Cu	36.62
Hg	4.94
Zn	4.50
Fe	4.00
Sb	24.42
As	0.35
S	25.04
	99.87

A previous occurrence of mercurian tetrahedrite in British Columbia was described by Warren & Lord (*Econ. Geol.*, **30**, 67, 1935) from the Pretty Girl Claim of North Kootenay Mines Ltd., about 40 miles to the northwest of the Red Rock Group.

Wehrlite. Bi_2Te_3. Jones Creek, New Westminster M. D., B. C. This property variously known as the Laidlaw Group, Sovereign, and Telluride Gold Property, is situated a short distance above the Jones Creek bridge on the main highway about 12 miles west of Hope. Samples submitted from time to time consist of massive gold bearing arsenopyrite in quartz. Small quantities of wehrlite intimately associated with gold are occasionally seen embedded in quartz.

Monty Claim, Douglas Group, Clinton M.D., B. C. This claim is situated near the head of the North Fork of Watson Bar Creek. Highly weathered narrow quartz veins which contain less than two percent of oxidized pyrite show occasional small clean flakes of wehrlite. Crushed material yields numerous fine gold particles. Wehrlite was identified on a neighbouring claim (Ajax) in 1949.

AN OCCURRENCE OF URANINITE IN A BLACK SAND[1]

H. R. Steacy,[2] *Geological Survey of Canada, Ottawa, Canada.*

A sample of radioactive black sand reputedly taken from a placer deposit in British Columbia and submitted to the Geological Survey of Canada has been found to contain small amounts of uraninite. This occurrence is considered noteworthy because it is, so far as the writer has been able to learn, the first unquestionable identification of uraninite as a detrital mineral.

The sample submitted for examination is composed of the following minerals, listed in the order of their apparent abundance: magnetite (about 60 per cent by weight), hematite, garnet, chromite, pyrite, pyroxene, epidote, monazite, scheelite, native platinum, uraninite, cinnabar, and native gold.

[1] Published by permission of the Director-General of Scientific Services, Department of Mines and Technical Surveys, Ottawa.

[2] Technical Officer, Geological Survey of Canada.

The uraninite occurs in blackish grains less than 0.2 millimeter in diameter. Most of the grains are rounded, and have a dull lustre, but a few are euhedral, showing excellent development of the cube and possessing an almost brilliant lustre. Identification was made from single grain *x*-ray diffraction photographs, *x*-ray fluorescence analyses, and qualitative chemical tests.

A further sample of the sand has been requested, from which it is hoped that a sufficient quantity of the mineral can be extracted for quantitative chemical analyses and, possibly, an age determination.

BENJAMINITE

E. W. NUFFIELD, *University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada.*

Benjaminite was originally described by Shannon (*U. S. Nat. Mus.*, Proc., **65,** art. 24, 1925) on specimens from the property of the Aikinite Mining Company near Round Mountain, Nye County, Nevada. The specimens had been collected and offered for study by a Mr. H. G. Clinton of Manhattan, Nevada. It was concluded from the name of the mining company that the material was aikinite and indeed it not only greatly resembled aikinite physically but gave the qualitative tests and polished section reactions for that mineral. However, Mr. Clinton later reported high silver assays from the material and Shannon confirmed the presence of this element by chemical tests. He derived the formula $Pb_2(Ag,Cu)_2Bi_4S_9$ from two partial and two complete chemical analyses and on this basis proposed a new mineral, benjaminite. Shannon reported that the mineral resembled massive tetrahedrite except that it showed a moderately good cleavage in one direction and that it was the only abundant metallic mineral in a quartz matrix. Associated minerals were muscovite, pyrite, molybdenite, chalcopyrite, fluorite and minor covellite and chalcocite.

I was fortunate to obtain the loan of Shannon's type material (U.S.N.M. 95058) from Dr. George Switzer and a Harvard specimen (HMM 85749) from Professor Clifford Frondel. Shannon's material consisted of a number of quartz-rich fragments, some of which had obviously supplied sections for Shannon's metallographic studies. The specimens closely resembled Shannon's description and I assumed that the abundant metallic mineral in the form of veins was the benjaminite. However it gave an *x*-ray powder photograph identical with that of aikinite ($PbCuBiS_3$) from Beresovsk. Subsequent investigation showed that all the material with the moderately good cleavage was aikinite and this constituted almost the whole of each vein. Thus Shannon's first impression was correct. It is likely that the cleavage and the silver