

TR5-62-63

**CLAY NEAR ST. MARYS**

by F. Blake.

Following testing at the Department of Mines Laboratory of a small sample of clay which was forwarded by Mr. A. S. Lohrey, an examination of the deposit was made on 6th July, 1960.

The area concerned is situated in the vicinity of Tasman Highway, one and a half miles north-west of St. Marys and 10 chains before entering St. Marys Pass.

Bedrock in the locality consists of Devonian granite, outcrops of which occur about three chains west of the highway.

Mixed clays and quartz grits, derived by weathering and decomposition of the underlying granite, cover the remaining surface on either side of the road. The clays are brown to red in colour and have little plasticity. In creek cuttings east of the highway these clays and grits extend to more than 10 feet below the surface.

The sample of plastic grey clay originally submitted for testing is reported to have been taken from a post hole on west side of the road formation. The only exposure of similar clay occurs in the bottom of a drain from which surface water passes into a culvert below the highway. This is in part of the road reserve immediately west of the formation. The drain section shows three feet of red clay and grits underlain by six inches of grey plastic clay resting on decomposed granite. From this exposure a sample of approximately 100 lbs. was taken for further laboratory tests.

Since only small quantities of clay with suitable colour and plasticity are indicated, further exploratory work for clays of commercial importance in this locality would not appear to be warranted.