NAME

THOMSON, R.

(1941)

Preliminary report on C.H. McFairdge - J. Keating Magnetic Prospect, East of Stevenville Crossing, Newfoundland

12A/5(13)

Preliminary Report on C. H. McFatridge - J. Keating magnetite prospect, East of Stephenville Crossing, Nfld.

INTRODUCTION

On instructions from Mr. C. K. Howse, the writer visited a magnetic prospect, located some twenty five miles easterly of Stephenville Crossing, on the Newfoundland Railroad, Newfoundland. From Nov. 10th until Nov. 16th was spent on the trip but only about two and a half days on the prospect and this in very bad weather.

HISTORY.

The occurrence of magnetite at the locality was noted by John Keating, of Stephenville Crossing, some ten years ago, while trapping. During the present year at the instigation of C. H. Mcfatridge also of Stephenville Crossing, J. Keating made a trip in and secured samples which were sent to the Newfoundland Geological Survey. Further investigation was considered advisable and the present writer made his visit. Two claims have been staked by J. Keating. C. H. McFatridge and J. Keating are in partnership over the claims and C. H. McFatridge is acting for the partnership.

LOCATION AND MEANS OF ACCESS.

The prospect is located on Crown Land, southeast of the southeast corner of Reid Lot No. 226 (shown on map of Nfld. showing Mining Grants issued February, 1938, accompanying Infromation Circular No. 4, Nfld. Geological Survey). A rude sketch map accompanies this report. The occurrence lies on the South side of Southwest Brook, about 2½ miles easterly of Southwest Branch.

As the Eastern boundary line of Reid Lot 226 was not seen its location is estimated from the map mentioned above. This would make the occurrence about a mile easterly of the Reid Lot.

To go to the prospect from Stephenville Crossing a boat may be taken to the East end of St. George Bay-in. From the south side of the mouth of Southwest Brook a trail (a former lumber road used some twenty years ago) leads Easterly following the southwest Branch a distance of some fourteen miles. Southwest Branch can be crossed easily at almost any time of the year. From the crossing of Southwest Branch, a porr trail, after leaving Southwest Brook, comes to its south bank again and follows along to the prospect - a distance of some 2½ miles. At the prospect magnetite bearing boulders up to 10' diameter may be seen from the steep hill to the bank of the brook. Southwest Brook is largely fast water and rapids from the prospect down to about a mile below Southwest Branch. From there downstream is about ten miles of smooth water suitable for canoe or raft. Rough water and rapids lie below this smooth stretch to the mouth of the brook.

TOPOGRAPHY

The prospect lies on a wooded hill trending about northwesterly. This hill is an isolated remnant of the elevated peneplain forming the high ground to the East. The prospect hill rises some four or five hundred feet above Southwest Brook, with steep wooded slopes, on the South and Southeast side of the hill are numerous cliff faces.

GEOLOGY.

All the rocks seen in the vicinity are of igneous origin. They appear to be largely gabbro but are variable. The usual rock is gray brown, massive of about 1/8 " grain size, and with abundant plagioclase. In many places magnetite occurs in crystals and seams; this is particularly prominent on the weathered surface of the rock. This magnetite is in too small quantity to be of any use. The magnetite

of economic interest occurs in a black rock which appears to be composed of magnetite, amphibole and pyroxene?, and minor plagioclase. The magnetite is of about 1/16" grain size and lies interstitially in the dark minerals. The dark minerals are variable in grain size - on the north side of the hill up to about ½", on the south and southeast about 1/8". The outlines of the bodies of dark magnetite rick rock could not be made out due to the lack of exposures. The contact with the gabbro was seen to be sharp in places. In the writer's opinion the magnetite rich rocks are segregations or "schlieren" in the gabbro.

ECONOMIC.

No work to explore the magnetite occurrence has been done todate and no analyses are available. On the southeast side of the hill, on a cliff face, the black magnetite rich rock is exposed over a width of 40' with sharp contacts against gray brown gabbro, containing scattered magnetite crystals. It can be traced 35' vertically before passing under overburden. Sample No. 6 was taken from this occurrence.

The widespread occurrence of angular boulders of magnetite rich rock, up to 10' diameter, rotted down from the steep sides of the hill indicates that it is widespread on the hill. It may be seen in place also but no work has been done to outline bodies. Over an area at least half a mile by half a mile the occurrence of magnetite rich bodies is indicated by float and isolated exposures. As no float was seen on the northwest part of the hill the occurrence of magnetite rich rock there is believed to be unlikely. The writer traversed up Southwest Brook about ¾ mile above the small brook flowing into it and found only coarse barren gabbro.

Whether the magnetite is in sufficient abundance to constitute ore even under the present favourable conditions, due to the war, is the most important question of this prospect. The writer collected samples (the richest available) for analyses. The location of these are shown on accompanying sketch map and a list accompanies this report.

If these analyses should approximate even the lowest limit of workable ore the hill is well worth extensive exploration, as there are good grounds for believing the occurrences are of ample size and no difficulty would be encountered in constructing a road to the coast.

Stephenville Crossing,
Nov. 17, 1941.

(Sgd) Robert Thomson.

Stephenville Crossing.
Nov. 17, 1941.

LIST OF SAMPLES TAKEN FROM C.H. MCFATRIDGE - J. KEATING MAGNETITE OCCURRENCE EAST OF STEPHENVILLE CROSSING, NOV. 1941.

See sketch accompanying my preliminary report of November 17th for location.

(4) Assay for iron - S.E. side of hill from cliff, black fine grained.

(5) Assay for iron - similar to 4 about 300' southwesterly from 4 along cliff.

(6) Assay for iron - similar to 4 about 500' westerly from 5 in. place on side of cliff.

(11) Assay for iron - similar to 4 float on side of hill say 300' northerly and above sample 6.

(12) Assay for iron - similar to 4 float near top of hill on northerly side.

(14) Assay for iron - from northerly side of hill near top, coarse gabbro, dark green crystals to 1/3", with magnetite scattered throughout.

(15) Assay for iron - float large boulders from river edge on north side of hill, coarse dark magnetite bearing.

(20) Assay for iron - sample collected J. Keating from top of Westerly side of hill, float probably but solid rock likely to occur close by.

(13) Assay for gold and silver - sample taken by J. Keating about two months ago while prospecting Caribou creek (see sketch map) Silicified rock with irregular veinlets pyrite (fine grained). Chlorite schist on walls. Sample taken about ½ mile about Southwest Brook.

(Sgd) Robert Thomson.)

8th December, 1941.