

RP 126(A)

ADVANCE REPORT, CENTRAL PART OF LOUVICOURT TOWNSHIP, ABITIBI COUNTY

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ADVANCE REPORT
CENTRAL PART OF LOUVICOURT TOWNSHIP
ABITIBI COUNTY

PROVINCE OF QUEBEC, CANADA
DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND FISHERIES

HONOURABLE ONESIME GAGNON, MINISTER.

L.-A. RICHARD, DEPUTY-MINISTER.

BUREAU OF MINES
A.-O. DUFRESNE, DIRECTOR.

ADVANCE REPORT

CENTRAL PART OF LOUVICOURT TOWNSHIP
ABITIBI COUNTY

by
Bertrand T. Denis

- 1938 -



QUEBEC

1939

P.R. No. 126

CENTRAL PART OF LOUVICOURT TOWNSHIP, ABITIBI COUNTY

by

Bertrand T. Denis

The area studied by the writer during the field season of 1938 comprises a strip of territory extending about one mile to north and to south of the east-west centre-line of Louvicourt township, and from the west boundary of the township to about a mile and a half east of the north-south centre-line. It also includes two groups of claims in Bourlamaque township to the west of the Louvicourt-Bourlamaque township line, and to the south of the east-west centre-line of Bourlamaque township.

GENERAL GEOLOGY

The general geology of the area has been described by Hawley (1), by L.V. Bell (2), and by L.V. and A.M. Bell (3). Stated briefly, the area is underlain by steeply-dipping Keewatin rocks (agglomerates, breccias, tuffs, and flows) and a varied assortment of intrusive rocks, among which diorite, granodiorite, and coarse albite-porphry are the most notable. As the contact between the Keewatin and the overlying Temiscamian meta-sediments is parallel to, and about one mile to the south of, the map-area, no rocks of the latter type were encountered.

Keewatin Rocks

A remarkable feature of the Keewatin volcanics is the abundance of tuffaceous and fragmental facies. The tuffaceous facies vary from thinly bedded to massive rocks, and grade by increase in the size and abundance of the included fragments, and according to their shape, into coarse breccias with sharp-angled fragments, or into agglomerates with rounded inclusions. The fragments present a wide variety of rock types. On the whole, they are more acidic than the matrix, although this is not always the case. In some exposures of breccia measuring but a few square feet, as many as five distinct varieties of fragments may be distinguished. In the agglomerates, there is less variety, and very frequently the inclusions are vesicular or porphyritic. In bulk composition, as judged from the appearance of their outcrops, both breccias and agglomerates range from acidic to intermediate. The bedded or massive tuffs are usually rather highly chloritic and, on the whole, more basic than the coarser fragmentals.

The flow rocks typical of the region are light-weathering, grey to green, acidic to intermediate, lavas, conveniently referred to in the field as 'grey' lavas. Porphyritic, vesicular, and nodular (variolitic) facies are common. Porphyritic and vesicular types are most abundant in the northern and central parts of the area, whereas variolitic lavas characterize a well-marked horizon that has been traced for a length of about four miles in the southern part.

Intermediate to basic lavas, rich in chlorite or hornblende, also outcrop in the area. Although such rocks are common, they are less abundant than the acidic 'grey' lavas. These more basic lavas frequently are pillowed. Their texture varies from fine grained to medium-coarse dioritic, and often it is difficult to distinguish between them and intrusive rocks of similar composition. In the western part of the area, in the vicinity of the Louvicourt-Bourlamaque township line, the basic lavas in many places are rich in epidote.

The regional strike of the volcanics is east-west. In spite of the lack of continuity in the outcrops, there is little doubt that the series is characterized by a lenticular habit. No mappable unit which could be traced across the area was found.

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- (1) Gold and Copper Deposits of Dubuisson and Bourlamaque Townships, Abitibi County; Que. Bur. Mines, Ann. Rept., 1930, Part C.
 - (2) Mining Properties of Pascalis-Louvicourt Area; Que. Bur. Mines, Ann. Rept., 1932, Part B.
 - (3) Bell River Headwaters Area: Detailing the Pascalis-Louvicourt Gold Deposits; Que. Bur. Mines, Ann. Rept., 1931, Part B.

In the northern part of the area, moderate to strong shearing is widespread, and the volcanic rocks have been in large part altered to sericitic, chlorito-sericitic, or chloritic schists; in the southern part they are more massive, and the original textures, often emphasized by weathering, are well preserved. Carbonatization of the volcanics was noted at many places in the northeastern and central parts of the area. Numerous quartz veins and veinlets, mostly barren in appearance, are found in the carbonatized rocks.

Intrusive Rocks

Granodiorite.- Granodiorite outcrops in the northeastern part of the area, on the claims held by Louvre Gold Mines, Limited. Recent drilling on these claims indicates that the northern boundary of the mass as shown on Bell's map (1) has been placed about half a mile too far to the north, and that the mass is only about 4,000 feet from north to south. It should be stated that there are no outcrops in the half-mile stretch between the old and the newly indicated northern margin of the mass.

Albite Porphyry.- Dykes and sill-like bodies of coarse albite-porphyry are common in the western part of the area. The phenocrysts of albite, measuring up to half an inch, are enclosed in a matrix of albite and hornblende. Some of these dykes are more than 50 feet wide: they frequently contain abundant sliver-like inclusions of the greenstone which they cut. In the eastern part of the area, only one such dyke was encountered, in diamond-drill holes on the property of Louvre Gold Mines, Limited. Here the dyke is in contact with, and presumably later than, the granodiorite. The abundance of the dykes in the western part of the area, and their scarcity to the east, is noteworthy.

Diorite.- Dioritic rocks crop out at a few places in the area, but no large bodies of this rock were outlined. In at least three places on claims A-40809-10, 38033-34 and 38243, and 38477 and 34516, the texture of the rock, the presence of blue opalescent quartz, or the field relations, furnish reasonably conclusive evidence that these rocks are intrusive.

At 1,000 feet to the east of plate No. 26 on the Bourlamaque-Louvicourt township line, a medium to coarse-grained basic intrusive (?) rock outcrops within an area measuring 1,200 feet by 400 feet, the greater dimension being in the direction of the regional strike, slightly north of east. The field relations are not clearly exposed. The rock has been mentioned by Hawley (2), who named it 'diabasic diorite'.

Syenite.- In the northwest corner of lot 38, range IV, Louvicourt township, there are two small outcrops of massive, equigranular, medium-grained hornblende syenite.

Diabase.- A fine grained, fresh-looking diabase outcrops on the west side of the outcrop at plate No. 27, on the east-west centre-line of Louvicourt township.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTIES

Prospecting activities in the district were at a low ebb during the summer of 1938. One Company, Louvre Gold Mines, Limited, was engaged in exploration by diamond drilling, but most of the other claim owners were inactive or carried out only a limited amount of surface exploration.

Louvre Gold Mines, Limited, hold a group of 61 claims in the northeastern part of the area. The results of earlier exploration work on this ground have been published from time to time in the annual reports of the Bureau (3). Recently, in the course of diamond drilling on claims A-35734 and 35729, gold-bearing vein intersections were encountered in two holes, spaced about 1,000 feet apart. The veins are in mineralized, sheared granodiorite, close to its contact with greenstone. Further work is planned to test the reasonable assumption that the two intersections are in a continuous east-west shear-zone. Gold values reported in these holes (No. 27 and No. 28) are as follows:

(1) Que. Bur. Mines, Map, No. 167.

(2) Que. Bur. Mines, Ann. Rept., 1930, Part C, p. 93.

(3) Que. Bur. Mines, Ann. Rept., 1931, Part B, pp. 97-8; 1932, Part B, pp. 15-19; P.R. No. 116, 1936, p. 67.

	<u>Width</u>	<u>Value Per Ton</u>
Hole No. 27	----- 2.5 feet	\$1.05
"	----- 1.4 "	\$14.35
"	----- 0.7 "	\$2.10
"	----- 0.6 "	\$109.55
Hole No. 28	----- 2.2 "	\$24.15

Val d'Oro Mines, Limited, have carried out systematic surface exploration on a group of 21 claims (A-57585 to 57605) in the west-central part of Louvicourt township. Gold-bearing east-west mineralized shears have been encountered at several places on the property, and these have been tentatively grouped into four zones, numbered, from north to south, 1, 2, 3, and 4. The information available on two of these 'zones' is limited to single exposures in trenches. The other two zones have been checked by trenching at a number of points along the projection of the strike, for lengths of 2,500 feet and 1,800 feet, respectively. Assays of samples taken from place to place on these two zones are reported to have yielded low values in gold, but a narrow quartz stringer exposed in a trench on zone No. 1 carries higher values, and a sample taken here by W.N. Asbury, of the Quebec Bureau of Mines, carried \$15.40, over a width of 6 inches. From zone No. 3, exposed in a single trench, samples of mineralized quartz porphyry were reported to carry from \$0.28 to \$8.96 per ton in gold. Two chip-samples taken from this trench by Mr. Asbury, over a width of three feet, were quartered, assayed and checked. The fact that two of the assays ran \$11.27 and \$8.96 respectively, while the others gave very low values, suggests that the gold distribution is erratic.

In zone No. 2, it was reported that several channel samples had been taken, and that one of them, over a width of three feet, contained \$8.40 per ton in gold. A sample cut by Asbury carried but \$0.42 per ton in gold. There is, however, some doubt whether the latter sample was cut from the same place as that which gave the \$8.40 assay.

Valbec Exploration, Limited, hold ten claims in the western part of Louvicourt township, to the south of the Val d'Oro group. This is part of the ground described by Hawley (1) at the time it was held by Obaska Mines, Limited. Surface exploration on claim A-80240 has disclosed the existence of a mineralized zone in the greenstones. It is reported that assays of samples taken from the zone have given encouraging results. The location and direction of diamond-drill holes put down by previous owners suggest that these holes must have penetrated the downward extension of the mineralized zone in question, but precise information on the results of the drilling is lacking.

Orcour Gold Mines, Limited, hold a group of 25 claims, numbered A-60961 to 60985, in the central part of Louvicourt township. Heavy overburden conceals the bedrock nearly everywhere on this group, but there are some small outcrops on claims A-60976 and 60965, the former near the northwest corner of the claim-group, the latter on the eastern boundary. Mineralized zones on each of these outcrops, have been traced for short distances by east-west trenching. Attempts to reach bedrock in other places on the claim-group were unsuccessful.

(1) Que. Bur. Mines, Ann. Rept., 1930, Part C, p. 93.