

I beg to report having visited the Iron Cliffs Mine, Dial Range, in company with Mr. L. J. Smith of Ulverstone on the 26th and 27th ultimo.

The occurrence has some unusual features, which require special comment. It is a large deposit of hematite (oxide of iron) extending over a mile in length and from 50 to 150 feet in width. The ore-body is of the replacement fissure type, and in reality is made up of three fissures and the intervening rock which is more or less completely replaced. The associated rocks belong to the porphyroid series, both igneous and sedimentary. It was originally supposed that the iron oxide was an oxidation product of a sulphide lode, but such is not the case. The ore is primary, and, consequently, there is no likelihood of any important deposits of metals other than iron being found in association with it. The high proportion of silica renders it almost valueless as an ore of iron for the production of steel.

Associated nearby are narrow veins of sphalerite and galena in igneous porphyroid. This occurrence suggested the possibility of the oxide of iron having been derived from sulphidic minerals.

From the foregoing it will be seen that the ore-body is of no economic importance.

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