

NOTES ON THE MAGNET MINE.

The Magnet Mine contains two lodes viz. the Main lode and that known as the Back lode or "lode" west of the dolomite. Of these the Main lode is the most important as it contains the greatest amount of reserves of ore. This lode has been followed from the surface down to No. 16 level to about 1,200 feet below the surface. The ore in this lode has been stoped out except between Nos. 15 and 16 levels where only two stopes have been taken from above the drive level; a small amount immediately below No. 14 level; and small portions at higher levels particularly between Nos. 9 and 8 levels.

The Back lode has been picked up between the Nos. 9 and 16 levels, but it was not developed until after 1922. It is generally much narrower than the Main lode and therefore, did not have the importance of the latter from the point of view of ore-reserves. This lode has been stoped over short lengths at various levels being generally too narrow and of too low a grade to be stoped throughout.

An important development occurred at the Nos. 15 and 16 levels where the Back lode has assumed characteristics slightly different to those at higher levels, being separated from the Main lode by a body of dolomite some 7 to 10 feet wide. Further it is becoming wider and generally more important as regards grade. At the No. 16 level a still further interesting development occurred, the Main and Back lodes jointing over a distance of 40 to 50 feet to the exclusion of the dolomite which usually separates the two lodes. In this portion of the mine the Back lode attains a maximum width of 22 feet.

It is impossible to express the ore-reserves of the Magnet Mine in actual figures. In the first place the lode (Main) is irregular in shape and secondly the grade of the ore has a considerable range throughout the ore-bodies. There is usually high grade ore on the footwall near the northern end of "apex" of the lode, with irregular veins throughout the remainder. Second class ore forms a large proportion of the remainder, but its outline and quantity depends entirely upon the metal contents and the market prices of the metals (lead and silver).

The main ore reserves are in the Main and Back lodes between the Nos. 15 and 16 levels. In the light of the past experience of the mining operations these should provide a reserve sufficient for one to three years supply of ore when mined at the normal rate for the Magnet Mine.

The lodes extend below the lowest or No. 16 level and so possible ore reserves can be regarded to exist in this portion of the mine. Until, however, the necessary development work (shaft sinking, cross-cutting and driving &c.) is carried out, the quantity and quality of these cannot be stated.

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