

1. RED OXIDES OF IRON

Deposits of red oxides of iron or red ochre occur at several localities in Tasmania, and information in connection with each of these is given below:-

Mowbray

This deposit occurs about $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles north of Launceston and is fully described in Geological Survey Mineral Resources No. 5. The Serpentine Paint Company drew a large proportion of their supplies from this deposit.

Abbotsham

At Abbotsham, several miles to the south of Ulverstone red oxide occurs. It is stated to be of good quality and considerable quantities of the material have been forwarded to the Serpentine Paint Company, Launceston, who have used it in the manufacturing of their products. This deposit has been worked by Mr. A. Pearson, Abbotsham, and enquiries as to the delivery of the material should be directed to that address.

Beaconsfield

The Serpentine Paint Company holds a 20 acre mineral lease in the Andersons Creek district to the west of Beaconsfield on which occurs a deposit of oxides of iron which has been largely used by this Company in the manufacture of paint. A full description of this and adjacent deposits is given in Geological Survey Mineral Resources No. 6 (p. 32-35).

Queenstown

A reward claim was granted for ochre a short distance to the south of Queenstown. The material is a brownish red colour and appears to be a heavily stained product rather than a pure oxide of iron. Further investigation of the material would be necessary to determine its suitability for paint. This section (4981/M) is not leased at present.

West end of Mt. Cameron Range

Oxides of iron of various shades occur on and near the Reward Claim 8467/M for iron held by A.E.W. Gresson. The quantities as so far exposed are small.

2. YELLOW OCHRE

No important deposits of this are known, but small quantities occur with the red oxides, notably at Mowbray and Beaconsfield (see above reports).

3. BARITE

Barite has been found at a number of localities in Tasmania and the majority of these have been commercially exploited for short periods.

(a) Jukes-Darwin District

This deposit is situated on the Inter-Colonial Spur between Mounts Jukes and Darwin. It consists of a vertical lode varying in width from 1 to 8 feet and

averaging $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet over a length of 26 chains. Picked samples assay up to 97% Ba SO₄ and bulk samples average 80% to 86%. Fuller information is given in Geological Survey Bulletin No. 16. (pp. 73-121-123)

This deposit was last worked by the Electrolytic Zinc Co. but the lease (7913) is not held at present.

(b) Queenstown

An 80 acre section was granted as a reward claim for barite at a distance of $1\frac{1}{4}$ miles NW of Queenstown. It was worked by the Colonial Barium Company and later the Tasmanian Barium Company during the years 1916 to 1920, the total production being 908 tons which realized £2673. The lode is stated to be 5 to 6 feet wide. The section was last held as 4016/M, but is now vacant.

Other sections were held by the Queenstown Barium Company to the north of the above. It is stated that they were situated on a different lode which was up to 2 feet wide. During 1919 and 1920 175 tons of ore were produced and realized £525.

Alma

Alma is situated 7 miles to the south of Leith on the North Coast. Describing the Alma mine in 1909 Mr. Twelvetrees (Geological Survey Bulletin No. 5) states "A good deal of barite exists on the property. About 100 yards up the creek from the Devonport tunnel a broad belt of slate is exposed in the bed of the stream carrying bunches and veins of barite for an aggregate width of over half a chain. Much of this appears to be crystalline and pure. In other parts it is stained superficially by iron bearing solutions percolating from the creek banks. About 100 feet of the hill to the east a cut for 10 feet has been put across a rather solid outcrop of barytes, a little discoloured by iron oxides, but not sufficient to spoil it for exploitation. A sample assayed in the Government Laboratory showed the iron contents to be only 0.9 per cent". Further information is contained in above Bulletin.

Mt. Roland

This deposit is situated close to the Sheffield-Paradise road in the northern foothills of Mt. Roland. The barite is almost pure white in colour, though in parts there is a slight brownish discolouration. Tests made show that it contains very little impurities. The ore occurs in bands up to 1 foot thick in a lode formation 5 to 6 feet wide. Further information is given in Geological Survey Bulletin 29.

Minnow

Barite occurs 1 mile east of Minnow township. The lode was 7 to 16 inches wide at the surface and is stated to be $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet at its widest portion. The ore is dense crystalline barite with a small amount of sulphides, the pure barite assaying 97% BaSO₄. Some mining work was performed over 15 years ago and 50 tons sent away. Further information is given in Geological Survey Bulletin No. 11 and Secretary for Mines report for 1919.

Harford

Barite has also been found at this locality, but as far as known, the quantity is exceedingly small.

Mt. Block

Extensive deposits of barite are reported at this locality. No development work has been performed and no information as to quality is available. These deposits are situated 6 miles south east of Guildford station.

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