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TDM 195-30

TERRITORY OF ALASKA
Department of Mines
Information Gathered Mainly from Verbal Statements of Prospectors
March, 1946

KOOTAK-KOGLUK REGION

Benj. Arnold, Kotzebue Eskimo - much oil shale and coal between mt. of Itiyuk and its mouth.

Harry Wood, Eskimo - Coal E. of lower Kamseluk R. On S. slope of Sawtooth Range and few miles E. of Kootak R. - veins alright.

Paul Priner - About a 3' vein of pyrite (carrying a little Cu) in middle of part of upper Kogoluktuk canyon.
- Mica Cr. (?) - 1st big R. L. Cr. below large W. bend in Antler R. as it comes into ...

Benj. Arnold, Kotzebue - Pyrite (and chalcopyrite) veins about 15' thick at Agashashok mt.
- With Peter Wood, John Riley found qtz. vein nr. Kizinkuk R. assaying \$32 a ton.
- R. L. trib. to Lena Cr., 2nd below Bear R., trib. Kootak R. - much heavy rock in cr. - probably barite - Marion Sour and Benj. Arnold.

Tom Jackson, Kiana - Large chalcocite and chalcopyrite spec. - origin should be learned.

Albert Hoff, Kono - good gold prospect @ 75 mi. above Kootak village - also much talked of lost mine of Kootak on Agashashok River.

Riley Cr., trib. Kogoluktuk, trib. Kootak R. - perhaps worth prospecting below Billy Doogan's as well as at Doogan's.

Smugnak R. - Gold prospects below and ab. canyon according to Harry Brown.
Smugnak R. probably at one time flowed into Antler. Louis Lloyd thinks parts of Antler Valley should be drilled. (?)

Squirrel R. region - prospectors consider Kallurichuk favorable. Joe Corners (Russian Joe) prospects on Kallurichuk occasionally.

Geo. Wallin - fine Au panned almost everywhere on bars of Kootak R.

Bunkhouse Bonston - Someone worked on placer deposit over divide from Kivalina to Kootak R. Johnston party did not reach it.

Archie Ferguson - oil residue from E. E. of Kivalina - 40.8 gallons of oil per ton - analysis by U. S. Bureau of Mines. (see TDM Pam 5-R)

Kamseluk R. - Chalcocite, calcite crystals (clear and large), small clear qtz. crystals brought from upper Kamseluk R. See Lawrence Gray, Smugnak.

Puffy Smith, Kiana - Chalcocite, probably from Agashashok R.
Frank Henry, Deering saw chalcocite, stibnite and galena veins in Agashashok R. Basin. (see ...)

ALASKA DEPT. OF MINES
PAMPH 5-R MARCH 1947

State Alaska Mineral Platinum
County Northwestern Alaska Loc. or Min. Div. Noatak-Kobuk
S. _____, T. _____, R. _____ Mine _____
Operating Co. _____

No platinum has been reported from the central Kobuk and Noatak regions, but the widespread occurrence of ultra-basic rock suggests the possibility of its discovery in that region.

Alaska

Oil Shale

In the section of this report in which the possibilities of finding oil in the region are discussed rather fully (pp. 283-285) the fact that oil shale has been found in the region north of the Brooks Range is noted and all the available data are given. Smith³³ reported in 1911 material analogous to oil shale near the mouth of the Noatak. This was described as follows:

Near the mouth of the Noatak, not far from the camp of August 25 (about 5 miles south of the mouth of the Agashashok River) a prospector reported finding a recent deposit of material that he has used as fuel. Specimens from this place show a dark-brown compact material that burns readily in the flame of a match and gives out considerable smoke and oil but leaves practically no ash. David White, who examined the material, reports that the specimen is composed entirely of large fern spores and resembles the so-called "bogheads." This deposit was not seen in place, and no facts as to its extent or relations were learned.

Although the occurrence of this material is of great significance as a possible source of natural deposits of oil, it can of itself hardly be regarded as a resource of immediate value. However, if the region should become less inaccessible through development and when methods of extracting oil from shale are more fully perfected on a commercial scale, the fact that there is some rich oil shale in this region will doubtless justify more thorough investigation of the oil shale as a potential asset. That time, however, is remote, so that, as with certain of the northern Alaska coal deposits, it would seem to be sound public policy to retain them in public ownership until there is an actual demand for the product and a soundly engineered and adequately financed plan is presented for their active development by a producing company, rather than permit them to be taken up as parts of a development scheme whose main hope of financial success is based on holding or selling land titles or permits.

³³Smith, P. S., op. cit., p. 153.

Alaska

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³³Smith, P. S., op. cit., p. 153.

State Alaska Mineral Oil - Oil shale
County Northwestern Alaska Loc. or Min. Div. Noatak-Kabuk
S. _____, T. _____, R. _____ Mine Occurrences
Operating Co. _____

Petroleum seeps have long been known on the Arctic slope from Cape Simpson eastward to the Canadian border. Dur-

in the summer of 1943 six of the seeps were examined by members of the U. S. Bureau of Mines and the Territorial Department of Mines. Seepages near Point Barrow were reported by the U. S. Geological Survey many years ago.

Oil Shales have been found on Etivluk River, Kivalina River, and Meade River. Some of these shales indicate an oil content of over 50 gallons per ton. U. S. Geol. Survey Bull. 815, Geology and Mineral Resources of Northwestern Alaska.

A specimen of oil shale containing over 100 gallons of oil per ton was found in 1934 on the lower Noatak River by Louis Giddings of the University of Alaska.

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Noatak Quad (26)

microfilm

NOATAK QUAD. (26)

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Nickel B 1135, 880, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000

Noatak quadrangle P 400-B (Art. 157); B 536, 815.

Noatak district **USGS OFR 508**

The Noatak district (fig. 18) is the area drained by the Noatak River and by coastal streams between its mouth and (but excluding) the Wulik River.

NOT IN NOATAK QUAD

The only recorded mineral production from the district is a few ounces of coarse gold from Lucky Six Creek (12, fig. 18), where bedrock is mainly schist. A nearby lode contains sulfide minerals and a little gold (Berg and Cobb, 1967, p. 105). Small particles of gold found in 1904 on Midas Creek (11, fig. 18) may have come from outwash or from unexplored mountains south of the Noatak River.

Noatak.

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State Alaska Metal Gold
 County Northwestern Alaska Loc. or Min. Div. Noatak-Kobuk Region
Noatak Basin
 S. _____, T. _____, R. _____ Mine _____
 Operating Co. _____

As in other regions, reports of lost prospectors finding enormously rich deposits are common. Unfortunately, however, these "finds" can not be located when subsequently sought and their value tends to increase the less that is known about them. An instance of this sort was the reported discovery of rich gold quartz in the vicinity of Mount Kelly, a hill about 40 miles north of the camp of August 19. On attempting to learn about this gold quartz it was found that the locality was extremely indefinite, varying from the Igichuk Hills near the mouth of the river to the region beyond the Noatak drainage. It is not intended by the above remarks to cast doubt on the fact that gold-bearing quartz may have been found in the Noatak basin, but only to point out that with such indefinite location it is not possible to discuss the significance of the reported discovery. From the little that is known about the geology in the vicinity of Mount Kelly north of the Noatak, it seems probable that extensive deposits of economic value are absent, for the region is probably formed of the higher Paleozoic sediments, which as a rule are but little mineralized. There is, of course, the possibility that the pronounced deformation that is known to have affected the region may have raised the higher beds, so that they have been removed by erosion and the older schists, which are usually more or less mineralized, may have been exposed.

Another occurrence of gold quartz has been reported from the hills south of the river, a short distance east of the canyon. A prospector, with pack horses from Squirrel River of the Kobuk basin, spent part of the fall and winter of 1910 in the hills north of Squirrel and Salmon rivers and returned with numerous specimens of quartz, some showing free gold. It was not possible to obtain a description of this trip at first hand and consequently most of the information is indefinite. That the prospector was satisfied with the indication of mineralization was shown by the report that he intended to return and carry on further exploration during the winter of 1911-12. Presumably the region has schists and metamorphic limestones as the country rock. These have usually proved auriferous.