HISTORY OF EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT

The Copper Queen Mine, also called the Vananda Mine, is located on the east coast of Texada Island, about 2/3 of a mile southeast of Vananda Bay on a low wide ridge separating the Emily Lake drainage valley from the coast at an elevation of about 275 feet.

This property was first opened by E. Blewell in 1895. Later, Vananda Copper and Gold Company owned the property until 1928. This company worked the property itself until 1901, and then leased it out. By this time two shafts had been sunk. The first was on a somewhat irregular incline, sunk to a depth of 92 feet with levels driven at 60 feet and the bottom. The later shaft crossed the old shaft at a depth of 92 feet and was timbered throughout. It was sunk to a depth of 750 feet with levels at 175, 224, 300 and 500 feet. 200 feet of winzes and upraises and 585 feet of drifting was done. A double hoisting engine, an air compressor and boilers were installed.

In 1901, the Northwest Copper Company operated under bond and lease, doing drifting, upraising and open-cutting and installing a new hoist engine.

In 1902, the property was under bond to Mr. Vaughan-Rhys. Later the same year, control passed to an English syndicate, but the property was still worked under lease. A tramway was built between Copper Queen and the Cornell Mine the same year.

Granby Company took a lease and bond in 1913, doing drifting, cross-cutting and 3,000 feet of diamond drilling. The property was shut down the following year and not put back into full operation again although various leases were held on it. In 1916, it was leased to G. Brister, W. Theobor and D.J. Weir. The following year, a Seattle syndicate held a lease on the property and in 1919 it was bonded to the Calumet Arizona Copper Company.

In 1925, the owners made preparations which did not materialize to operate this property, along with Little Billie and Copper Queen as a group.

In 1928, Central Copper & Gold Co., Limited, acquired these properties for exploration purposes and carried out diamond drilling, surface trenching and a radiore survey.

These properties remained idle from 1929 until 1943 when Industrial Metals Mining Company Limited acquired the properties. Most of the work was done on Little Billie and Copper Queen, the mine was unwatered to the 500-foot level but then allowed to fill up again.

Associated minerals or products of value - Gold, silver.
HISTORY OF PRODUCTION

This property was producing intermittently between 1907 and 1917. During this period, 827 tons of ore were mined, yielding 318 oz. gold, 2,419 oz. silver, and 71,467 lbs. copper.

REFERENCES


LeRoy, O.E.; Report on a portion of the Main Coast of British Columbia and Adjacent Islands; Pub. #996, pp. 51, 52, 54; G.S.C., Reports published during 1908 – Part 1.


MAP REFERENCES

Map 1321, Texada Island, (Geol.), Sc. 1" = 2 miles - M-58, GSC.
Map 112 A, Vananda, Texada Island, (Geol. & Topo.), Sc. 1": 2,000 ft. - M-58, GSC.
Map 17-1968, Alberni, B.C., (Geol. & Topo.), Sc. 1:250,000 - Paper 68-50, GSC.

HISTORY OF EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT (continued)

In 1945, the properties were sold to Vananda Mining Company Limited. This company and their successor, Vananda Mines (1948), Limited, also confined the work to Little Billie. All operations ceased in 1949 due to the low price of copper, but later attempts were made by Vananda Mines (1948), Limited, to find extensions of these deposits by unwatering Copper Queen in 1952 and by drilling in 1956.

Assays from this mine ran 6-12% Cu and 4-6% Ag.

REMARKS

Lat. and long. measured on center of lot on NTS Map Sheet 92 F/15 E.

See also Cornell property, 92 F/10, Cu 1, and Little Billie property, 92 F/15, Cu 3.