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REPORT ON

GOLD PROSPECT NEAR FLANIGAN'S CREEK

Location

This prospect is situated on the western side of Flanigan's Creek, some five miles south of Lynchford.

Access

Access is gained from Lynchford by a track suitable for foot and horse traffic except that the vegetation encroaches on the track in many places. This track runs from Lynchford down the eastern side of the Queen River as far as the King River which is crossed by a substantial wooden bridge. The track follows the valley of Newell Creek for some distance and eventually crosses into the valley of Currie River. This river is crossed by a wooden bridge in an almost complete state of disrepair and collapse, being dangerous to take horses over. The Garfield River is reached within a mile and this river has to be forded in the absence of a bridge. Another mile along timber tracks brings one to the prospect.

History

Gold was discovered in this vicinity in 1885, as Commissioner Glover writing in 1886 stated that several prospectors directed their attention to the country south of the Ring River and that one of them (P. Flanigan) succeeded in discovering rich alluvial gold and obtained a reward claim of 5 acres. This claim does not appear to have been granted as the reward claim of 10 acres was granted to T.B. Moore but not until 1887. Work was certainly carried out during 1885 and 1886 and one party (Hall and mate) obtained 53 ozs. in 9 days from a terrace 600 feet above Flanigan's Creek.

Topography

The prospect is situated on a flat terrace several hundred feet above Flanigan's Creek and on the west side thereof. (This terrace is probably the one worked by Hall's party in 1885 or 1886). Flanigan's Creek runs through a deep gorge and the small creeks near the prospect are tributaries of it. Mt. Sorell rises to the south east and Mt. Strahan to the west.

Geology

The hills between Queenstown and Lynchford are occupied by the Queen River syenites (porphyrites). They do not cross the road or the track from Lynchford to the King River as the road and track are apparently parallel to their western boundary. Between Lynchford and the Garfield River the track crosses sedimentary rocks chiefly slates, sandstones and quartzites. Between the Newell Creek and the Currie River limestone is exposed over a short distance. No evidence was obtained as to the age of these rocks but the presence of the limestone and the occurrence of West Coast Range Conglomerates of neighbouring mountains is suggestive of a Silurian age.

At one or more places along the timber track from the Garfield River and also near the prospect,

completely weathered material occurs which apparently represents igneous rocks such as porphyries or porphyrites. These rocks undoubtedly intrude the slates &c. but the age of the latter is not known.

The Mine Workings and the Prospect

During the past few months two parties viz. Messrs. P. Hartnett and Skinner and Penney Brothers have been working alluvial ground for the recovery of gold and have generally been prospecting in the vicinity of the workings. The surface is gently undulating and is drained by three small creeks flowing into Flanigan's Creek. Shallow gravels extend along these creeks and the centre one has been worked in the past. (It would appear that this is Hall's Creek where Hall and the mate won the 53 ozs. referred to above). The alluvial mining consists of the extension of the old workings in this creek and the one to the north.

The workings have exposed the bedrock to view and in the northernmost creek narrow quartz veins were revealed. These occur in slates with a strike of 340° and a vertical dip. The veins occur across a width of two feet and have the same strike and dip as the slates. It is stated that they were narrow at the surface of the bedrock and increased in width with depth when sunk on to three feet. The quartz contains chlorite while pieces of secondary pyrite given to the writer are stated to have come from the veins. It was stated that this pyrite had been called telluride which was of course a wrong identification, and that it gave an assay of about 110 ozs. of gold per ton.

Some 30 feet downstream (to the east) the slates junction with completely decomposed porphyry, the junction having a bearing of 175° and being a vertical one. In this vicinity other very narrow quartz veins occur which are expected by the parties to enlarge with depth, although there is no evidence to support same except the similar behaviour of the other veins.

In the centre creek some two chains to the south, a similar quartz vein to that in the shallow shaft is visible and it may represent the continuation of the latter.

Some 3 or 4 chains to the S.S.W. a race has been cut along the bed of another small creek. The race passes through completely weathered porphyry rendered mottled by a dark grey mineral or minerals one of which is pyrite. At the head of the face a shaft has been sunk to three feet in the porphyry against what appears to be three foot band of mudstone containing a few narrow quartz veins. One vein is said to be three inches wide at the bottom of the shaft, but it is reported that no gold was obtained from the quartz. The strike appears to be 325° and this occurrence has no connection with those in the other two creeks.

References have been made to formations 40 feet wide, but such descriptions are wrong. Neither the porphyries or the slates represent anything but country rock (however the formation of the quartz reefs is connected with the intrusions of the porphyries).

The quartz veins are the only possible sources of the gold, and of these, the series sunk on in the northern

creek is the only important one at present, or the only one worthy of any further work.

A number of assays have been taken with the following results:-

September Number	Description	Contents Gold	Silver
No. 1	Across formation	Trace	Trace
2	Pug in formation	Nil	Nil
3	From formation	9 dwts. 4 grs.	3 dwts. 3 grs
4	Pug from formation	Trace	Trace
5	Across formation	do.	do.
6	do.	do.	do.
7	Lode formation	do.	do.
15	From reef	Nil	Nil
16	Quartz reef	Trace	Trace
17	Mt. Sorell reef	Nil	Nil
18	Main part of Quartz reef.	Trace	Trace
19	Quartz reef	do.	do.
October			
No. 1	Quartz	Trace	Trace
2	do.	1 dwt.	18 grs.
3	Pug	Trace	Trace

These prove that the "formation" and the quartz veins are barren or practically so and only two samples gave results encouraging enough to carry out further work.

Conclusions.

The alluvial mining at Hall's Creek has exposed the bedrock of slates and decomposed porphyry containing a few narrow quartz veins. The only one of these series of veins worthy of any attention is that in the northern creek which has been sunk on to a depth of 3 feet. Even this is not encouraging as out of seven assays given above, the results were nil and trace and only one gave a figure of 1 dwt. per ton and it is doubtful if any further work is warranted.

The supposed formation is equally low in gold values, but the locality of No. 3 sample (9 dwts. of gold per ton) is perhaps worthy of a little work.

It is hardly likely that the few veins exposed are responsible for the alluvial gold of the district, and further alluvial mining may yet reveal more important quartz reefs.

Signed (P.B. Nye)

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