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15th November, 1923.

Dear Sir,

On the 31st ultimo I left Launceston for Mathinna, and on the 1st and 2nd instant examined the gold-bearing quartz reef near Mt. Nicholas Range recently discovered by Mr. H.E. Brock of Launceston.

The workings are situate 12 chains north of the eastern boundary of A. Barnes' property, about three miles west of the northern end of Mount Nicholas. The country is flat with a very gentle slope southward, and the surface is occupied by the clay decomposition product of the bedrock and by quartz detritus. Two shafts and a number of trenches expose the reef 100 feet in length and 30 feet in depth. The reef maintains an average width of 8 inches and is gold-bearing from the outcrop to the depth explored. A number of dolly tests were made of the stone obtained from the bottom of the eastern shaft which yielded gold in the 10 to 60 dwts. per ton. Coarse gold is clearly perceptible in the quartz containing pyrite and arsenopyrite and fine grains are usually found in the white, opaque, non-mineralised variety. The lode courses N. 68° E. and dips south-westerly at an angle of 60°. In a south-flowing creek 5 chains from the workings a body of white clayey sandstone is exposed on the line of the northern extension. This occurrence is now being investigated. Mr. Brock has, by means of many cross trenches, exposed other reefs, most of which, however, are either barren or very poor. The country rock consists of yellowish-grey clay, slate, and tuff which weathers brick-red and is similar to that containing the gold reefs at Mathinna.

The discovery is of considerable importance, as proving the extension of the Mathinna field to Mount Nicholas, and the encouraging prospects may lead to important developments.

Yours faithfully,

A.M. Reid
GOVERNMENT GEOLOGIST.

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Secretary for Mines,
HOBART.