

El Keber

Colorado

Joyce R. ...
5-4-33

In the Rabbit Ear Range in Grand County about eight miles from the Hydro Carbon Fields, there is a heavily mineralized district, which with proper development will undoubtedly prove a rich camp, and add greatly to the mineral output of the State. The formation consists of igneous or volcanic rock of many varieties, Rhyolite, Diorite Basalt and Andesite Breccia (the latter predominating). The Breccia is penetrated and traversed by later volcanic rocks of which phonolite is the most important in its relation to the occurrence of ore. These dikes follow such lines of weakness in the older rocks as were developed into fractures at a time when the rocks underwent strains. This section is traversed by numerous dikes of a very handsome "porphyritic-trachyte" (more particularly described by Prof. Hayden in his geological report on Colorado) that vary from four to twenty feet in thickness; their general course is a little south of west although they occur of variable strike and at times cross each other.

The formation bears a remarkable similarity to that of Cripple Creek, and the veins so far as can be determined by the small amount of development, show the ore to be of identical occurrence. Along the streams having their source in this district are numerous shallow placer deposits that yield a high grade gold.

"Like causes produce like effects where every thing else is equal" and an analysis of all the igneous rocks in the district proves they contain the same elements of those of Cripple Creek, excepting the high values in gold which are found at a much greater depth than we have reached up to the present. We have had "specimen assays" however, running a little over fifteen hundred dollars in Gold per ton. The same forces have been in effect here, as at Cripple Creek. The hot waters percolating through the igneous rocks, dissolving and leaching the minerals in one place, carrying them along in solution, coming in contact with other minerals to be precipitated in form valuable to mine, upon reaching dikes of Phonolite or other practically impenetrable rock. For this reason mineral deposits so often accompany dikes.

I was attracted to this district some years ago by samples of "float" or "blossom" picked up by hunters and submitted to me for assay, which ran very well in both gold and silver. I made quite a number of locations, and did considerable work, but as the work was distributed among so many claims, and lacking the capital to develop properly, did not get very deep on any particular one.

We finally concentrated our efforts on one group of three claims viz: The El Keber, and very much to my surprise encountered a vein of lead-Zinc ore, which increased from four to thirty inches in width and which was followed for forty or fifty feet, but during my absence the vein was lost and all work discontinued shortly afterwards. This ore assayed 34% Lead 16% Zinc, 25 ounces silver and a trace Gold. I had parted with the greater part of my holdings in this particular group to Col. Alfred Arghalier for funds to keep the work going, but the Col. returned to France at the outbreak of the war and has since remained there. He writes me occasionally and seems rather anxious to sell his holdings instead of continuing the work. I could probably obtain a lease on very good terms, or purchase his interest at a very moderate figure.

I would like to continue the development of this district, but lack the necessary funds with which to do so, and consequently would be willing to make most any concession to have the work proceed. I gained my first experience in mining in Caribou in Boulder County. Was assistant Assayer for a New Jersey Co. there and later was assayer for Eben Smith while he was Supt. of the Caribou Consolidated, leaving him to do field assaying for a Chicago Co. which had a number of prospectors in their employ. Opened an assay office in Creede during the boom days and remained there until after the fire. Then went to Amizett, New Mexico for a Denver Co. Through Mr. Harry Bryant I obtained the Assayers

job for the "Big Kanawha Mining Co." at Creede holding that position until the drop in silver occurred, and we expected to close the Mill and Mines. I wrote Mr. Thos. Cornish (who had been made Manager of the Stratton Mines at Cripple Creek) informing him of the situation and he immediately requested me to come to Cripple Creek. I did so, and remained with him until the big strike, becoming thoroughly familiar with the formation and the ore. occurrence of the Independence Mines. While there, the similarity of the ore and different formations to my prospects in Grand County was so striking that I felt I was working in my own properties. I had a couple of pieces of ore from one of these which I showed to Chas. Pringle and Clarence Verrol (Mining Engineers who were sampling the Independence ore) and they immediately pronounced it Independence ore, and said it came from the "Bull Pen", on the four hundred ft. level. They were very much surprised when I told them it was practically surface rock from the El Keber.

A few thousand dollars expended in developing any one of several groups I have there, will unquestionably place it on a paying basis, as the preliminary prospecting stage has been passed, the ore is there, and it only remains to be taken out and marketed.

Should you feel sufficiently interested to form a Company to exploit this district, I shall be glad to furnish you with any further information regarding it, and make most any concession as to interests, that you would advise.

Very Respectfully

E. M. Harmon

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Denver