

Iron deposit near Blewitt,
Peshastin Creek, Kittitas County
Washington -

Introductory

Having from time to time heard numerous and contradictory reports on the subject of these iron deposits, the writer determined to determine for himself the weight to be given to the same and has spent time sufficient to cover in a general way the character of the district and locations.

Location.

The Peshastin Iron deposit, commonly mentioned consists of a number of claims lying about three miles above the town of Blewitt in a range of mountains, or a spur on the eastern flank of the Cascades between the Wenatchee and Yakima rivers.

Geology.

The deposit appears to be an up-thrust or a dyke formation which cuts through layers of Cretaceous sandstone on the south and is on the north locally enclosed by lime deposits.

The sandstones are of coarse, gray structure frequently metamorphosed by the breaking through of the dyke and the strata which dip toward the dyke at an angle of 60° locally show conglomerate beds. The dyke certainly cuts all sandstone layers and is continuous for six miles before disappearing beneath sandstone layers. As an iron deposit the dyke extends about one mile in length, chang-

ing then to a ferruginous quartzite carrying a little gold.

Peshastun and Shayer Creek have cut down through the mountain but have not exposed the iron which seems in the main not to run on down to creek level, save at one place on the Havner Claims' where it is comparatively narrow.

Commercially the tract with which we have to do, begins west of the creeks from 200 to 400 feet above them, and extends northwest for about 4000 feet, in which distance the dyke rises to a total height of 2500 feet above creek level.

In width the dyke varies from 500 to 1000 feet so that as a whole the tonnage is enormous.

Development.

Almost nothing has been done in way of development. A few cuts have been made but nature affords ample opportunity for examination.

Character.

Taking the mass as a whole it must be called a "quartzite highly impregnated with iron" rather than an iron ore of any class. To secure an average figure I carefully sampled the mass across 900 feet width. Analysis H-47

Iron 30²⁵ Silica 27⁵⁸ Phos. .022

At one point is a precipitous wall at the foot of which is a mass which has fallen from the walls. Along this

was taken a careful general sample H. 48

Iron 31^{45} Silica 25^{49} Phos. 022.

at a still higher point a sample across
600 feet width resulted H. 46

Iron 33^{25} Silica 27^{60} Phos. 022.

Locally small masses of clean ore may be
found. An average taken from 27 such places
shows H. 45.

Iron 44^{05} Silica 16^{50} Phos. 029

this latter quality could not be commercial-
ly mined.

Conclusion.

In present condition there is nothing
to recommend as commercial iron ore. Any
possible future must be from discovery
of a sufficiently large and clean body of
ore to promise development of large-ton-
nage. According to my view the iron ores
here are of replacement origin in the
dyke and I find no evidence that this
replacement could have proceeded to
a degree sufficient to form large bodies
of clean ore for I fail to find that it
has even formed any small ones in
the immense surface and depth exposed
by natural causes. Any decision to

Explored by tunnel or diamond drill will find ample opportunity and suitable sites in abundance.

Approach. Prior to my examination noted on the way the character of the approach.

From Peshastin siding after crossing the Wenatchee river, three miles would show about 1% average grade. Four miles more to Ingalls Creek would average $1\frac{3}{4}\%$ with probably 2% maximum in a canon ($\frac{1}{2}$ mile long, all rock work). From Ingalls Creek for five miles, and to a point one mile above Blewett, a road must follow the canon in which work would be heavy.

The last two miles would be easy grade in broad flat creek valley. The five miles of canon average 2%, the last two miles 1%.

A maximum of 3% is locally certain. Total distance 14 miles, probably 9 miles, costing \$8000 to \$9000 per mile and 5 miles costing \$20000 to \$22000 per mile.

I mention the above only to state that the approaches impressed me with necessity of finding and proving something beyond doubt in form of iron ore. This does not appear to the writer to be at all probable in this immediate locality.

Other locations.

On Nigger Creek three miles northwest

of Blewitt, the same dyke can be examined.
A general sample at this point, shows
ore of slightly better quality, smaller in
extent. Sample H. 46

Iron 42⁵⁵ Silica 18⁹⁰ Phos. 024

In 1890 the writer followed what seems
an extension of this dyke from a point
4 miles north of Clealum nearly to Mt.
Stewart. At that time the local resem-
blance of the formation to that found
at Sehoi B.P. at Peshawar this resemblance
is more marked.

Gold Mines
at
Blewitt.

As a matter of interest several of these
mines were visited. All veins and dykes
seemed to follow the natural fracture
planes and strike of slates and schists.

Profitable strikes seem altogether of
chance origin. Real continuity seems
lacking. The district seems one in which
positively proven profitable ores should
precede mill investments for continuity
cannot be assumed.

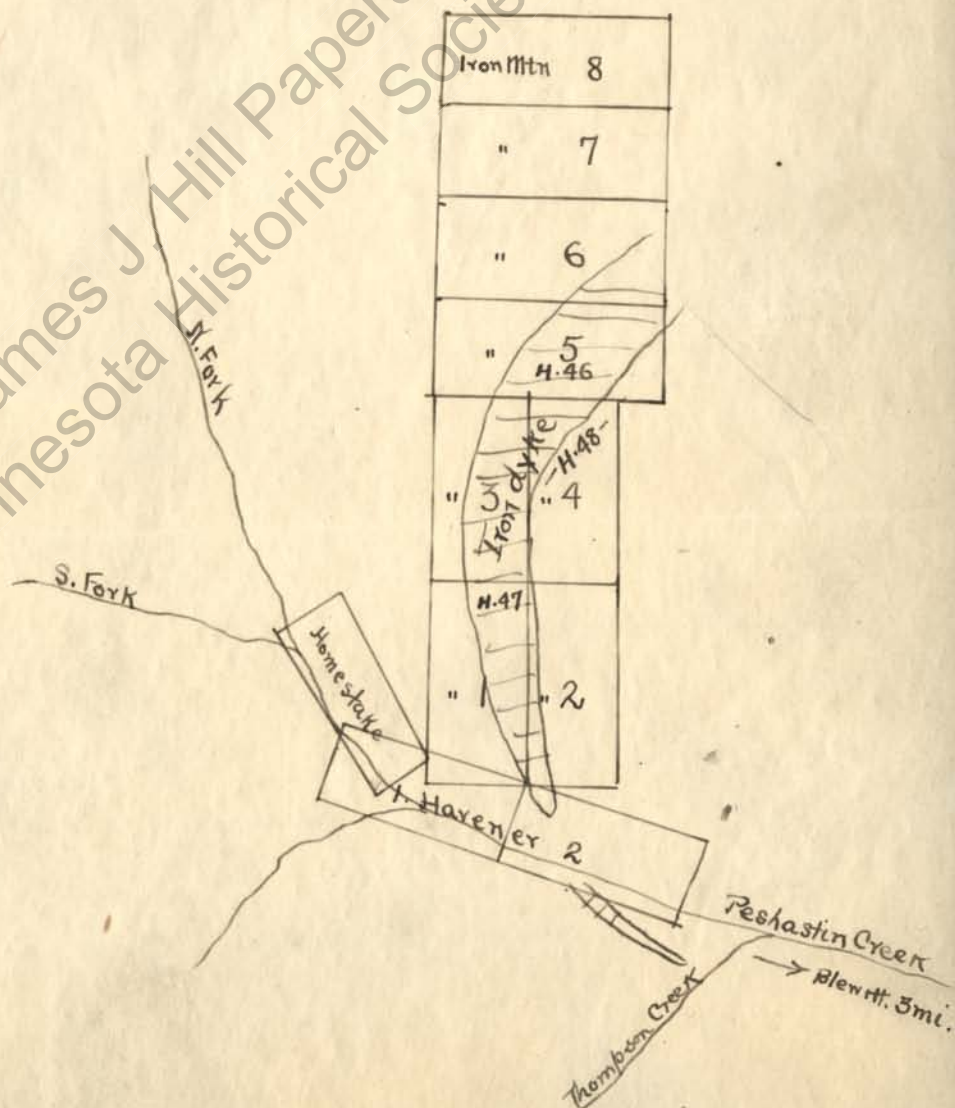
Respectfully submitted
R. Nickman.

Sept 17, 1901.

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Sketch of locations at Peshastin
Iron Ore Deposit
near
Blewitt, Peshastin Creek.
Washington.

James J. Hill Papers
Minnesota Historical Society



R. N. Dickman.