

REPORT ON PORTION OF THE OLD BOYS MINE, MATHINNA

The present workings are situated on the northern part of the old Black Boy lease which was later included in the Old Boys Mine. The land is now held under lease by Mr. H.E. Brock as 1596-G, 10 acres an adjoining lease - 1580-G, 40 acres - to the north being held by Mr. C.A. Brock. These leases are situated half a mile west of the township of Mathinna.

The workings have been carried out on the northern extension of the Eastern Leg of the Black Boys reef. This eastern leg has been traced northwards from its junction with the Western Leg by means of numerous prospecting trenches and shallow shafts as far as the present workings. It has a strike of 25° with a very high dip to the east. The reef continues as a wide formation almost as far north as the present workings, but close to the latter it loses its prominence.

A shaft was sunk on the reef, the smooth footwall being followed in its numerous small rolls and changes of dip. A small shoot of stone was found pitching to the north, but this appears to have been entirely removed. At a depth of 70 feet a drive was put in to the south along the reef. The footwall was not so well defined as usual and only small amounts of quartz were present. Almost midway along the drive, a vein of quartz up to six inches in width made on the eastern side of the drive. It contained a fair amount of galena and other sulphides and portions of it assayed several ounces of gold. This vein was followed down in a winze for fifteen feet and short drives were put in to the north and south, and a short crosscut to the west. The vein became broken in the bottom and disappeared, narrow veins with an east and west strike taking its place.

A few feet past the winze, a bulge of quartz occurs to the west due probably to the intersection of a north-south wall on the south side.

Further to the south the drive passes below a small, but rich shoot of quartz exposed in an east-west vein on the surface, to the west of the Eastern Leg. This shoot does not extend to the 70-foot level.

On the west side of the drive near the face an irregular formation of white quartz veins in slate strikes to the south-west. The same formation was intersected in a cross-cut to the west from the end of the drive. On the south side of the crosscut, the formation becomes more definite and assumes a southerly strike. No gold has been obtained from this formation of white quartz veins in slates.

In the face of the drive, a two-inch quartz vein occurs and represents the southerly continuation of the Eastern Leg.

A cross-cut to the east from the end of the drive connects with another shaft sunk from the surface to the east of the outcrop of the Eastern Leg. Midway between the drive and the shaft, the crosscut exposed a vertical wall with an inch of pug on it and narrow quartz veins to the north and south. The wall has a north and south strike and would intersect the Eastern Leg in the vicinity of the bulge of quartz referred to above. This wall has been driven on to the south, and small veins of quartz make off it to the south-west. The end of the drive was mullocked up and could not be examined.

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The shaft was sunk on narrow but rich gold-bearing veins of quartz. Several were exposed in the shaft near the 70-foot level, and were followed down by the shaft for a further 10 feet or more. The veins are somewhat erratic in strike and continuation but persist to the bottom of the shaft. They have been driven on to the north and a winze sunk on them to below water level to which depth they persisted and were reported to be of a promising nature. The veins were also driven on to the south east at the 80-foot level but the drive is now mullocked up. These veins are reported to be fairly rich, but the narrowness detracts from their value. It was proposed to drive on them from the shaft in order to test them to ascertain if they became of payable width.

On the surface to the north of the shaft on the Eastern Leg, numerous deep trenches and other prospecting works have exposed veins and formations from some of which good gold-bearing quartz has been obtained in small amounts. One of these near the shaft is a north-south formation which must junction with the Eastern Leg in the vicinity of the shaft. A similar one further north also yielded quantities of gold bearing quartz.

Recently the shaft on the Eastern Leg was sunk to a depth of 100 feet. A narrow vein of gold-bearing quartz was exposed between the 70-foot level and the bottom. The quartz was reported to pitch to the north and a drive is being driven to the north to intersect any continuation of the shoot. In this drive the footwall maintains its fairly uniform nature.

Although the above workings have exposed gold-bearing quartz of good value at several places, the veins have always been narrow and of no great lateral or vertical extent. These shoots seem to be restricted mainly to north and south formations near their intersections with the Eastern Leg. Beyond this one, no other conclusions could be deduced as to the possible location of makes and shoots of ore. Although a large amount of prospecting and development work might possibly reveal the existence of larger bodies of quartz, there are no reasons on which this could be supported, and such a programme of work is not recommended. This statement applies, of course, only to the country in the vicinity of the workings, and not to the surrounding country which was not examined.

P.B. Nye.
Government Geologist.

Mines Department,
Hobart.
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