

-REPORT ON-

THE HAHN'S MINING DISTRICT.

ROUTT COUNTY

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PAGE 319

STATE BUREAU OF MINES

STATE OF COLORADO.

THE HAHN'S MINING DISTRICT.

ROUTT COUNTY.

DENVER, AUG. 30th, 1895

Hon. Harry A. Lee,
Commissioner, of Mines.

Dear Sir:

I herewith submit the following report, as the result of my examination of the Hahn's Peak mining district.

Location.

Hahn's Peak mining district is situated in the Northeastern portion of Routt county, Colorado, about fifteen miles south of the Wyoming State line, on the Western slope of the Gore range of mountains. The mountain of Hahn's Peak and the district which bears its name are on the divide that separates the waters of the Snake and Elk rivers. Hahn's Peak, is one-hundred and six (106) miles by wagon road from Wolcott, on the line of the Denver and Rio Grande R. R., and is reached from the latter place by a daily stage line, over a very good road.

History of the District.

The first mining, which dates back into the early sixties, was placer work, in a primitive way, and was conducted in a desultory manner by prospectors who went into the country, then inhabited by Indians, from Gilpin County. In 1872, or thereabouts, a larger tract of the placer ground, in what is known as Hahn's peak basin, south of the Mountain of Hahn's Peak, passed into the control of a Chicago syndicate, headed by J. V. Farwell, which operated on an extension scale, bringing in water through a ditch, about fourteen miles in length, from the head of Elk river and tributary streams, for hydraulic mining. The Company expended a large sum of money in the enterprise, and while it is known that the ground is rich and generally believed that a profit yielding product was obtained, it is alleged that gross mismanagement, disrupted the company, which finally abandoned the field, the property passing into other hands. The "Farwell" ditch fell into disuse and is no longer a source of water supply.

During the intervening years, placer mining has been carried on, for a short season each year, with the limited local water supply. Until this year very little lode mining, or prospecting has been done, but at present, great activity prevails in this territory. Both gold and silver have been discovered in the lodes, in and around Hahn's Peak, a large number of locations have been made; assessments are being worked and recorded. On a number of the more promising properties systematic development is in progress, and the results, thus far obtained are indeed, very encouraging.

Altitude.

Hahn's Peak, reaches an altitude of 10,500 feet and the contiguous country, from 8,000 to 8,500 feet.

Character of Country Rock and Placer Deposits.

All the gulches and streams draining the surface of Hahn's Peak, both on the north and south sides of the mountain are rich in placer gold, aggregating about 6,000 acres. The gold bearing gravel runs from 10 to 30 feet in depth, and a conservation authority places the average value at 30 cents per cubic yard, although much of the ground, in the smaller gulches is doubtless richer. All the placer ground that is rich enough to pay and where water is available is located. A careful examination and comparison of the predominating rock found in the placer deposits proves it to be of the same character as the country rock and vein formation in Hahn's Peak, which is Eruptive, Porphyritic, containing a considerable percent of lime, which makes it susceptible to rapid disintegration, and present conditions confirm the theory that such has been the result. The once massive proportions of this mountain are scattered and strewn for miles down the gulches, leading to the north and south especially in the latter direction, as on the north side of the mountain the quartzite and granite rise to a higher plane and serve as a protection, as it were, against the erosion and crumbling away of the main mountain, in that direction; but to the south the flow has been less restrained and much more extensive, forming here and there miniature mountains and great ridges of alluvial deposits hundreds of feet in depth.

The general formation, or Country rock, of this region is granite, though the mountain of Hahn's Peak is eruptive rock. Porphyry dykes, having a North-east and south west strike, occur, and on the North-east side of the mountain a band of quartzite, from 40 to 60 feet in thickness, occurs, overlying the granite, and this is capped by a thin band of shale, which, in turn, is overlaid by wash, varying from almost nothing to 20 feet in depth. It is in this quartzite that the rich silver deposits are found--some of the ore containing as high as 3000 ounces of silver per ton. This ore has been opened in a number of places, where development is in progress.

Gold bearing fissure veins have been opened in Hahn's Peak, notably on the south west slope of the mountain, in what is known as the "Boss", or Darnell lode. This vein was discovered in July of this year and development is now in progress. While only a limited amount of work has been done, enough has been shown to warrant the conclusion that it is a fissure vein, having a north-east and south-west course, dipping to the south. The vein at the point of discovery is 68 feet wide. The vein material, or matrix, is largely of soft decomposed porphyry, heavily stained by oxidized iron. A considerable quantity of quartz is also found in the iron. The values, chiefly gold, are found to exist in all the vein material and while not high-grade at the surface, improvement in value, is noted as depth was gained, in sinking. Other veins have been opened in this mountain, having the same general characteristics, as the one above described.

In the quartzite, above mentioned, a number of properties are under-going development, but not enough has been done to determine, the exact nature of the ore occurrence. The ore deposits are found in the quartzite and seem to extend down, from the point of contact with the overlying shale. It is probable that this ore deposit came from and will be traced to fissures, that intersect the horizontal stratification, but which are not visible at the surface, due to the heavy deposit of "wash".

In conclusion I will say that, while Hahn's Peak, District is remote from railroads, and that only very high grade smelting ore will bear the cost of mining, shipping and treatment, the field offers splendid inducements for the

prospector and winner. If a rich mining district, such as this gives promise of developing both bituminous and anthracite coal, in great quantities, oil building stone, fire clay, immense areas of timber; also large cattle and agricultural interests, railway facilities will soon be provided.

The placer deposits are undoubtedly rich, and with modern improvements will be worked profitably.

The source of this placer gold is doubtless the lode deposits of Hahn's Peak and surrounding hills, and these lodes, so far as developed, give promise, in a number of instances, of ample reward.

The surface gold ores are free milling, so that the expense of transportation is obviated.

With an abundant supply of fuel near at hand, works for the reduction of refractory ores, can be operated as cheaply as any place in the State.

Yours truly,

L. W. White.

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