and some blende running through the stone. About a chain further south there is a strong outcrop, from which a ton of galena was taken to be sent to the London Mineral Exhibition. The lode is here about 2 feet wide. It appears on surface as a hard gossan with a little galena in it. About this place one of the Silver Queen lodges, which is found running N.W. through the N.E. corner of Section 909, ought to join or cross No. 2 lode. It may be called No. 5 lode. No. 4 is a small lode about 1 foot wide, striking N. 32° W., found crossing the main road about 3 chains to the east of No. 1 lode. Nothing has been done on it as yet, but it shows fair galena in the road cutting. No. 6 lode is found in Section 909, running a north-westerly course. It is better traced in the adjoining Section 943M. About $2\frac{1}{2}$ chains to the eastward of No. 4 lode, and like it, exposed by the road cutting, is a lode (No. 7) striking north and south, 18 in. to 20 in. wide, composed of gossan, lode-slate, and galena. No work is yet done on this. Yet another lode No. 8 if found, in

Section 909, 5 chains S.W. from the N.E. corner. This lode strikes 25° W of N., and is 18in. wide, carrying a good deal of galena. It will be seen that this property has an unusual number of lodes running through it for its size. When they are opened up there should be good supplies of payable ore obtainable from them. The prospect for this Company is very good.

Mount Zeehan Silver-Lead Mine (Sections 559M and 909M. Visited 13th October, 1890).

On Section 559M underground work has been pushed on with at the 120 and 60 feet levels. Water has been very troublesome, and the pumping engine has had to be run to its utmost capacity. A much more powerful one is urgently required. The lodes have been rather poor, though occasional bunches of ore have been obtained. The manager estimated that he has 80 tons of first class ore and about 400 tons of second class at grass. This mine is being well worked, and deserves greater success than it has yet had. I feel confident that it will be a large producer of ore in time.

FROM A REPORT DATED 20th MAY, 1893.

Mount Zeehan (559M, and 909M.) The main workings of this mine are on one of the north-easterly series of lodes. This has been opened to 60 feet in depth from a shaft now used as an air-shaft, and to 124 feet by a main shaft. At the 124 feet level the lode has been followed north and south about 300 feet each way; at the upper level it has been driven for about 200 feet to the south and 400 feet to the north. At the bottom level the lode has been generally very poor, but in several places ore was found in the floor of the drive and rising up into it a foot or two, as if it had been just too shallow to strike new shoots of ore going downwards. The lode is very well defined with smooth walls, it has now been noted however, in several cases in the Zeehan field that where the walls are smooth and hard the lode is poor in ore. In the upper level the ground was richer and near the air-shaft a good deal of sloping has been done, On the whole, however, then workings have not been profitable, and the mine has lately been shut down.
