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ADVANCE REPORT ON THE LAAS-FRASER MAP-AREA, ABITIBI TERRITORY

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ABITIBI TERRITORY

by

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LOCATION

The Laas-Fraser map-area is situated on the Bell river, about fifty miles north of Senneterre, Abitibi county. It includes township No 111 and Fraser township, together with the western part of Franquet and Quevillon and the northern part of Laas.

The area is readily accessible from Barraute by way of the Laflamme river, or from Senneterre by following the Bell river. The former is the shorter route and is easier for canoe travel.

GENERAL GEOLOGY

Glacial tills and clays cover the whole area. Exposures of bedrock are few, and, in general, are confined to small ridges and the channels of the larger streams. There are so few exposures that it is difficult, and in places practically impossible, to gain a knowledge of the bedrock geology.

The greater part of the area is probably underlain by Keewatin greenstone of intermediate composition. This is cut by several small granite bodies.

KEEWATIN GREENSTONES

Probably about two-thirds of the area is underlain by Keewatin greenstones. Pillow lavas and fragmental rocks make up the greater portion of these in the outcrops observed.

One very extensive belt of fragmental rock that crosses the area is best exposed at the Greenstone narrows and about three miles farther east. Pillow lavas are interbedded with the fragmental rock.

There are also two prominent belts of pillow lavas crossing the area. One of these is well exposed at the Kiask falls and the Laas chute. The other outcrops at the Little Kiask falls and on the Laflamme river just west of them.

INTRUSIVE ROCKS

Two large stocks of granite and three small ones occur in the area. The largest of these is in the southwest corner of Franquet township and extends for a short distance south into Quévillon and west into Fraser township. In places, the rock is very coarse grained and porphyritic in texture.

A narrow body of highly sheared rhyolite porphyry extends for a short distance into the eastern part of the area, near the northern boundary of Quévillon township. This body appears to pinch out to the west.

Gabbro dykes occur at the west end of Quévillon lake and just east of the Bell river in the southern part of Quévillon township.

Numerous small dykes of granite and rhyolite are scattered through the area. A coarse grained hornblende pegmatite dyke was seen in the northeastern corner of Fraser township.

STRUCTURE

The general trend of the greenstone is east-west and the dip is very steep. There is little variation from this general trend.

In some places, the greenstones are massive, but in the majority of the exposures examined they are more or less sheared. The shearing parallels the bedding structures where the latter were observed.

ECONOMIC GEOLOGY

The lack of rock exposures in the area makes prospecting difficult and, because of this, little has been done. At various times, small groups of claims have been staked, but most of these have been abandoned.

The writer found several promising looking shear-zones, carbonate zones, and veins,

most of which showed evidence of having been visited by prospectors. Samples taken from the better looking of these were assayed but they contained no gold or other values of interest.

At Laas chute there is a zone about fifty feet wide that is extensively sheared and cut by rhyolite porphyry dykes and quartz-tourmaline veins. The dykes, the veins, and the shear-zone itself are all slightly mineralized with pyrite. The trend of this shear-zone suggests that it may be closely related to shearing with the same strike at Kiask falls. An assay of a sample of well mineralized rock from this locality yielded neither gold nor silver.

About one mile north of the mouth of the Florence river, on the west side of the Bell river, a zone of carbonated greenstone is cut by quartz veins. Both the veins and the greenstone are mineralized with pyrite. The surface of the greenstone is soft, porous, and iron-stained, due to weathering and alteration. A sample from this locality gave "traces" of both gold and silver.

About four miles east of the Bell river and two and a half miles south of the Franquet-Quévillon line, several quartz veins were seen cutting silicic tuffs. One of these veins is considerably brecciated and contains numerous inclusions of chlorite, in the vicinity of which it is mineralized with pyrite. An assay of a sample from this vein yielded neither gold nor silver.

A short distance north of the above locality, a very strong local magnetic attraction was observed. The cause of the attraction could not be determined, due to heavy overburden.

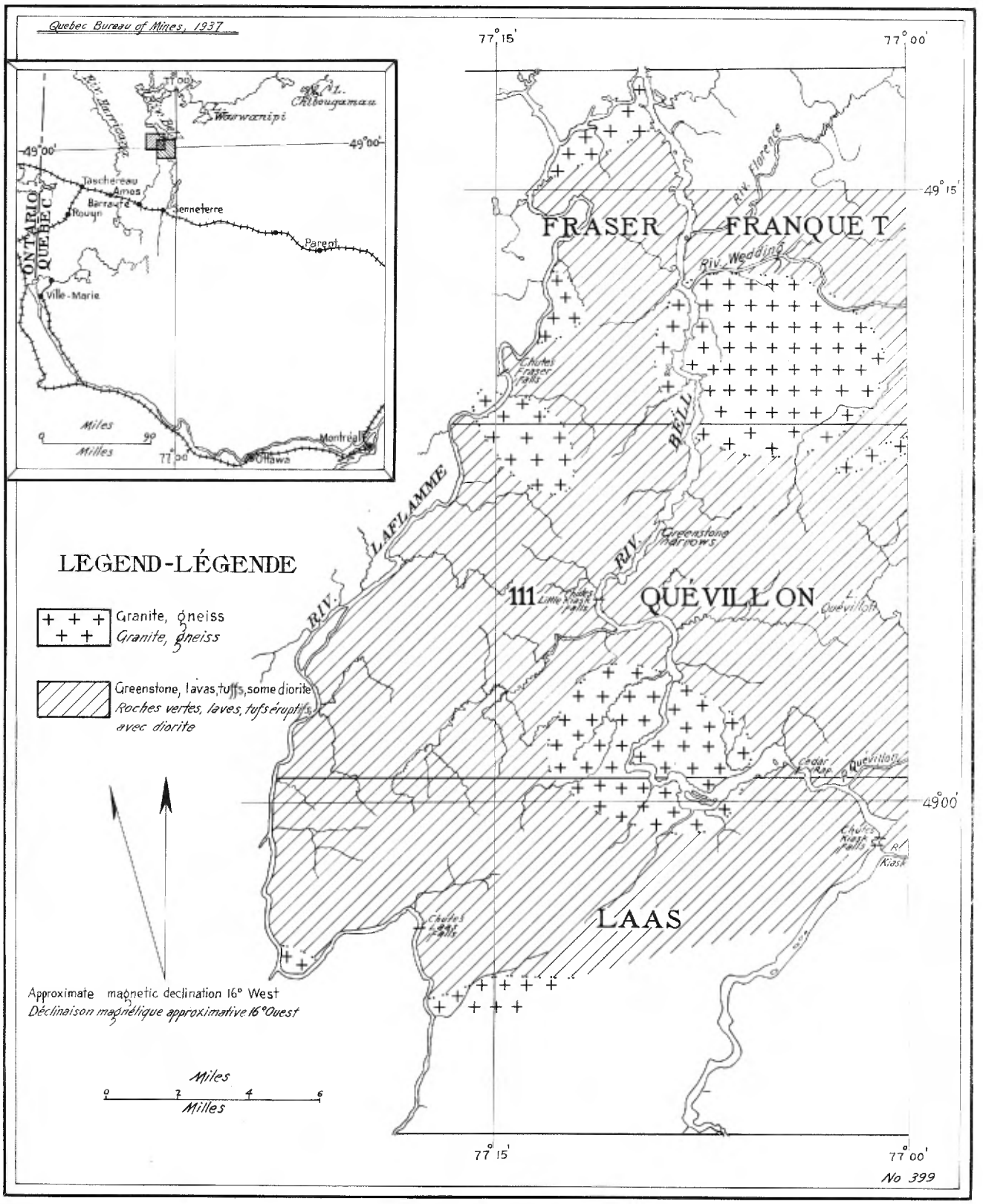
A sample taken from a quartz vein that outcrops in the channel of the Bell river a short distance below the Cedar rapids yielded neither gold nor silver. One from a mineralized shear-zone at Cedar rapids gave "traces" of gold, and 0.042 ounces per ton of silver. Another, from a quartz-tourmaline vein about three miles southwest of the Cedar rapids, yielded neither gold nor silver.

In the vicinity of Kiask falls there are numerous small quartz-carbonate veins that are slightly mineralized with pyrite. No assays were made of these. The veins are on claims held by the Kiask Falls Mining Company, Limited.

In the southeast corner of Fraser township, a few small quartz veins occur in small shear-zones cutting massive amphibolite, which in turn is cut by hornblende pegmatite. The veins are slightly mineralized but no gold values of importance were reported.

The only extensive exploration in the area has been in Laas township, on a group of claims on which the Consolidated Mining and Smelting Company of Canada hold an option. Here, extensive trenching has been done on a series of quartz-tourmaline veins cutting a banded silicic greenstone. In places, individual veins are as much as three feet wide, and the massive tourmaline in them a foot wide. Locally, the veins are considerably mineralized with pyrite, but no gold values of interest are reported.

Few places in the area can be considered favourable for prospecting, because of the heavy overburden. However, the areas immediately around the granite intrusives should be good ground, as also should the zone of heavy shearing, containing numerous quartz veins, which extends through Laas chute and Kiask falls. This zone appears of particular interest just south of Cedar rapids, where it probably intersects a north and south shear-zone which carries traces of gold at the rapids.



FRASER-LAAS AREA