

REPORT ON M. WALLACE'S PROSPECT, ALBERTON

This prospect is situated on the western bank of the Dorset R. at the southern end of the Alberton goldfield. The ground enclosing it is held under gold lease 80P/G, of 18 acres in the names of M. Wallace and R. Wardlaw.

The country is occupied by the slates and sandstones of the Cambro-Ordovician period common to all the gold fields of north-eastern Tasmania. These strata have a general strike of 340° , but at one place in the adit the strike is 325° , the change being related to the presence of an east-west wall, possibly representing a fault plane.

The present workings consist of an adit and numerous surface trenches. The adit has been driven to cut the continuation, if such exists, of a reef known as the South Star. The trenches have been excavated chiefly upon a number of irregular veins of quartz to the east of the lode.

The South Star lode was discovered about 1897 on the western bank of one of the headwater streams of the Dorset R. The only work which appears to have been performed on it about that time is a narrow open cut along its course. The reef and cut have a bearing of 310° and the reef dips to the west. The strike and dip of the enclosing strata are the same as that of the reef. The reef has a well defined footwall, but the hanging wall is not quite so defined. In the face of the cut the reef ranges in width from 12 to 13 inches. A representative sample taken across the face gave the following assay results:

Gold.....Trace
Silver.....Trace

The adit was started from a point to the north-north-east of the narrow cut and driven at a bearing of 245° to cut the reef at an estimated distance of 80 to 90 feet. It had not quite reached the required distance at the time of the writer's visit, but it was reported later that a five-foot formation had been cut. Judging by the surface prospecting it does not appear certain that the reef maintains its definite nature to the north-west. Trenches above the face of the adit did not reveal any defined reef. Another excavation to the north-west along the line of the reef exposed quartz but not sufficiently to determine its occurrence. A sample from here gave the following assay results:

Gold.....Nil
Silver.....Trace

It may be that the trenches are not quite on the line of reef in which case the overburden of soil would prevent its course being visible. There is however the doubt as expressed above that the reef does not extend to the north-west.

It is by no means sure that the reef will be cut therefore in the adit owing to its non-extension.

The other workings have been carried out on an irregular series of small veins of quartz between the narrow cut on the South Star lode and the entrance to the adit. These veins are all narrow and are limited in length. It is stated that some of the quartz gave good assay results. The whole series do not indicate a defined formation of any kind as far as the present exposures show, and in spite of their gold content, they are of little or no importance.

In the adit several narrow veins of quartz and soft formations containing slates, quartzites and quartz were intersected. The quartz is generally mineralised, arsenopyrite being easily detected. A small amount of white carbonate, probably ankerite, accompanies the quartz. Some of these may represent continuations of some of the veins on the surface. None of these appear sufficiently defined or to contain sufficient quartz to justify any large amount of work being carried out on them. One of these formations about 20 feet from the mouth of the adit was driven on to the north-west and south-east for short distances but showed no improvement. The formation had a good hanging wall dipping south-west and contained quartz veins mineralised with arsenopyrite.

At the time of the writer's visit the most desirable work appeared to be the driving of the adit to intersect the continuation if any, of the South Star lode. If this has been accomplished and only poor results obtained, it is doubtful if further work is justified.

Hobart.
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GOVERNMENT GEOLOGIST

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