

COPY

Messrs. L. Burkard & Co. Ltd.,
 Kembla Building,
 Margaret Street,
 Sydney. N.S.W.

Mines & Explosives Dept.
 Upper Burnie, Tas.
 December 18, 1926.

Dear Sirs,

If you read the attached letter you will understand the following -

1. When managing the Melbourne Copper-Nickel Mine at the Five Mile, the ore was mined and put into ore bags, on Government Railway trucks, Griffith-Nickel Railway line, ready for transport for 38/6 per ton, that being the total cost allowing for all expenses.

If the mine was equipped again under decent management, it should be mined etc., allowing for increasing cost of materials and wages, for about £2.10.0. per ton.

2. If the information supplied to me by the manager of the British Cuni Mine was correct, it should be possible to do so.
3. At the Melbourne Cuni Mine it was estimated by Mr. C.B. Ward, the General Manager of the Broken Hill Pty. Ltd., Block 10 Coy. and myself that there was approximately 1500 tons still in the mine to be worked out to the 120 feet level in the body of ore previously developed. This ore had been driven on for a distance of 41 feet along the floor of the level when the mine shut down owing to the war.

I might say that our Syndicate was formed to mine a block of ore that had been proved by the diamond drill, I had stated I would return shareholders £300 per share on the 32 shares within twelve months of starting to erect plant. They had received this by the eleventh month and had asked me if there was any prospect of finding any further bodies of ore. To do this we had just put in a larger pump when we had to stop operations. The plant has since been dismantled.

If the same plant or something equivalent was on the mine, there should be no difficulty in obtaining at least one hundred tons per week until the known ore was depleted. The future would depend on how the ore developed under the 120 feet level and on finding other bodies of ore on the line of lode. As to the possibilities at the British Cuni Mine, it would be advisable to get this data from Mr. T.H. Vincent, the previous manager, who I believe is in Hobart.

4. Personally I like the line of country which I believe can be reasonably expected to extend for some two miles in length in which copper-nickel ore can be expected to live. If a good system of prospecting were instituted, followed up by diamond drilling to test at depth, I believe some good ore bodies would be developed along its length. I consider the prospects well worthy of further development if a suitable market is available for the ore.

There was a good deal of difference as to the best method of handling the ore for safe transport. We sent 3080 tons away and never had any bother whatever. The ore was brought to the surface and dumped into a long shed and if not wet, water was thrown on it. In a few days time the sulphur was seen arising; in about four weeks

time it could be broken and bagged. It was then taken to another shed alongside the railway line and was stacked there for a week. Some of it warmed up a little during the first few days, just enough to feel it warm through the bags, and then became quite cool.

The manager of the next mine was advised to do as above, but he bagged the first lot he sent away "green" and it cost many pounds for re-bagging en route. He then went in for heap roasting and a lot of the ore was turned into sulphates and some into matte, and on the whole in my opinion, was a big failure and there was absolutely no need for it.

Yours faithfully,

H. A. Vaudeau
INSPECTOR OF MINES