

REPORT

on

UNDERGROUND WATER SUPPLY - KINGSTON

The circumstances which gave rise to this inspection were the shortage of water supply for the Township of Kingston, and the belief held by certain residents that underground water existed to the eastwards of the Slaughter Yard.

An examination of the vicinity showed that for an area of approximately four square miles between the Slaughter Yards and Brown's River there occurs a bed of sandstone overlying mudstones. The dip of the sandstone is towards the south-west. Water undoubtedly occurs above Lady Davis' house at Brown's River.

This water is due to the percolation of the rainfall and would amount to 20 per cent of the total annual rainfall. The actual volume of water entering this sandstone will depend on the area of the outcrop of the sandstone which has not got an impermeable layer above it. Owing to the existence of a hard pan beneath the sandstone in part of the area it is impossible to calculate that area. A further difficulty in estimating the amount of water available in the sandstone is the fact that there appears to be no barrier to the south west which would hold the water back for natural storage. This would decrease the amount of water which would be available in a bore as such a bore would only tap the natural flow of the water south-westwards without having any storage reserve to call upon. It is therefore impossible to calculate the approximate amount of water available in the sandstone bed in this vicinity.

The matter is of such importance to Kingston, however, that I am of the opinion that it would be advisable to put down a test bore in the locality and by a temporary pumping plant determine the rate of flow of the water. This would cost in the vicinity of £50. The expenditure, even if the test did not show sufficient for a full supply of water for Kingston, would not be a total waste of the money as the bore would undoubtedly give a certain supply of water, and it may be possible to arrange before the bore is put down that the value of this water may be realised on.

(Sgd.) Loftus Hills
DIRECTOR, GEOLOGICAL SURVEY.

Launceston.

20th May, 1922