

Launceston,

JBS/VO'B.

15th March, 1932.

Memorandum for

The Acting Secretary for Mines,
HOBART.

LISLE GOLD FIELD

I have to report that I made an examination of the Lisle Gold Field having proceeded there from Weldborough on the 11th instant returning here yesterday.

The object of my visit to the field was for the purpose of investigating the position with regard to the suggestion of the miners of the district and the Lilydale Municipal Council that the Government should undertake boring work to prove the extent of the gold bearing drifts and at the same time endeavour by boring work to locate the source of the gold shed into the valley.

I made a general inspection of the old deep workings including that at present being worked by Mr. B. Watts on the western side of the valley and came to the conclusion taking all circumstances into consideration that the conditions were not favourable for drilling, particularly with a heavy power drill both with regard to the difficulty of transportation of the plant in rough heavily timbered bush land and the erratic nature of the gold deposits. Where exposed in recent workings the shallow deposits of gold bearing gravels range from a few inches to a foot or more in thickness consisting of large waterworn boulders of sandstone associated with fine gravel and vein quartz rubble. The diameter of the large boulders as a rule represents the thickness of the drift which rest on soft granite bedrock which is overlain with soft granite detritus to a depth of 40 feet or more, increasing with the rising of the high range of hills which surround the valley.

Boring work to test the value of the drift under the conditions in which it occurs would not give satisfactory information respecting its character and value.

In some instances where sluicing has been in progress in a deep face of overburdened irregular occurrences of limited extent of gold bearing gravel have met with in the superficial covering above the general level of drift.

The veins of gold are confined to certain channels which extend in a most irregular manner, consequently there is no guide as to their trend excepting to follow them by actual work.

The above remarks apply to the western side of the valley. The eastern side which in the past yielded the greater quantity of gold recovered presents different features in as much as the deposits there were confined to comparatively shallow surface gravels.

Gold has been found on the hillsides above but there as on the western side, the conditions for testing by drilling methods are most unfavourable.

I was assisted in my investigation by Messrs. Bessell and Faulkner, residents of the district who have an intimate knowledge of the locality and features relative to the occurrence of the gold deposits. They each supplied much valuable information concerning their work of mining for gold extending over a long period of years.

STATE MINING ENGINEER.