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CHITINA REGION, ALASKA**

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FRED H. MOFFIT & A. G. MADDERN

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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MINERAL RESOURCES
OF THE
KOTSINA-CHITINA REGION, ALASKA

BY

FRED H. MOFFIT AND A. G. MADDREN



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PREFACE.

By ALFRED H. BROOKS.

Native copper from the district described in this volume is the first mineral reported from Alaska. Steller, the naturalist who accompanied Bering on his voyage of discovery in 1741, noted the use of copper knives among the natives of Kayak Island. This copper undoubtedly came from the Chitina-Kotsina belt. Among the Alaskan natives the use of copper was widespread, for it was the only metal utilized by them, but apparently the century of occupation by the Russians passed without any search on their part for the locality from which the supply was derived. The only attempt made by the Russians to explore the Copper River (Serebranikof, 1847) resulted in the massacre of the whole party by the Indians.

The first successful explorations were made by Allen (1885) and by Schwatka and Hayes (1891), and the first systematic surveys were carried out by Schrader of the United States Geological Survey and his associates in 1900.

It is part of the Survey's plan for the investigation of the mineral resources of Alaska to keep the work abreast of the mining developments in each district so far as the means available will permit. As a great deal of prospecting, which has developed many new facts in regard to the occurrence of ore, has been done in the Chitina Valley since 1900, and as the valley has become a focal point of interest to those who are considering railway construction into the interior, a reexamination of the copper belt seemed to be necessary. A new report was, furthermore, justified by the fact that the edition of Schrader and Spencer's report, published in 1900, is now out of print.

The portion of the present volume which treats of the general geology is to be regarded as a revised edition of that report, which has been of incalculable value as a guide to the prospectors. The geologic map which resulted from Schrader and Spencer's very hasty reconnaissance has stood the test of seven years of active prospecting, and the authors of the present report, Messrs. Moffit and Maddren, after a careful reexamination of this district, have made but few changes.