

TR5. 73. 75.

DRILLING AT MT. STRONACH— MOLYBDENITE AREA

by T. D. Hughes.

On 7th July, 1958, as the result of local interest in this Prospect, I wrote a short report in which it was suggested that owing to the sporadic occurrence and probable syngenetic occurrence of the molybdenite in undifferentiated granite, a normal sampling campaign would not supply significant information. It was further suggested that a half ton sample of material from the locality showing the richest surface indications be obtained and forwarded to the Department's Launceston Laboratories so that some idea of the overall grade, mining and concentrating costs could be assessed.

This sample was obtained by Mr. B. A. Farquhar of Scottsdale and certain tests undertaken. A report issued by Messrs. Manson and Liddy on the 28th May, 1959, contains details of these tests. The sample assayed 0.39% Molybdenite and was admittedly hand-picked.

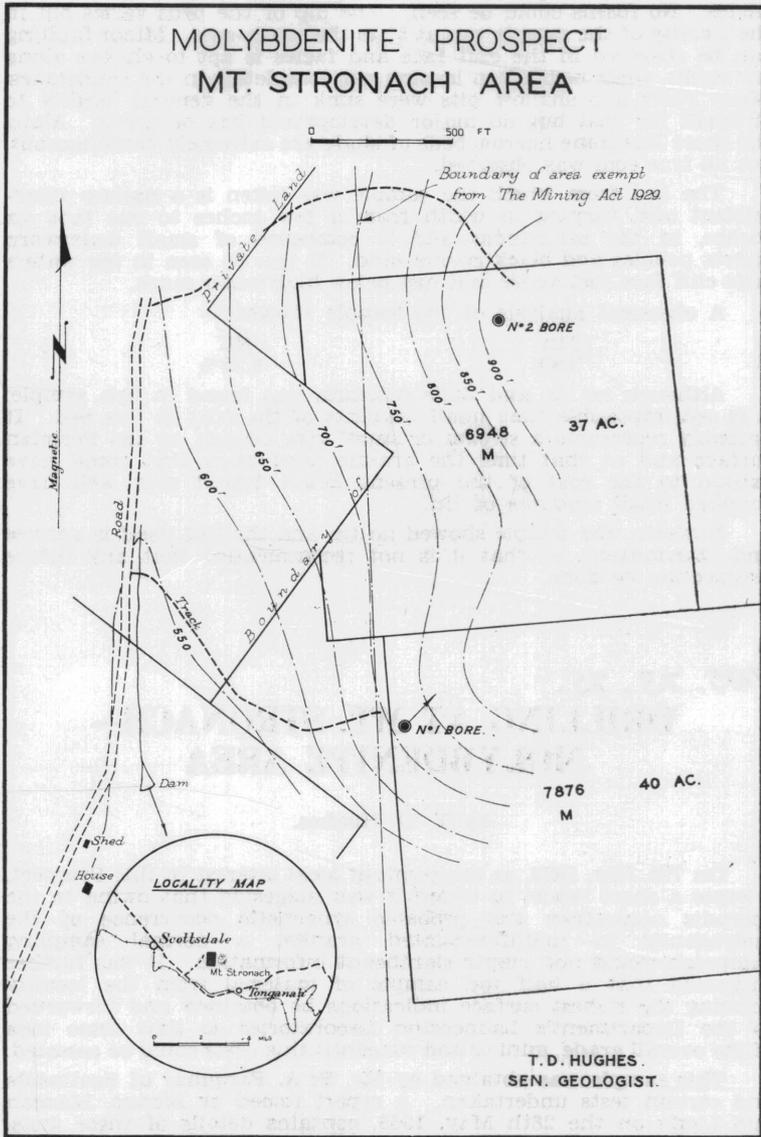
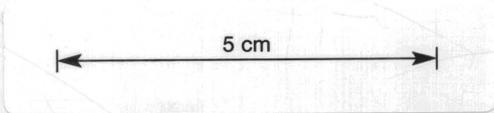


FIGURE 13.



Nevertheless it was decided to put down two bores to at least 100 feet below the surface in the hope that values would improve or at least be maintained. Boring was commenced on 6.4.60.

The difficulty of selecting drill sites in a deposit of this nature, is due to the sporadic distribution and the lack of structural control on the concentration of the molybdenite. However at one site, once called "Harveys Show", a major joint plane in the granite had been trenched and the material on the dump did suggest some concentration. The first hole was therefore sited to intersect this joint at 85 feet below the surface (100 feet bore depth). Certainly at this depth (97 feet to 100 feet) a few specks of molybdenite were visible in the core but so also were they at 42 feet 91 feet 115 to 117 feet and 123 feet. However although the molybdenite was visible the amount was not sufficient to show up in the assay. The core was split and samples taken every 10 feet but all showed a nil assay both for molybdenite and tin. The hole bottomed at 130 feet. The granite in this bore was pink in colour, of medium grain, and contained prominent orthoclase crystals.

Bore No. 2 was sited twenty-two chains to the north of No. 1, again on the western flank of Mt. Stronach. This was the site from which the half ton sample was obtained and in the absence of any structural feature a vertical hole was put down where the molybdenite appeared richest in surface outcrop. Splashes of molybdenite were detached in the core at 11 feet, 13 feet and 40 feet and chalcopyrite at 11 feet, 20 feet, 36 feet and 94 feet. The core was split and 10 foot sections assayed for molybdenite, tin and copper. All were nil returns except:—

Molybdenite:

10 feet to 20 feet	0.02%
20 feet to 30 feet	Trace
30 feet to 40 feet	Trace
40 feet to 50 feet	Trace

Copper:

20 feet to 30 feet	Trace
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The bore bottomed at 101 feet. The results of this drilling are quite discouraging and no local concentration of the molybdenite at depth is apparent. As has been pointed out before, this very showy, platy mineral always appears to the eye in greater concentrations than it actually is. Further prospecting in this area is not recommended.