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S. R. CAPPS & B. L. JOHNSON

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

GEORGE OTIS SMITH, DIRECTOR

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THE ELLAMAR DISTRICT, ALASKA

BY

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AND

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CONTENTS.

	Page.
Preface, by Alfred H. Brooks.....	7
Introduction.....	9
Location.....	9
Previous work.....	9
Present report.....	12
History.....	13
Geography, by S. R. Capps.....	14
Topography.....	14
General features.....	14
Influence of rock structure on topography.....	16
Streams.....	17
Transportation.....	18
Climate.....	19
Vegetation.....	23
Population.....	24
Game.....	25
General geology, by S. R. Capps.....	25
Divisions of the rocks.....	25
Geologic history.....	26
Rock formations.....	30
Valdez group.....	30
Distribution.....	30
Character.....	31
Structure.....	33
Thickness.....	34
Age and correlation.....	34
Orca group.....	35
Distribution.....	35
Character.....	36
Lithologic divisions.....	36
Lower black slates.....	37
Lower slates and graywackes.....	37
Greenstones.....	39
Occurrence.....	39
Distribution.....	40
Character.....	40
Conglomerate.....	42
Distribution.....	42
Character.....	42
Upper slates and graywackes.....	43
Structure.....	44
Age.....	45
Quaternary deposits.....	46
Glaciation.....	46
Unconsolidated deposits.....	47
Igneous rocks.....	48

	Page.
Mineral resources, by B. I. Johnson.....	50
Metals present.....	50
Geographic distribution of the deposits.....	50
Prince William Sound mineral belts.....	50
Relation of Ellamar district to Prince William Sound mineral belts..	50
Distribution of mineral deposits within the Ellamar district.....	51
Production.....	52
Literature.....	52
Geologic distribution and relations of the mineral deposits.....	62
General features.....	62
Structural relations.....	62
Distribution of fissuring and faulting.....	62
Relation of fissuring and faulting to structure.....	63
Type of faulting.....	63
Age of faulting and fissuring.....	63
Fissure systems.....	64
Relation of the ore deposits to fissuring.....	64
Relation of the mineral deposits to the country rock.....	65
Character of the ore deposits.....	66
Ore minerals.....	68
General features.....	68
Paragenesis of sulphide ore minerals.....	71
Secondary copper minerals.....	72
Genesis of the ores.....	73
Value and scope of the discussion.....	73
Periods of mineralization in Prince William Sound region.....	73
Deposition of the ores.....	75
Composition of the ore-bearing solutions.....	78
Course of the ore solutions.....	78
Source of the metallizing solutions.....	79
Source of the copper and other metals.....	80
Time of metallization.....	82
Relation of the ore deposits to intrusive rocks.....	83
Relation of the mineral deposits of the Ellamar district to metallogenetic epochs and provinces.....	84
Mines and prospects of Ellamar district.....	87
Copper mines.....	87
Ellamar mine.....	87
Location.....	87
History and development.....	87
Equipment.....	88
Method of mining and ore treatment.....	89
Geology of ore body.....	90
Ore deposit.....	91
The ore.....	91
Ore genesis.....	92
Threeman Mining Co.'s mine.....	92
Location of property.....	92
History and development.....	92
Equipment and ore treatment.....	93
Ore deposit.....	94
Landlock Bay Copper Mining Co.....	96
Location of property.....	96
History and development.....	96

Mines and prospects of Ellamar district—Continued.	
Copper mines—Continued.	
Landlock Bay Copper Mining Co.—Continued.	Page.
Equipment and ore treatment.....	96
Ore deposit.....	97
Copper prospects.....	98
Banta & Cameron prospect.....	98
Fielder & Hemple prospect.....	98
Prospects of Galena Bay Mining Co.....	98
Location.....	98
History and development.....	98
Equipment.....	100
Ore deposits.....	100
Prospects of Reynolds Alaska Development Co.....	102
Prospects of L. P. M. Falck.....	103
Standard Copper Mines Co.....	104
Hemple Copper Co.....	106
Prospects of Threeman Mining Co.....	107
Workings of Alaska Commercial Co.....	107
Montezuma claim.....	108
Claims on south side of Landlocked Bay.....	109
Workings on Fish Bay side of Billy Goat Mountain.....	109
Alaska, Pioneer, and Sourdough fractions.....	110
Hoodoo claim.....	111
Chisna Consolidated Mines Co.....	111
Gold quartz prospects.....	112
Mines and prospects on Port Fidalgo.....	112
Fidalgo Mining Co.....	113
Location.....	113
History and development.....	113
Equipment and ore treatment.....	114
Ore deposit.....	114
Fidalgo-Alaska Copper Co.....	117
Location.....	117
History and development.....	117
Equipment and ore treatment.....	118
Ore deposit.....	118
Dickey Copper Co.....	120
Location.....	120
History and development.....	120
Equipment and ore treatment.....	121
Ore deposit.....	121
Index.....	123

ILLUSTRATIONS.

	Page.
PLATE I. Topographic map of Ellamar district.....	In pocket.
II. Geologic map of Ellamar district.....	In pocket.
III. Copper Mountain from the north, looking across the head of Vesuvius Valley.....	14
IV. Boulder Bay from the south.....	15
V. <i>A</i> , Steeply dipping slate and graywacke beds of the Valdez group; <i>B</i> , Slates and graywackes of the Orca group conformably overlain by diabase flows.....	38
VI. <i>A</i> , Cross section of ellipsoidal greenstone bed near Rocky Point; <i>B</i> , Ellipsoidal greenstones in section and plan near Rocky Point.	39
VII. <i>A</i> , Irregular-shaped forms of ellipsoidal greenstones in plan, east end of Bligh Island; <i>B</i> , Shale interbedded with ellipsoidal greenstone.	40
VIII. <i>A</i> , Ellipsoidal greenstone succeeded by conglomerates and shales, which are themselves overlain by lava flows; <i>B</i> , Volcanic breccia on north side of Galena Bay near mouth.....	41
IX. <i>A</i> , Tilted and slightly folded slates and graywackes of Orca group, on the southeast side of Bligh Island; <i>B</i> , Coarse massive phase of conglomerate of Orca group near Rocky Point.....	42
X. <i>A</i> , Ellamar mine; <i>B</i> , Ore body of Ellamar mine, exposed in glory hole within cofferdam.....	88
FIGURE 1. Index map showing relation of Ellamar district to Prince William Sound region.....	10
2. Sketch map showing distribution of timber in Ellamar district.	24
3. Generalized columnar section of the rocks of Ellamar district.	27
4. Relations between ellipsoidal greenstone flows and interbedded sediments.....	40
5. Strike of fissures in Ellamar district.....	64
6. Plan of underground workings of Ellamar mine.....	89
7. Plan of underground workings on Keystone claim, Threeman Mining Co., Landlock, Alaska.....	93
8. Sketch plan of main underground workings of Landlock Bay Copper Mining Co.....	97
9. Claim map of property of Galena Bay Mining Co., in Vesuvius Valley.....	99
10. Sketch map showing location of properties of Fidalgo Mining Co., Fidalgo Alaska Copper Co., and Dickey Copper Co. on Port Fidalgo.....	113

PREFACE.

By ALFRED H. BROOKS.

Reconnaissance surveys of Prince William Sound, begun in 1898 and continued from time to time, were completed in 1908. These investigations have indicated the general distribution of the mineral resources and something of the larger geologic features. Meanwhile the advancement of both gold and copper mining made evident the need of more detailed information, and for this reason the survey of the Ellamar district here set forth was made. Studies of the other important mining localities are planned, but to carry out such a plan it is necessary to make detailed topographic base maps. The topographic map of Port Valdez district was completed in 1912 and the geologic survey and study of mineral resources was begun in 1914.

The study of the Prince William Sound region indicates that its geology is so complex that it can be mastered only by a detailed survey. This report is the first result of a series of such surveys planned. The results presented show a decided advance on those of the reconnaissance surveys, but it must be remembered that the survey of one small area, especially in the absence of any paleontologic evidence, may not yield a definite clue to the stratigraphic sequence. The survey of the Ellamar district confirms the previous larger grouping of the formations into the Valdez and Orca groups. As was expected, it also indicates that both these groups may be divided into smaller stratigraphic units. In this report the Orca group has been so subdivided. These formations are not named in this report because they are not yet sufficiently well defined to give assurance that they will have a permanent place in geologic literature.

Mr. Johnson, who is in large measure responsible for the account of the ore deposits in this volume, has arrived at somewhat different conclusions in regard to their origin from those reached by previous investigators. The occurrence of the ores in zones of fracture and shearing along fault planes is established, and Mr. Johnson has proved that the ore bodies, in part at least, are replacements of the crushed rock. Many of the facts presented indicate that the ores are in large part due to such replacement. Evidence is also adduced to show