

It is agreed that immediate financial relief on a very large scale to Tasmania from these measures is not very likely. The most favourable field for trying them out is in the neighbourhood of the West Coast silver-lead deposits and copper deposits. Discoveries there, will probably have to be regarded as ore reserves for the Companies now operating. Even if other companies were induced to commence their exploitation there, preliminary organisation and flotation, working out of metallurgical processes, and the establishing of metallurgical works would be a matter involving some years of work. Thus geophysical prospecting may be regarded as of great importance to these companies from the point of view of increasing their ore reserves and consequently their lives but likely to be of little immediate direct benefit to Tasmania as a whole. On this basis, it is submitted that the Mt. Lyell and Electrolytic Zinc Co. should be expected to bear at least one third each of the first investigations in Tasmania. It should be worth while for the Tasmanian and Commonwealth Governments to find the remaining one third so that they may have a right to the experience gained while this work is being done.

At the conclusion of this phase, Mr. Reid is of opinion that geophysical exploration of the Beaconsfield, Mathinna and Lefroy goldfields would be distinctly worth while. Considerable gold has been won from these fields in the past and there are instances in which important bodies have been lost by faulting. In these cases their relocation would be much cheaper by geophysical methods than in any other way. Also, in these fields the occurrence of orebodies is such that there is reasonable hope that there may be some which do not outcrop.

In any case, the geophysical methods seem to have reached the stage at which they become a necessary adjunct of geological surveying. The opinion is strongly held that in the future this must become an integral part of a well organized Mines Department.

By the time the above programme is completed it, is hoped that the geological survey of the large unknown area in Tasmania will have proceeded so far that geophysical prospecting of suitable geological areas will be called for.

It would thus seem that the stage has now been reached in our discussions when the proposed enquiries as to the bonafides of the Elbof people should be made in U.S.A. and Great Britain. It is agreed that cablegrams shall be sent immediately to Foster Bain, Director of the Geological Survey of the U.S.A., and to Sir John Codman, Director of the Anglo-Persian Oil Co., London, asking their opinions of the Elbof Processes.

Department of Mines,
HOBART.

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