REPORT
On the
SAN JUAN BARREL
CURRY COUNTY 1908
By
W. H. HOLMES
This mining property, so named from the similarity of its gold-bearing material to the reefs of the Sitgreavesrand, is situated in Ouray County, Colorado, within easy distance of the Denver & Rio Grande R. R., by wagon road, as will be seen by the accompanying map from Professional Paper 95 of the U. S. Geol. Survey.

Through containing in its present locations approximately 15 acres only, the property practically controls the entire zone of this unique mineralization on Baldy Mountain, which rises about 2,500 ft. above sea level of the valley between Bachelor Sitch, two miles below Ouray and Ridgway, as it holds the only available working outlet, viz Cobbs Gulch and Dry Creek on the north and Oakler Creek on the south. The territory between the two would cover an area of about nine square miles.

The claims on the north are located in a contiguous belt along the out-cropping face of the large exposed deposit of conglomerate which occurs in two irregular semi-circles around the heads of the various tributaries that unite to form Cobbs Gulch and Dry Creek.

It was on these claims that E. H. Holmes, the well known mining engineer and Geologist, who first came into prominence in the latter capacity when connected with Hayden’s Survey of Colorado and adjoining Territories in 1870 and 1877, and who was later associated with Clarence King, spent considerable time in 1903 and 1904 and 1905 and again in 1906, when he made a report for the writer, from which copious extracts have been made and are herewith subjoined.

As this report covers in some detail a series of tests made by Mr. Holmes, the writer’s experience in sampling the deposit will be included in his history of its discovery, which will be attached to the present statement.

DESCRIPTION OF GOLD-BEARING MATERIAL

This conglomerate consists of a variety of rocks varying in size from fine sand to massive 30 ft. or more in diameter. The conglomerate mass of this material has a vertical thickness from 500 to 600 ft. It appears to have been deposited chiefly from the erosion by glaciers, and not water, as there is no regular assortment of coarse and fine leves or strata as would be seen in a deposit by water.

This deposit forms a nearly horizontal stratum, resting unconformably upon the uplifted and eroded edges of strata of similar and like material, and forming a portion of the Laramie or coal-bearing series of the Cretaceous formation.

This conglomerate deposit is again overlaid with the later flows of the typical andesites and porphyries that form the characteristic rocks of the San Juan mining region.

The rock material comprises about 70% of this deposit; the fine sand and like which is the cementing material, the remaining 30% the mass.

This in the gold-bearing material.

The gold-bearing bed comprises about 1/10 of the space near the middle of the deposit and is exposed in the precipitous face of the bluffs around the head of Cobbs Gulch and Dry Creek for a distance of five miles.

DETAIL OF THE GOLD-BEARING AREA

Panoramic tests of the conglomerate both above and below the strata of quartzite conglomerates showed no values. The tests that were made proved that the gold was contained in the fine sand, the cementing material, and the clean gravel contained but a trace gold. The amount of gold contained in the fine material, as shown by tests made, is variable.
In taking the samples, sections across the face were taken at intervals from top to bottom; these samples on assay ran from a trace to $7.80 per ton.

Over 200 tests were made on the ground by washing; the material was reduced in fineness so as to pass through a screen of 40 meshes to the inch; a gold pan was used, which when filled with the sand washed to the inch; a gold pan was used, which when filled with the sand washed to 18 pounds. Some pans of the sand were washed contained as high as 300 small particles of gold; others none; at some places the best results as would be expected, were found near the bottom of the stratums; in other places near the tops; again, sections 7 or 8 ft. in height near the top; and the bottom would yield only a few small particles of gold, while a section taken midway in the stratums would give good results.

The gold obtained from the best single paning, care fully separated from silicious and iron, and weighed, contained a value of 27 cents.

Severn average samples, taken across the face of the deposit from top to bottom, were sent to Denver and tested; these were average lots, and the results were from 40 cents up to $7.80 per ton.

One lot, after washing and sampling, weighed 13,000 pounds; its value was $1,80 gold per ton. This was concentrated and the product free from silicious weighed 77.5 pounds and contained by assay 15.5 oz. of gold to the ton. This indicates a reduction of approximately 500 to 1, and a recovery in the concentrates of 85% of the value in the sample. The average value of all the sample lots tested was $2.73 per ton.

On account of the great extent and thickness of the deposit of this material, my tests covered only a small portion of the area explored. I recommend that a more elaborate and systematic sampling of the material be made in order to determine, not only where the richest zones or channels occur, their extent; but also, the most practical method of extracting the values from that material before making any plans for the working of the material on a large scale.

It is certain that this is an unusual form of gold-bearing deposit from the Colorado mining region, also it is certain that it contains a very large amount of gold. I desire to emphasize my recommendation that further tests should be made of this material before any plans are considered for extracting and treating the material on a large scale. On account of the low average value of the mass and the great amount of boulder rock included, plans should be considered for the elimination of the waste before the treatment of the fine assaying material, which alone contains the values.

There is ample timber growing on the ground to furnish all the lumber required for the erection of mill buildings and for mining purposes; there is also a cheap power that can be developed from Car Creek, a stream which carries a minimum volume of 30 cu. ft. of water per second.

Denver, Colorado, November 6, 1908.

W. H. HOLMES, MINING ENGINEER.
San Juan Blanket

OCT 6, 1915
3/24/28

This area in the NW sec 29, T. 25N., R. 70W.,
Ouring Lots may be on West. Front of may be on
lands owned by 0xx0. Lots to be bound
in Pitney. The company is owned by
John & Stella Matasovic
Route 1
Mokwa, Ill. 60949.

Access to the area is across the road over
a require prior permission.

There is a thick exposure of Talladega
Conglomerate in the area. Access is quite
difficult through the woods beyond the end
of the ranch trail north.

I doubt that this area warrants further
investigation at this time. I found no
sign of actual execution of development
but they could be hidden in the woods.

M. TH.