

11th November, 1969.

The Director of Mines,
HOBART.

Visit to H. Moses: Blue Tier

Object and situation

In response to a request by Mr. H. Moses in his letter of 12th October, 1969 I visited Blue Tier on the 27-29th October to aid him in assessing the tin potential and the possibility of developing two small areas. Both localities are adjacent to Seven Mile Creek; the first some $\frac{1}{2}$ mile SW of H. Moses present camp on Moon Creek and the second a further $\frac{1}{2}$ mile upstream to the SW, only some $\frac{1}{2}$ mile downstream to the N from his camp and work-site of two or three years ago.

Both sites are free of heavy bush but in other respects are typical of those worked by H. Moses over the last few years, in that they depend upon the same meagre water supply; carry patches of large granite boulders and tree-trunks; may pose problems of tailings disposal, and have been partly worked over by operators in the distant past. H. Moses enthusiasm for these areas was based on hearsay information, intuition and optimism.

First site

The first site can be reached directly by track north from Poimena and was considered as a short-term; small area; rich deposit, with an acceptable water supply for summer work. Virgin ground was reputed to underlie a veneer of tailings from sluiced workings, and slimes from the Southern Cross battery, preserved in the floor of an old dam identified as lease 2527/W on the Weldborough 2 chart. Two or three feet of ground overlying hard granite bedrock beneath some 4 feet of tailings, exposed sporadically over 40 yards in the banks of the present stream, make this credible and samples from the lower part of the unworked ground give values of about 5 lb. per cu. yd. However, ten prospect holes were sunk through the tailings 5 each side of the creek, some to a depth of six or seven feet. Two finished in heavy workings, four were abandoned at depth in tailings below the water-table, and four finished on hard bedrock directly overlain by tailings. No worthwhile tin values were demonstrated. Apparently in the past narrow banks of rich material were left to confine the stream while paddocks were worked out systematically on each side.

Second site

The second site identified as leases 2515/W and

21W/41 on chart Weldborough 2 covers a much larger area of low undulating terrain along the east of Seven Mile Creek which here runs on the eastern margin of an extensive swamp. The dam wall at the downstream end was a massive earth-filled structure some 20' tall with a protective facing of concrete and rock and retaining wall of tree trunks. The dam wall has been breached and patches of low ground in the dam floor have been worked out. At the time of the visit the creek was reduced to a trickle and although replenished since by heavy rain, may dry up in mid-summer.

Apart from desultory sampling near the creek three lines of prospect holes approximately NE-SW with holes 100 feet apart were tested with samples collected over the full depth, which varied between 8 inches and 2 feet. Nine holes were sunk to bedrock in the SE line, six in the centre (150 feet to the NW), and six in the third line (100 feet to the NW again), along the line of a shallow gully. The average value for the first line was estimated at 16oz. per cu. yd., the centre line at less than 10oz. per cu. yd., and the third at less than 8oz. per cu. yd. Bulk samples from each line have been sent to the Launceston Laboratory for tin assay.

These results were disappointing particularly as the better values are confined to the less accessible ground, distant from intended damsites. However, further prospecting in the south of the area, perhaps lines of prospect holes parallel, 50 feet N and S of the southern line completed, might confirm an extensive area of shallow ground of reasonable values, almost devoid of logs and boulders, and of sufficient slope to work by gravity during the winter months, and within range of a dam-site further upstream than the preconceived site.

Access

The roads of Blue Tier are deteriorating rapidly, including those reputedly maintained by the Forestry Department. Much of the road surface between Lottah and Poimena is now loose and crumbling away. Tracks from Poimena to Moon Creek and Seven Mile Creek are unsurfaced, potholed, with collapsed culverts and are hazardous to saloon cars. Access to H. Moses second site will require the construction of some $\frac{1}{4}$ mile of track through open country and on easy gradient, but large boulders and tree trunks must be removed and a small swamp traversed.

H. Moses' ancient bulldozer requires immediate attention in the form of new pins and bushes for one track at estimated cost of \$150. It must be considered a liability until this is done.

(D.J. Jennings)
GEOLOGIST