

PRELIMINARY REPORT

on

MT. HORROR ARSENOPYRITE PROSPECTIntroduction

Many years ago, during the period of gold mining activity in the Warrentinna District, three parallel arsenic-bearing lodes were discovered on the southern slope of Mt. Horror. At the time a little exploratory work was performed on them in the hope that the gold content would prove greater at depth, or show an increase in other parts of the lode. The hopes of the operators were not realized, and the prospect was abandoned.

Last year attention was again directed to these lodes, this time as a source of arsenic which, with the addition of the small proportion of gold, it was considered, would allow of profitable exploitation.

Situation and Access

The settlement of Warrentinna is three miles by road from Mara Railway Siding, and the prospect is two miles further on. A wooden-rail tramway leads close to the main workings on Duttons section, and passes through Stewart's southern block.

The ore bodies

The main ore body is well exposed in a deep trench and shallow pit on Duttons 10 acre block. The outcrop can be traced several chains along a sharp ridge trending in a general northerly direction, being clearly marked by large boulders of quartz containing arsenopyrite. The body as exposed in the trench is 8 feet in width and consists of glassy quartz flecked with arsenopyrite, a little chalcopyrite and a little pyrite. The proportion of arsenopyrite on the hanging wall side is very small, increasing gradually as the footwall is approached until it represents one fifth of the lode material. Short shoots of clean arsenopyrite, two to three inches wide, appear at intervals. At the outcrop arsenopyrite by oxidation was converted into orpiment or into arsenious oxide and removed, but the primary ore lies at a depth of three feet only.

The following analysis represents the arsenic and gold content of the average grade of ore and selected ore respectively:-

No. 1 Sample	Arsenic	9.66 per cent
	Gold	nil.
	Silver	0 ozs. 6 dwt. 13 gr.
No. 2 Sample	Arsenic	3.80 per cent
	Gold	nil.
	Silver	9 dwt. 4 gr.
No. 3 Sample (Selected Ore)	Arsenic	31.76 per cent
	Gold	trace
	Silver	3 dwt. 22 gr.

The results clearly show that in its crude form

the ore is of no commercial value. The question then arises, would it prove a profitable undertaking to effect a concentration of the arsenic component? Careful investigation shows that even a very large body of the average grade of ore cannot be mined and treated and marketed at a profit to the operator. The proportion of selected ore is too small to be worthy of consideration.

The ore-body contained in Cambro-ordivician slates and genetically associated with the granite body, which occupies the summit and northern slope of Mt. Horror is not likely to show an improvement in its content of gold. As the granite is approached the ore-body becomes tin-bearing but the proportion of that metal also is very small. In affect the deposit is of no present commercial value.

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21st February, 1925.