

Mine
Ajax dist
Quincy

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President Francis A. Thomson

Mr. U. M. Sahinen

Inquiry of Mr. J. H. Jensen, Jackson, Montana

Squaw Mountain is in the northeastern part of the Ajax mining district, about 14 miles west of Jackson. The Ajax mine, about 2½ miles southwest of Squaw Mountain, is the most important in this area. It was in operation prior to 1915. No data on production is available.

The country rocks of the region are metamorphosed sediments of the Belt series of Algonkian age, and consist essentially of hardened slates and quartzites. According to manuscript sheets of the Geologic Map of Western Montana, the Belt rocks are intruded by a large stock of a granitic rock (quartz monzonite) 2 or 3 miles north of Squaw Mountain. The "granite" is exposed over an area of about 10 square miles. In the Ajax mine, about 5 miles south of the granite area, ore deposits occur in strong quartz veins cutting the slates. The ore carries silver-bearing galena (lead sulphide), some gold, and some copper minerals in the quartz gangue. The ores evidently were not of shipping grade as a 10-stamp mill was constructed at the Ajax mine to treat the ore in 1905. Although no rich ore deposits are known, lower grade deposits do exist, and the area, especially between the Ajax mine and the granitic area, should be a favorable place for further prospecting. Although the presence of granite intruding sedimentary rocks is usually considered favorable for ore deposition in the sediments (in Montana), it does not necessarily follow that commercial ore will be found—even though mineralized veins are discovered. Although past production from this particular area is insignificant and, as a result, somewhat discouraging to future exploration, it does not positively condemn the area as a potential metal mining district.