

NOTE ON THE REPORTED DISCOVERY OF GOLD NEAR HOBART.

On my return from Port Cygnet I visited the so-called gold mine on Mount Wellington, and have now the honour to submit the following brief notes thereon :—

The scene of operations is on an extended prospecting area of 25 acres adjoining Regan's estate, the workings being situated close to the Sandy Bay Rivulet, about a mile above the Hobart Waterworks Reservoir. An inclined shaft has been sunk about 90 feet, and from the bottom a drive put in 30 feet to the south. Some years ago a shaft was sunk about 75 feet, and it is said that good assays were obtained for gold, silver, and cobalt, but I could see no sign of any lode or other formation likely to carry valuable minerals. The present shaft was sunk through the old ground for about 35 feet, when it was turned a little to the south to get into the solid country and continued along the dip of the strata. On the footwall side is a bed of black shale, the full thickness of which is not seen, but it is said to be 4 feet thick, and the manager informed me that in putting in some timber in the drives he had come on to limestone underlying the shale. Above this is a somewhat gritty sandstone with occasional patches of quartz conglomerate, the general strike being about N. and S., with a varying but rather flat dip to the east. No fossils were seen here, but a little higher up the creek are the remains of an old limekiln, and the fragments of calcareous mudstone lying about are full of remains of typical *Permo-carboniferous* fossils, amongst which I recognised the following forms :—*Spirifera*, *Strophalosia*, *Terebratula*, *Productus*, *Aviculopecten*, *Fenestella*, &c.

Disseminated through the sandstone are numerous minute garnets, and for a thickness of about two feet there is a good deal of iron pyrites, such as is very frequently met with in the Coal Measures all over the world. A sample of this from the drive was assayed by Mr. Ward, who found it to contain nothing of value, and I cannot see the slightest reason for expecting that any improvement will take place either in driving or sinking. In my opinion it is simply waste of money to continue mining operations here.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

J. HARCOURT SMITH, *B.A.*, *Government Geologist.*

W. H. WALLACE, *Esq.*, *Secretary for
Mines, Hobart.*