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APPLICATION FOR TWO GRAVEL LEASES NEAR THE JUNCTION OF THE HUON AND PICTON RIVERS

by T. D. Hughes.

Applications have been made by R. Young, 10 acres, and W. H. Evans, 12 acres, for gravel leases situated at the end of the Forestry Road which runs from Geeveston to the Huon River Plain and is known as the Arve Road. The Forestry Department has objected to these applications on the ground that it needs the material for an extension of its own roads.

Forestry roads are to be extended within a ten mile radius in the near future and it is expected that 30 miles of arterial and 30 miles of spur roads will be constructed. The estimated quantity of sand and gravel needed is 200,000 yards.

The material consists of a coarse white sand containing pebbles of various sizes up to several inches in diameter; some are rounded, some sub-angular and they are mainly composed of quartz and quartzite from Precambrian formations. This material occurs in river terraces of limited extent fringing the Huon Plain and extending for 1100 feet south-west and 300 feet north-east of the end of the road. The average width of these terraces is 200 feet. There are two terraces separated by a small flat, 170 feet in width.

Some pits and auger holes have been put down recently, presumably by the applicants; but the actual thickness of the sand is unknown and estimates of tonnages available can only be assessed in assumed depths. Thus if the thickness were 12 feet, the quantity should be about 110,000 yards, so that the amount required by the Forestry Department would necessitate a depth of at least 20 feet.

It is not expected that a greater depth than this could be quarried from this area so that it does not appear that there is sufficient material to recommend the granting of these applications.