

SECOND REPORT OF THE  
MINING INDUSTRY OF TASMANIA.

The previous report dealt particularly with the methods of assisting the mining industry in the discovery of hitherto unknown deposits. The question of assisting the industry in the phase referred to as the initiation of exploitation of known deposits was only briefly referred to in that report. A report (a copy of which is attached) on this phase was prepared in 1923 and the substance of that report holds good at the present time. The deposits particularly referred to were those of iron, the Read-Rosebery zinc-lead sulphides, oil shale, coal, and building stones. Another type of deposit which can be included with the above is that of limestone, enormous quantities of which occur in various localities in Tasmania. Such localities include Palcoona, Railton, Chudleigh, Flowery Gully, Ida Bay, and numerous other places, in south western Tasmania which have at present no means of transportation. This limestone is generally of very high quality and is suitable for the manufacture of cement, for use as a flux, for burning for lime and for carbide manufacture. The deposits at Ida Bay are used for carbide manufacture at Electrona and also by the Electrolytic Zinc Company in connection with hydro-metallurgy of zinc at Risdon. One cement plant has been erected at Railton will be using the limestone of that locality. Companies are also in the process of formation which it is proposed to use the limestone at Melrose and at Flowery Gully for cement manufacture.

It must be pointed out that once any deposits such as the above has been found their exploitation and consequently the expansion of the mining industry becomes partly, if not wholly a matter for private people, syndicates and companies etc. The matter thus largely passes out of the hands of the State, but there are several ways in which assistance might be given. Some of the requirements of the company about to start an industry in connection with one of our known mineral deposits are:-

- (1) Machinery
- (2) Power
- (3) Water Supply
- (4) Transportation Facilities

The ways in which assistance may be given are:-

- (1) Machinery - Loans might be made at low interest out of moneys provided for migration under any necessary conditions such as purchase of machinery in Britain etc.
- (2) Power - This of course could be supplied by the Hydro-Electric Department under agreement as has already been done in some cases.
- (3) Water Supply - If water supplies are not available they might be provided by the State in much the same manner as that referred to in the previous report.
- (4) Transportation Facilities - The provision of roads, railways, bridges, improvements of harbours etc. are possible ways in which the commencement of an industry might be assisted by the State.

There is the question as to whether such loans or moneys spent on the works referred to, come within the scope of any migration agreement. It is certain however, that if any assistance was required, and was given it would greatly affect the commencement of a new mine or industry. These necessarily entail the employment of men and women and tend to increase the population of the State. Such industries are thus a vital factor in the development of the State and as such, are worthy of all the assistance that can be given them, whether they are under any migration agreements or otherwise.

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12th February, 1926.