UR 1928A/58-60

REPORT ON MINERAL LEASE No.10221/M, 80 acres
CHARTED IN THE NAME OF R. HYNDS

WESTERN PINNACLE MINE

Situation and Access

This section is situated in the Scamander District on the East Coast. It is reached by a steeply graded track leading from the Upper Scamander Road at a point about five miles from the main East Coast Road where the River is crossed by a ford.

From there the track leading to the Section takes a North Westerly course, the distance being approximately three miles. The direct distance from the ford crossing on the River is 2¼ miles.

From the River level the track rises on a fairly even grade to an altitude of over 1000 feet above sea level. It follows the crest of the ridge extending to the Great Pyramid Mine which lies 1¼ miles south easterly of the Western Pinnacle.

Topographical Features

The area is characterised by a number of peaks rising to a height of 1200 feet above sea level. The mine is situated on a saddle between two peaks. The surrounding country for some miles in extent is of similar outline. It is fairly heavily timbered with large trees consisting of stringy and iron bark, peppermint, wild cherry, etc. with practically no undergrowth. The surfaces on the steeply sloping hillsides are covered with angular rubble stone to a depth of an inch or two.

Economic Geology

The country rock consists of slates and sandstones intersected by veins of tin bearing quartz and quartzite.

The general strike of the strata is N. 30° W.

A trench cut near the South West corner of the Section is across a formation of pink and ironstained sandstone intersected by small veins of quartz up to an inch in thickness carrying coarse specks of black tin. The trench is about 5 feet deep, at its northern end it is deepened to several feet below the general level of the bottom of the trench. The deepened part was not cleared out but is said to carry good values in tin proved by boring. The ground surface falls away steeply to the south, affording good facilities for testing the formation at depth. North Westerly along the ridge a bare outcrop of ironstained siliceous rock forms the crest.

Some chains along the southern slope of the hill a shaft has been sunk to a depth of 8 feet on a small vein of siliceous stone bearing N. 50° E. carrying

payable quantities of tin. The occurrence of tin stone here is limited to the length of the shaft, as in the direction of the strike of the vein at either end the high grade stone excavated from the shaft does not continue. The bottom, owing to debris accumulated, was not visible. The inclination of the vein is north westerly at a high angle.

The country rock consists of silicified slate, the direction of strata being N. 50° W., the vein is therefore intersecting the latter at approximately a right angle.

This outcrop of stone is opened up on the surface up the hill from shaft for a length of 20 feet to a depth of about 2 feet. A general sample of the stone on the dump from shaft assayed 10.28% metallic tin.

A short distance higher up the hill a small outcrop has been located, a trench about 2 feet deep and 4 feet across has been cut on it. The stone is very siliceous, a representative sample taken from this outcrop assayed 1.05% metallic tin.

The country rock at the surface is hard and crusted and has been subjected to a considerable amount of silification which is responsible for the deposition of tin along certain definite channels. It follows that when prospecting work is being undertaken the siliceous outcrops are the best guide for the location of deposits of tin. On the southern slope of the hill in the creek bed some sporadic occurrences of arsenical pyrite are exposed. A sample of the stone returned gold nil, silver 6 dwt. 13 grs., tin nil.

Prospecting and Development

The work carried out on the section is very limited being confined to shallow trenches and the small shaft referred to, and a tunnel driven from the southern fall of the hill a distance of 210 feet in a north easterly direction.

The objective for driving the tunnel in the direction it takes is somewhat obscure; the prospecting results obtained are of a negative character. It penetrates well under the crest of the ridge and would serve a useful purpose for prospecting at that depth any lode formations in the vicinity. The country rock driven through is hard silicified slate.

The most promising outcrop discovered is that exposed in a trench near the South West corner of the section. The country rock here is not so indurated as that in the vicinity of the other outcrops referred to further North West. The tin bearing veins consist of white quartz running parallel through the formation. Although the separate veins carry sufficient tin to be payable they are too small in extent and widely separated to be of economic importance.

In the rubble stone lying on the hillside south of and below the point where the formation is exposed on the trench referred to, tin ore specimens may be found. No other work, excepting the trench at the crest of the ridge, has been carried out on the formation, which from its general prospects and extent fully warrants further work, such as trenching at intervals along its course

to determine its continuity along the line of strike. By this means data would be obtained which would be useful in determinging if a more comprehensive scheme of opening it up at depth by tunnelling, for which excellent facilities exist, is warranted.

The rich formations located further North West along the ridge may prove to be offshoots of a larger and more continuous body of stone, but further prospecting work is necessary to investigate. The general character and tin content of the stone discovered is sufficiently encouraging to justify more work than hitherto has been accomplished. The absence of undergrowth or superficial covering of the formations renders prospecting work comparatively easy.

General

At this stage in the development of the area it is too early to consider the question of ore transportion, water supply mill site, etc. A good deal of work is necessary in the way of prospecting and generally proving the extent and value of the tin bearing formations before anything in the nature of a comprehensive scheme of development can be considered.

An abundant water supply for ore dressing purposes could be obtained from the Scamander River which lies 2 miles due south of the section. A water race cut in from a point a few miles up stream would convey the water fairly close to the foot of the hill on which the lease is situated.

J.B. Scott
STATE MINING ENGINEER.

Mines Department,
Hobart.

19th November, 1928