

TR2-42-43

# CLAY DEPOSIT OF W. C. LEONARD

## BEACONSFIELD

by **TERENCE D. HUGHES**

A mineral lease 67M/40 was taken up near Beaconsfield in 1940 on a plan and report. This was transferred in 1947 to Mr. Leonard and the corner pegs and boundaries were not accurately shown. Although primarily a lease taken up in the search for gold, Mr. Leonard holds it to obtain clay. As other surveys have been made in the vicinity by the Lands Department, it has become apparent that—

- (i) the Filtration Plant and part of the pipe line of the Beaconsfield water supply are located on this lease.
- (ii) many gravel licences have been granted and sand and gravel carted away from land covered by this lease.
- (iii) sand and gravel have been stacked in heaps, ready for removal in areas on this lease not covered by gravel licence.

On 12th June, I visited this area with Staff Surveyor Miller of the Lands Department in order to determine the boundaries of the clay deposit in relation to lease boundaries.

This clay deposit is situated just west of the Beaconsfield-Holwell road near the Little Wonder Dam, about a mile from Beaconsfield.

It is a Tertiary sedimentary clay of apparently fine quality. It appears to contain little or no silica and although not white naturally, when dried it is a good bright white colour. The deposit is not large and appears to have been laid down in a small lagoon, the northern or outlet limit of which was dammed by an outcrop of hard quartzite. Portion of the clay has since been eroded and it is covered by from one to two feet of soil and gravel, which has rolled down from the hill above.

The expected limits of the clay are shown on the accompanying plan. It is divided into two parts, the northern section where the clay is fairly pure and the southern where it is narrow in width and mixed with sand. However, it is suggested that a lease should be taken up covering both sections. The area of the suggested lease as shown on the plan is about 24 acres.

The majority of the surface of the existing lease is covered by sands and gravels of probable Pleistocene age. These sands and gravels are of varying depths and overlie slates and quartzites of Cambrian age.

It should be noted that some of the clay occurs outside the existing lease but could be covered by the new lease.

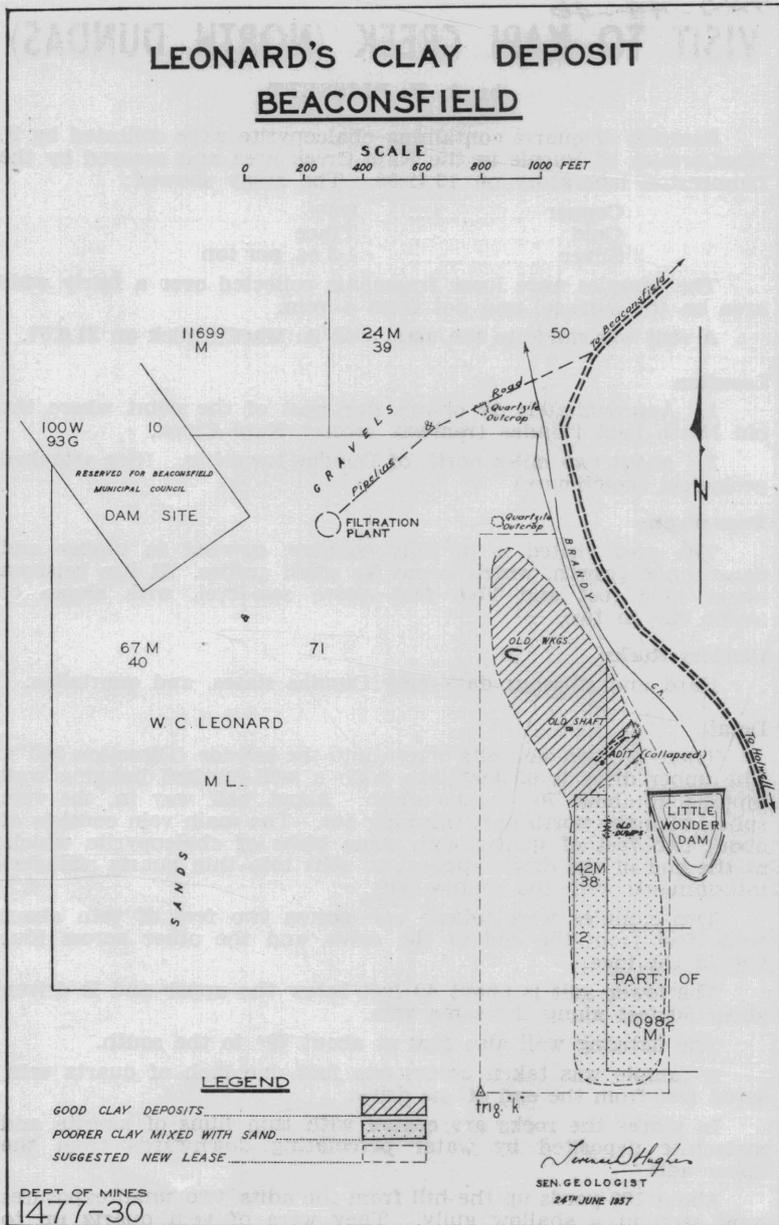


Plate 13