

# RP 246(A)

PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PARTS OF DALQUIER AND FIGUERY TOWNSHIPS, ABITIBI-EAST COUNTY

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**PRELIMINARY REPORT**

**ON**

**PARTS OF DALQUIER AND FIGUERY TOWNSHIPS**

**ABITIBI-EAST COUNTY**

**BY**

**W. W. WEBER**



**QUEBEC  
1950**

PRELIMINARY REPORT  
ON  
PARTS OF DALQUIER AND FIGUERY TOWNSHIPS  
by  
W.W. Weber

Dalquier and Figuery townships lie 65 miles east of the Ontario-Quebec boundary. Dalquier township is due east of Abitibi lake. Figuery township is immediately south of Dalquier township.

During the 1948 season in the field, an area of 76 square miles was examined and mapped on a scale of one inch equals 500 feet. The area lies immediately west of the area mapped during 1946 (1) and 1947 (2) in Duvernay and Landrienne townships and comprises lots 25 to 62, ranges I to IX, inclusive, Dalquier township, and lots 33 to 64, ranges VIII to X, inclusive, Figuery township. Geological mapping was accomplished mainly by the use of aerial photographs enlarged to the scale of the base map. Approximately 30 miles of original survey lines were reopened to provide topographic control. Survey control presented no difficulties in the populated parts of the area. The programme also included detailed examination of all work done in connection with mineral exploration in the area. There was little activity during the past season but claims covering a large portion of the area have been maintained in good standing.

All parts of the area are easily accessible. Two secondary roads closely parallel the eastern and western boundaries of the area. With interconnecting colonization roads which follow alternate range-lines, they provide direct access to all outcrops. The Harricana river flows northeasterly across the area. The transcontinental line of the Canadian National Railways traverses the northern part of Figuery township. The principal town, Amos, straddles the Dalquier-Figuery township boundary. Only its northern and eastern parts fall within the area mapped.

#### General Geology

All the consolidated rocks within the area are believed to be of Precambrian age. The majority of the exposures are Keewatin-type volcanic rocks. These rocks, which constitute the oldest known formations, include acid, intermediate and basic lavas, breccia, agglomerate and tuff bands of various types. The intrusive rocks include peridotite, gabbro, diorite, quartz, diorite, syenite, quartz porphyry and granite. All of them cut the basement volcanic rocks, but further age relationship is in many instances uncertain. The table of formations on the following page incorporates the rock types on a basis of known relationships.

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- (1) Weber, W.W., Part of Duvernay Township, Abitibi-East County, Que. Dept. Mines, P.R. No. 200.
  - (2) Weber, W.W., Parts of Duvernay and Landrienne Townships, Abitibi-East County, Que. Dept. Mines, P.R. No. 228.

Table of Formations

Quaternary	Recent	Stream and swamp deposits
	Pleistocene	Till, sand, gravel and lacustrine varved clays
Late Precambrian	Keweenawan	Diabase, olivine gabbro
	Post-Algoman (?)	Quartz veins. Faulting
Early Precambrian	Algoman	Aplite, quartz porphyry. Microcline granite and hybrid amphibolite border zones. Altered granitized quartz monzonite or tonalite
	Post-Keewatin-type	Peridotite. Gabbro. Metadiorite, metadiabase and metagabbro
	Keewatin-type	Metadiorite, metagabbro. Acidic lavas and associated fragmental rocks. Intermediate lavas and fragmental rocks with local intercalations of basic lavas and minor chert. Basic lavas with local flow breccia. Siliceous to intermediate volcanic rocks (in the southern part of the area)

Keewatin-type Volcanic Rocks

Since the present season's mapping adjoins the previously described area to the east, brief descriptions will serve to show the similarities of the geological conditions and indicate correlative features. The main portion of the area is underlain by Keewatin-type volcanic rocks which in some instances are believed to be underlain by granite at a relatively shallow depth. In other instances the volcanic rocks form a uniform, steeply dipping sequence of considerable thickness.

The youngest Keewatin-type volcanic rocks are exposed in the synclinal basin in central Dalquier township extending across and including the 'rhyolite' band in ranges I, II and V, Dalquier township. This series comprises the basal 'rhyolite', together with all the intermediate volcanic rocks overlying the 'rhyolite'. The 'rhyolite' is excellently exposed on the southern limb of the Duverny syncline. This band of siliceous volcanic rocks, which extends in a continuous ridge from lot 46, range II, Dalquier, westward to the Harricana river, consists of pinkish, lemon-yellow, and quartzite-like grey rhyolites, rhyolite breccia and agglomerate intercalated with local trachytic variations. Near the Harricana river, the siliceous rocks are interfingered with minor intermediate volcanic rocks.

On the northern limb of the syncline, the 'rhyolite' is exposed on lots 33 to 38, range V, Dalquier township. Here the massive, variolitic and pillowed dacitic lavas on the north form an abrupt contact with cherty tuffs, siliceous agglomerate and brecciated siliceous lavas which grade to the south into a sequence of siliceous flows similar to the equivalent horizon on the southern limb of the fold.

There are scattered exposures of intermediate to basic volcanic rocks in ranges III and IV and part of range V, Dalquier township. These lavas overlie the 'rhyolite' and contain the Duverny synclinal axis. The main rock types exposed are massive, fine-grained and pillowed flows with local breccia zones.

A zone of transition separates the 'rhyolite' from the bands of basic rocks exposed in ranges VII to IX and range I, Dalquier township, and in ranges IX and X, Figuey township.

Throughout ranges VI and VII and the northern part of range V, Dalquier township, quartz-bearing and feldspathic dacite lavas with local occurrences of variolitic and amygdaloidal lavas and also massive, fine-grained and pillowed flows form a definite band. In the eastern part of these ranges, in the Dalquier area, basic volcanic rocks form large lenticular intercalations in the intermediate volcanic rocks. Consequently, a separation between the bands of basic and intermediate lavas is difficult to distinguish. An approximate line of contact has been placed above the agglomerate bed which outcrops mainly in the western sector, lots 30 to 33, in the vicinity of the VIII-IX range-line and has been assumed to cross range VIII, Dalquier township, to join with a similar breccia-agglomerate contact zone on the Duvay property, in range VIII, Duverny township.

With the exception of the trachytic and dacitic lavas exposed in lots A and G of Amos townsite, the intermediate to basic volcanic rocks underlying the 'rhyolite' on the south limb of the Duverny syncline are unlike the series described above and indistinguishable as a unit from the band of dominantly basic rocks to the south.

Basic lavas make up a sequence of massive, pillowed and amygdaloidal andesite-basalt volcanic rocks in the extreme north in ranges VIII and IX, Dalquier township, and also in the south in ranges IX and X, Figuey township, and parts of ranges I and II, Dalquier township. Sill-like bodies

which range from coarse-grained dioritic andesites to intensely altered pyroxenites, occur within these basic beds, particularly in the southern band. Locally, these masses display intrusive contacts with the enclosing volcanic rocks, but, in view of their similar regional structure and their resemblance in composition and in degree of alteration to the adjacent flows, they have been considered to be genetically related to the period of vulcanism responsible for the widespread lavas.

#### Horizon Markers

Fragmental volcanic rocks provide the best clues to the regional structure. The basic lavas are almost devoid of such horizons, with the exception of local bands of flow breccia. The distinctive sill-like bodies, which are conformable to the volcanic flows, provide a reasonable means of tracing the geological structure in these basic rocks.

In the intermediate to basic lavas, brecciated flows and agglomeratic beds occur but are less numerous than in the southern part of Duvernay township. A good example of such a horizon is exposed on lots 30 to 34, ranges VIII and IX, Dalquier township.

In the siliceous volcanic rocks the brecciated zones appear identical to exposures in Duvernay township. A large proportion of the siliceous flows are fragmental. With considerable shearing and disruption of continuity in the synclinal basin, especially in the vicinity of the Jay Copper property and eastward to the Harricana river, the through-going zones of agglomeratic and brecciated rhyolite have provided the only clues to the regional trend. In other instances of attempted differentiation, the siliceous lavas appear to be largely brecciated flows and they have led to hopeless confusion.

#### Post-Keewatin-type Intrusives

With the possible exception of the intrusive-like rocks in the volcanic formations, the oldest intrusive rock in the area is believed to be the gabbroic sill-like body which extends into the southeastern corner of range X, Figuey township. This mass is the western continuation of the previously mapped and described basic intrusive (3) which extends for a distance of 7 miles across the northern part of Landrienne township. This gabbro and peridotite appear to be confined to the extreme eastern portion of the area. A peridotite similar to the peridotite which occurs with the gabbro has been uncovered in a single exposure almost 3 miles west of the Landrienne-Figuey township boundary and is assumed to be a part of the Landrienne ultrabasic dyke. On lot 44, range X, Figuey township, the peridotite contacts basic lavas on both margins and no gabbro appears in the vicinity.

Local gabbroic sill-like bodies, texturally unlike the gabbro of the Landrienne sill, occur within the basic volcanic rocks in range I,

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(3) Weber, W.W., Parts of Duvernay and Landrienne Townships, Abitibi-East County, Que. Dept. Mines, P.R. No. 228.

Dalquier township, and range IX, Figuey township. Two small lenticular bodies of diorite-gabbro outcrop on lots 34 to 36, in the western part of range II, Dalquier township. This rock has been cut by faults believed to be of early Precambrian age. It also follows the regional trend of the volcanic rocks, suggesting that it is of early Precambrian age, though the contact with the adjacent volcanic rocks is sharp and certainly indicates an intrusive origin.

Isolated bodies of altered dioritic rocks of unknown extent outcrop on lots 56, range VI, and on lot 62, range VII, Dalquier township. This rock has a striking resemblance to a similar rock outcropping on the Comet Duverny mining property, lot 6, range VII, Duverny township. It is a coarse-grained aggregate of greenish to blackish ferromagnesian minerals, mainly miniature bictite books, set in a greyish-green salt and pepper aggregate of feldspar and alteration products.

#### Algoman (?) Granitic Rocks

Granitized Quartz Monzonite.- This rock, an albitized equivalent of a quartz monzonite, appears in a small saddle lobe on the northern margin of the microcline granite. The exposures are very limited in extent but do allow a correlation with the more extensive outcrops directly to the east in range V, Duverny township. The typical specimen contains greyish phenocrysts of plagioclase and opalescent quartz 'eyes' and is easily distinguished from microcline-bearing granite. The age indicated by field observations is pre-granite, but the rock appears to be genetically related to the source magma of the entire granitic sequence.

#### Microcline-Granite

The Duverny granite batholith extends westward into Dalquier township in ranges I to VI. Two local protruding lobes extend westward into the central portion of the area, possibly connecting with the lithologically similar Dalquier mass which outcrops in the western and northern parts of range IX. This granite, a microcline-bearing, quartz-rich rock, has been previously described and warrants little further description except for the highly carbonatized frontal lobe which outcrops in lot 52, range VI. Here the granite has an unusually high carbonate content, uncommon in the pink granite, but normal in the granodiorite. This rock is possibly intermediate between the relatively unaltered granite and the carbonatized granodiorite which appear as adjacent rock types in Duverny township. Within the area mapped in Dalquier township there are no outcrops of albitized granodiorite.

#### Dyke Rocks

The largest dyke in the area, a serpentinized peridotite cutting the sill-like gabbro, continues westward from the eastern limit of the area and is assumed to cross range X, Figuey, to join with the peridotite exposed

in lot 44, range X, Figuery township. The rock is identical to that cutting the Landrienne gabbro and described previously (4).

Numerous smaller dykes, ranging in width from 1 to 10 feet, and generally traceable for relatively short distances, intrude the volcanic rocks. These include the andesite and lamprophyre common in the basic lavas and the rhyolite and feldspar porphyries associated with the siliceous lavas. In part these dykes are feeders to overlying flows and in part of uncertain age relationships and affinities.

A quartz diorite dyke-like body outcrops on lots 39 to 42 adjacent to the VII-VIII range-line, Dalquier township. On lot 38, on the roadway, bluish quartz 'eyes' occur speckled throughout the diabasic fabric, giving it a very distinctive appearance. Fine grained andesite or lamprophyre dykes cut this rock in a series of parallel or 'en échelon' dykes and dykolets, generally trending N.45°W. and dipping vertically.

The Seaforth porphyry, an intensely albited quartz porphyry striking N.40°W. across the Duverny granite, continues westward into the southwestern corner of range IV, Dalquier township. It disappears under the overburden and fails to reappear on the projected line of strike in the granite exposures within the area.

#### Late Precambrian Dykes

Three dykes of diabase and olivine gabbro, ranging in width from 150 to 300 feet, and striking approximately N.30°E., cut the volcanic rocks and the granite within the area. On lots 30 to 34, range IX, Dalquier township, segments of a single dyke overlap 'en échelon'. This particular dyke has been traced through discontinuous outcroppings for a distance of 85 miles, and fills a fracture known as the Dufay-Bernetz fracture.

The weathered surface is reddish-buff to grey and the fresh surface varies from dark grey to light greenish-grey, depending on the texture. The rock varies considerably in texture and composition from place to place. There is marked variation in grain size from the margin to the centre of the dyke. The coarse-grained varieties, more properly termed gabbro, are aggregates of altered plagioclase, pyroxene and olivine. In some instances the rock is porphyritic, with phenocrysts of olivine ranging up to  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an inch in diameter. Elsewhere the rock is equigranular, hypidiomorphic with pronounced development of pyroxene in short thick prisms. Near the margins the rock is fine grained to aphanitic, darker in colour than in the centre and has the characteristic ophitic texture of diabase.

Metamorphic alteration of the walls is slight but dependent on the character of the country rock. The contacts are chilled and sharp in all instances, though the alteration is most pronounced in basic surroundings.

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(4) Weber, W.W., Parts of Duverny and Landrienne Townships, Abitibi-East County, Que. Dept. Mines, P.R. No. 228.

Most of the diabase has two strong and equally well developed sets of joints at right angles to the walls. The joints dip roughly  $45^{\circ}$  in opposite directions. Some of the joint planes, possibly developed during the cooling, are coated with tremolite and serpentine.

#### Pleistocene and Recent

The greater part of the area is overlain by glacial drift. In some places a rude stratification is apparent in the drift. Vertical banks in the gravel pits on lots 39, 41 and 47, of range VIII, Dalquier township, display excellent sections of stratified sand, till and varved clays. The best sections, on lot 47, show that three and possibly four cycles of deposition, following the deposition of the coarse glacial till, occurred in the local basin. Each seasonal deposition grades upward from a sharply defined possible boulder clay and coarse gravel to a fine gravel, stratified and interbedded sands and varved clays. In the upper section, a total of 92 cycles of seasonal deposition is discernable in the varved clays of most recent origin.

Glacial striae observed on freshly uncovered bedrock vary in direction from N. $230^{\circ}$ W. to N. $30^{\circ}$ E. The average of fifteen observations is N. $14^{\circ}$ W. In two instances two sets of intersecting striae have been observed. In the first instance the direction of the older set was N. $15^{\circ}$ W. and the younger N. $3^{\circ}$ E. and in the other, N. $12^{\circ}$ W. and N. $18^{\circ}$ W., respectively.

#### Structural Geology

Folding.- A reasonably well defined fold system is developed within the area. Location of the axes of the folds is complicated by distorting cross structures and scarcity of outcrops.

In the extreme northern part of the area attitude determinations indicate a steeply dipping anticlinal structure, cross-folded and distorted by the intrusion of the Dalquier batholith. It is believed to be the westward continuation of the anticlinal structure passing to the north of the area mapped in Duverny township which was observed on the Gothic and Soma Duverny mining properties, adjacent to the VIII-IX range-line.

Throughout ranges VIII and IX, Dalquier township, the meagre determinations suggest an overturned condition, the southern limb of the anticline dipping steeply to the north. This condition is also observed in the scattered exposures throughout range VII and the northern part of range VI, Dalquier township. In the vicinity of the small granitic cupula in ranges V and VI, Dalquier township, the regional structure has been modified by the intrusion. The exposed dacitic lava dips at low angles, with a doming effect apparent about the margin of the intrusive.

South of the 'rhyolite' horizon in range V, and east of lot 40, range VI, Dalquier township, the attitude of the volcanic beds is nearly vertical. The Duverny syncline is believed to cross the drift-covered area between the mid-portion of range III, Dalquier township, in the east and the

southern part of range IV in the west. The westerly plunge of the syncline, which is evident in Duverny township, is not so apparent in the Dalquier area. On the southern limb of the syncline, in ranges I and II, Dalquier township, and ranges IX and X, Figuery township, the average dip is  $80^{\circ}$  north.

The Amos anticline, previously noted in range VIII and the southern part of range IX, Landrienne township, appears at the eastern boundary of Figuery township in the central part of range VIII, and extends westerly to the boundary of the area. Conditions of attitude are similar to those noted in Landrienne township, but the limits of the axial zone are not as clearly defined. A reversal of dip occurs in the extreme southern part of the area on lots 45 to 47, range VIII, Figuery township. This synclinal warp is believed to be a local feature on the limb of the major anticlinal structure. In view of the meagre outcroppings, it was not possible to locate the axial zone or possible fault line nor was it possible to establish any continuity in the scattered outcrops to the east or west.

Shearing and Faulting.— Shearing of major importance is almost totally confined to the acidic volcanic formations within the synclinal basin in ranges II and III, Dalquier township. Here a schistose zone up to 690 feet in width trends across the southern limits of the outcrop on the Jay Copper property. The strike averages  $N.65^{\circ}W.$  with the dip vertical within the central zones of more intense deformation and flattening toward the margin of the shear zone. This zone appears to have been one of major adjustment and has been the focal point of subsidiary faulting, most evident on lots 28 to 36 in the western parts of ranges II and III. Evidence of movement in approximately complementary directions,  $N.30^{\circ}W.$  and  $N.50^{\circ}E.$ , is conjectural owing to the lack of horizon markers in the schistose zone. Reports of the underground development on the original Jay Copper property mention displacement in the cross-fractures transecting the schist.

To the north of range III, Dalquier township, the evidence of shearing is confined to local horizons and observed examples have been of a mild, selective nature, conforming to the regional pattern. A similar condition prevails to the south of the acid volcanic formations throughout range I, Dalquier township, and part of range X, Figuery township. The intensity of the shearing in the volcanic rocks increases considerably in the vicinity of the IX-X range-line, Figuery township, and is suggestive of considerable flowage within the basic formations. The magnitude and intensity do not approach the degree observed within the synclinal basin. In range VIII, the condition has returned to a subordinate and selective role, the usual pattern of regional schistosity.

With the exception of the synclinal basin, no shears of major importance were noted to trend in a northerly direction, acutely transecting the trend of the volcanic rocks. This is in sharp contrast to the adjoining Duverny area. Likewise, faulting with northerly trend, though noted in minor degree, offers no evidence of major displacements such as those encountered in the northern part of Landrienne township and the southern part of Duverny township.

Economic Geology

The entire area has been intensively prospected and the localities of evident mineralization have been uncovered. Numerous instances of blackened iron-stained pyritic mineralization were noted within a variety of host rocks. The most common occurrences are within pillowed formations or schistose zones. They consist of a network of wisps, filaments and disseminated grains of pyrite, and occasionally of pyrrhotite, either filling the interstices of the pillow margins or lining the fracture planes of the schist. The mineralization rarely reaches a concentration greater than one per cent, except for local pods and lenticules, but the apparent alteration is sufficient to mislead the inexperienced prospector. A number of instances of such mineralization were encountered and are noted below.

(1) Pyritic replacement in sheared acid volcanic rocks on lots 38 and 39, adjacent to the II-III range-line, Dalquier township.

(2) Disseminated pyritic replacement of the basic volcanic rocks throughout lots 44 to 50, range VI, and lots 33 to 40, range V, Dalquier township.

(3) Pyritic networks in flow breccia and pillowed andesite and dacite in the northern part of lots 35 to 37, range IV, in a continuous zone of considerable width, and a similar less extensive occurrence on lots 27 and 34, range I, Dalquier township.

(4) Pyrite and pyrrhotite replacement in a coarse-grained amphibolitized lava adjacent to the granite on lot 51, range IX, Dalquier township. Several assays of samples taken at random revealed only traces of copper and no gold, zinc, silver or lead.

Occurrences with appreciable mineralization are confined to range II, Dalquier township. Here, on the Jay Copper property, indications of possible commercial ore are in the central band, which is close to the old shafts on the Jay Copper and North Country properties. Here discontinuous lenses, seams and filaments of copper-bearing minerals appear in isolated narrow lenses within a zone of more widespread pyritic mineralization.

Jay Copper Mines Limited

The present Jay Copper Mines Limited includes the former holdings of the old Jay Copper Gold Mines Limited, the North Country Mines Limited, and the Amgola Mines Limited. It comprises some 2,000 acres and includes lots 28 and 29, and lots 34 to 47, in range II, and that portion of lots 29 to 37 south of the Harricana river in range III, Dalquier township.

Exploration began on the North Country property in 1916. A shaft was sunk to a depth of 65 feet and then abandoned. No records of this work are available.

During the 1926-1930 period, a second shaft was sunk on the North Country property and lateral development of 200 feet is reported. In a report attributed to H.J. Stewart, a test shipment aggregating 39,668 lb. yielded 6.44 per cent copper and 1.025 ounces of silver per ton.

Work on the original Jay Copper property commenced in 1926 and a shaft, now caved and filled with débris, is reported to have been sunk to a depth of 525 feet, with 2,932 feet of lateral work on 4 levels. From the original company reports, a carload lot of the possible ore on the 200-foot level was shipped to the American Metal Company's smelter at Carteret, N.J. Reported returns are 4.41 per cent copper and 4.10 ounces of silver per ton.

In addition to the underground work of the above two companies a series of trenches and test pits over a length of 2,200 feet and across a width of 300 feet explored the three mineralized zones on the property. The trenches are in part caved in the schistose areas but can be followed and inspected on the main ridge.

The Amgola operations were confined mainly to lots 28, 34 and 35, range II. A continuous zone of massive sulphide, replacing a weathered sericitic schist over a continuous length of 1,600 feet and up to 25 feet in width, is exposed in the trenches. This occurrence is identical to the southern-most band of mineralization exposed to the southeast of the old Jay Copper shaft. Pyrite, leached and oxidized, is the only sulphide noted. Channel samples from the main trenches in the two zones contained negligible amounts of gold, copper, zinc and lead.

To the north of the road leading to the gravel pit on the ridge on lot 45, pyrite and pyrrhotite replacement in sheared acidic volcanic rock is exposed in a trench 40 feet in length. A channel sample of this zone over a distance of 22 feet yielded a trace in gold and copper, 0.05 per cent lead, and 0.05 per cent zinc. The copper mineralization is localized within a zone of sulphide replacement trending with the schistosity and roughly aligned between the old shafts on the Jay and North Country properties. The mineralization appears as thin filaments, seams, pods and lenses of chalcopyrite following the strike of the planes of schistosity and dipping vertically. The copper mineralization is limited to short discontinuous and irregular bands and lenses of which the largest, in the vicinity of the old North Country shaft, has a length of 54 feet and a width averaging 2 feet. The results of the channel sampling in the trenches between the Jay Copper and the North Country shaft are as follows:

Jay Copper

Trench	Location	Length of channel	Au oz. per ton	Cu %	Zn %	Pb %
5	lot 43	2'	tr	1.04	0.03	0.03
6	lot 43	1'	tr.	0.52	0.04	0.04
6 (south)	Lot 43	3.5'	0.000	0.15	0.02	0.02
7	lot-line 42-43	1.5'	0.013	2.78	0.04	0.04
7 (south)	lot-line 42-43	1.5'	tr.	1.53	0.04	0.04
8	lot 42	2'	0.019	1.75	0.03	0.03
9 (North Country Shaft)	lot 42	3'	0.015	1.80	0.02	0.02

Samples taken from beyond the seams of chalcopyrite, in the pyritized horizon in the vicinity of trench 8 on lot 42, gave the following results:-

8	Lot 43	3'	tr.	0.03	0.02	0.02
8	Lot 43	3'	tr.	0.15	0.02	0.02

In May, 1946, Paramount Mining Syndicate optioned the property from the present owner, Mrs. Jean Kervin of Montreal. During the 1946 field season a plane table geological survey, sampling of the old surface workings, line cutting and a magnetometer survey of the overburdened area between the Amgola and North Country workings were completed.

The property was dormant during the past field season.

East Dalquier Mines

A magnetometer survey of this property was made in 1946. The property is located in range VI, lots 51 and 52, Dalquier township. No mineral occurrences have been discovered in the heavily drift-covered area.