

DEPARTMENT OF MINES, TASMANIA, LAUNCESTON, 22nd April, 1941

MEMORANDUM:

LOWE'S PROSPECT AT MATHINNA

In compliance with your request of the 4th instant I wrote to Mr. Elliott A. Lowe in connection with the above and he advised that the 29th March would be a convenient date.

I arrived at Mathinna on the evening of the 28th and contacted with Mr. Lowe and was surprised to learn that it was not a new discovery but was in connection with the City of Melbourne Mine.

I visited the mine on the 29th ultimo with Lowe Bros.

The City of Melbourne Mine is about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Mathinna and was operated by a mining company about 40 years ago and was equipped with winding machinery and crushing battery.

The reef trends East and West in sandstone country.

The principal work appears to have been carried out from a 12 x 4 underlay shaft which dips to the South at an angle of about 40° . The total depth of the underlay shaft was not obtained, but is in good condition to a depth of 57 ft. At this depth a drive West is open for a length of 51 ft., where it intersects a small shaft sunk from the surface. The reef may extend further West but if so the workings have collapsed and are not open for inspection.

A drive for a length of 50 ft. East is open for inspection. At 50 ft. the reef is broken and there does not appear to have been any effort to locate an extension, but the lode was followed down on a fault, but for what distance has not been ascertained. The reef for a length of 100 ft. is very regular but small, being from 6 to 8 inches in width. The reef appears to have been stoped below the 57 ft. level and in the West end about 10 or 12 ft. above the level. The amount of stone above the level is very small and to sample would necessitate considerable work to ensure safety in carrying out the operations.

At a distance of 132 ft. South-East of the underlay shaft a main shaft 10 ft. by 4 ft. has been sunk, but the depth of the shaft is not ascertainable. Lowe Bros. are of the opinion that it is about 100 ft. and from the appearance of the surface dump it would appear that this is a reasonable estimate. It is stated that the shaft makes very little water and that it could be removed in about one week by windlass and buckets.

Mr. Lowe desires to unwater this shaft to test the reef where out in a crosscut. He states that the last stone raised from the shaft was left in the hopper and was treated by him and was worth 4 ozs. per ton. A sample taken at the side of the underlay shaft at 57 ft.

gave a return of 3 dwt. 22 grs. of gold per ton over a width of 6 inches.

There appears to be no data available in regard to the operations of this company and the only justification for the expenditure of unwatering the shaft is the hearsay evidence of Lowe Bros.

I regret that I cannot make a recommendation to expend money on the prospects showing in the old workings. The reef to the 57 ft. level is very small and very low in value.

The statement that a company with a crushing plant and equipment ceased operations with stone valued at 4 ozs. per ton must be viewed with suspicion.

A/CHIEF INSPECTOR OF MINES.

The Director of Mines,
H O B A R T.