

REPORT ON GRAND PRIZE MINE

This mine is situated near the headwaters of Nevada Creek in the Five Mile District to the north-east of Zeehan.

An outcrop of gossan occurs on the southern fall to Nevada Creek and some 30 or 40 years ago a shaft was sunk to test the gossan. It is stated that the shaft was 240 feet deep and that the gossan was supposed to cap a silver-lead lode.

The results of the shaft workings are not known but apparently no galena was obtained, and since then the gossan has been found to carry tin ore.

The only means of access is by a track up Nevada Creek from the Zeehan-Five Mile road.

Very little can be seen of the bedrock which is apparently the slates and breccias of the Dundas series.

The gossan has a general trend from north-west to south-east. Its dip cannot be determined but it must be nearly vertical. The position of the shaft and hearsay evidence points to a westerly dip but this cannot be substantiated.

In addition to the shaft, a small amount of surface work has been carried out in the immediate vicinity. The gossan is exposed in the excavation on the uphill side of the shaft, with weathered slates to the west. To the east of the shaft a N.W. - S.E. trench (No.1) with 2 trenches in it has exposed tin-bearing gossan, with weathered slates or breccias to the east. Some quartz appears in the western side of the trench.

To the north-west a cross-trench (No. 2) 13 feet long has exposed gossan with some two feet of hard darkish quartz in the centre.

Another cross trench (No. 3) 20 feet further to the north-west has exposed slates and breccias with gossan coming in at the western end.

Five samples were taken with the following results:-

Reg. No.	Place	Width	Value
864	West end No.2 Trench	4 feet	0.20 per cent
865	East " " "	4.5 "	0.03 "
866	Centre No. 1 Trench	4 "	1.46 "
867	East end shaft excavation	3.25 "	2.13 "
868	West of 867	4.5 "	0.06 "

These results tend to prove that only in the No. 1 trench and the eastern side of the shaft excavation, the ore carries a payable content of tin.

Some distance (2 to 3 chains) down the hill to the south, an adit has been driven in recent years along the lode which still retained its gossan characteristics at this depth (some 100 feet below the shafts). The adit was driven 120 feet in a general NNW direction. The lode was not sampled in this adit.

The party (Messrs. Wallace and Casey) were going to apply for assistance to start mining the tin ore. They have bought a battery at Heemskirk and intend installing it at the mine and erecting a water wheel to drive the battery. They estimate the cost of this work at £60 to £70. Further it is proposed to cut a race from Nevada Creek to drive the water wheel. The race would be 30 to 35 chains long and through virgin country, and would cost about 30/- per chain. With one chain of fluming at water wheel it is estimated to cost £60.

The disadvantages are:-

- (1). The area and quantity of payable tin-bearing gossan has not been definitely proved. Sufficient should be proved to warrant the erection of a plant.
- (2) The unsatisfactory nature of the tin-saving device viz. battery and sluice boxes.

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