

REPORT ON BRICK-MAKING MATERIALS AT KNOCKLOFTY

The proposal to establish brick-works on Knocklofty involves the utilisation of certain shales and mudstones which occur in the Trias-Jura system between massive beds of Sandstone. The question therefore arises as to the quantity of such material available and its suitability for brick-making.

The locality of the projected operations is on the eastern slopes of Knocklofty immediately behind Landsdowne Crescent. The property to be operated on extends for a length of 15 chains along the slope and about 10 chains up it. In the lowest portion of this area sandstones occur. Immediately above these sandstones there outcrops a series of shales and mudstones varying in colour from grey to purple, the former predominating. These continue up the slope for a total vertical height of about 50 feet towards the top of the hill. They also occur over the whole length of the property to be acquired.

The dark chocolate bed consists of a rich or "fat" claystone which will serve as a very suitable addition to the "Leaner" somewhat silicious shales. These beds are in fact a continuation of the same beds utilised by Messrs. Crisp & Gunn in their brick works further to the northwards. The admixture of these two classes of clays will serve as a very suitable material for brick-making for building purposes. It is unlikely that these clays carry any deleterious percentage of lime which is undesirable in clay for brickmaking, but this point will be finally determined by the analysis of samples which have been submitted to the Government Chemist and Assayer.

In regard to quantity I have calculated that on the basis of an output of 120,000 bricks a week there is enough material present, from immediately above the sandstones back to a workingface of 30 feet high, and over a length of 10 chains to maintain such an output for 15 years. This will not by any means exhaust the supply as a face up to 50 feet high can be worked by cutting deeper into the hill.

A very favourable feature is the fact that there is no overburden to remove and all the material in the open-cut mentioned above will be available for brick-making as the sandstones which overlies the shales elsewhere do not occur on this particular property. It is certainly safe to calculate on a 20 year supply.

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HOBART - 12th October, 1923.