

Old Mines in Limestone

Pyramid

Preliminary Statement.

① Location.

Situated 90 chains south-east of the Oceana Main Shaft, the Pyramid is 20 chains due west of the Zectan - Straban railway just north of Oceana Siding. It is right alongside the Oceana Tram.

② History.

The Pyramid was first floated as a Company in 1888. In 1890 it had been refloated as the New Pyramid Silver Lead Mining Company.

Mining work proceeded in 1891 and up to May 1892. By that time a depth of 33 feet had been attained and some driving and crosscutting carried out at that level and some hundreds of tons of ore extracted.

It remained idle until 1900 when it was unwatered and a little further work done. It soon closed down again & has been idle ever since, except for spasmodic attacks on the ore-heaps by knapping & bagging.

③ Geology.

The limestone outcrop is about 200 feet wide. The strike is approximately east-west. The structural geology has yet to be deciphered, but it is already clear that the limestone is on the north-eastern limb of an anticline the axis of which strikes about 310° . But it would appear that about 800 feet of limestone

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has been removed by faulting along about an east-north-east direction.

This fault is probably connected with the occurrence of an ore channel 14 feet wide which strikes at 65° . This channel junctions with a 9 ft wide ore channel striking 335° . Trenches and prospect holes show ore outside these channels and at present the limits and range of mineralization ^{are} unknown.

The ore is a replacement of limestone by galena + oph^{er}ite + siderite. ^{There is a complete absence of black pug} Bands of galena 20 inches wide are recorded as exposed in the early trenching over lengths of 30 feet. The galena assays high in Pb but the Pb:Ag ratio is low. Assays of 80% Pb showed from 4 to 25 ozs Ag per ton. It was this 'low-grade' character of the ore which was largely responsible for its early abandonment.

(4) Extent of Information.

Montgomery reported on it ⁱⁿ 1893, but Waller in 1903 and Twelve trees + Ward in 1910 do not even mention it. There are a few helpful descriptions in the Zetian + Dundas Herald of 1891 + 1892.

Trenches are all silted up and the exposures obliterated. The ore heaps have been depleted of their galena bands and bunches, but are nevertheless quite informative.

(5) Work Contemplated.

As a first step, old trenches and prospects can be drained and cleared up. The old Main Shaft 33 ft deep has collapsed at the collar but could probably be picked up as the limestone is solid and unaltered right to the surface.

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This solidity of the limestone and the absence of the 'black pug' phase of mineralisation present conditions which bring diamond-drilling within the range of practicability. Conditions should be similar to those encountered in D.D. Bore No 2 at the Oceana where uninterrupted drilling was effected to 969 ft. Short holes to test the limits of the mineralisation would constitute the first phase of a diamond-drilling campaign. One preliminary hole of 200 feet would provide a test of practicability.