

(1) ZEEHAN

(a) Location and Access

Iron deposits occur at Comstock, about five miles west of Zeehan. The Zeehan-Trial Harbour Road passes one mile to the south. Zeehan is connected by rail with the seaport of Strahan (29½ miles).

(b) The Deposits

Numerous small bodies containing magnetite are present, only two of which are of possible commercial importance.

The deposits have been opened by means of 16 adits the greater number of which are collapsed.

Enriched ore occurs at surface and assays of picked samples show up to 70% iron. Immediately below the enriched portion the deposits contain notable amounts of impurities in the form of silica, sulphides etc.

Systematic sampling has not yet been undertaken, but some of the adits are now being reopened for that purpose.

Available quantities of economically recoverable iron ore cannot be quoted at this stage, but are considered to be comparatively small.

(2) RIO TINTO

(a) Location and Access

This area lies midway between Waratah and Corinna. Access is gained by road from the former in a distance of 22 miles and thence by pack track for 6 miles.

(b) Iron Deposits

Several disconnected lenses, consisting dominantly of magnetite, occur en echelon over a distance of 1½ miles.

Relatively pure magnetite with subordinate hematite is exposed at surface in a number of localities. Assays of picked surface samples range from 63.1% to 69.5% metallic iron.

The character of the deposits alters below surface and several adits reveal the presence of large proportions of pyrites and other impurities at shallow depths.

The deposits have not been sampled underground and a considerable amount of development and investigation would be necessary to prove the quantity and quality of iron ore available. The large expense thereby entailed is not considered to be warranted at present. The nature of the ore and its probable quantity and quality render it unattractive for blast furnace smelting on a large scale according to existing world practice.

(3) NATONE

(a) Location and Access

Rutherford's iron deposits are situated at Natone, 6 miles south of the port of Burnie. They are accessible from the latter by road.

These consist of several short and narrow lenses of hematite, some of which are apparently of high grade, but much of it highly siliceous.

The dimensions of the lenses cannot be accurately determined at surface and no underground openings exist. Only small quantities of commercial iron ore are indicated.

(4) HAMPSHIRE HILLS

(a) Location and Access

These deposits are 4½ miles south-east of Hampshire Siding, the latter being nearly 20 miles south of Burnie on Emu Bay railway line. A road from the siding terminates at 1½ miles north-west of the deposits.

(b) The Deposits

Nine small lenses are present consisting, to a large extent, of magnetite, with lesser amounts of hematite and limonite.

Since no exploratory work has been undertaken, the thickness and extent of the lenses and the quality of the ore below surface have not been determined. Estimates of the quantity of iron ore cannot, therefore, be given.

Systematic sampling has not been carried out, but assays of picked magnetite from surface indicate an iron content of 67% for the best ore. In order to arrive at an estimate of the prospective value of these deposits, it would first be requisite to explore them by means of adits.

(5) There are numerous other small iron deposits in the state which are inconsiderable from an economic view point.

Mines Department,
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