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on the
SUPPOSED INDICATIONS OF OIL SHALE AT ROSEVALE

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OBJECT OF THE INSPECTION

The object of this present visit to Rosevale was to determine whether there was any justification for the statements that have been repeatedly made that indications of both oil and oil shale occur at Rosevale.

THE NATURE OF THE ROCK SERIES AT ROSEVALE

The rocks in the Rosevale district are part of the lacustrine sedimentary accumulations characteristic of the Launceston Tertiary basin. They consist of clays, clay stones, sands and lignite. They are approximately horizontal but have a slight dip to the north-west. Absolutely no signs of crushing or compression occur in this series. There is no material occurring here which could justifiably be termed oil shale. The shaly material present is either carbonaceous shale or lignite. The products on the distillation of this lignite are those which are characteristic of brown coal in general, and not those which characterise oil shales. They belong to the coal tar series and not to the kerosene series. The only oil shale we know in Tasmania is of Permo-Carboniferous age and these rocks are Tertiary.

As regards any indication of liquid oil no such evidence has up to the present in this rock series been observed by or demonstrated to the Geological Survey.

The deposits at Rosevale may be regarded as sources of fire clay and lignite, but not as sources of oil or oil shale.

L. Hills
GOVERNMENT GEOLOGIST.

LAUNCESTON.

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