

SUMMARY REPORT ON THE ESPERANCE (STRATHBLANE)
COALFIELD

The Esperance coalfield is situated some six miles to the south west of the township of Dover in south eastern Tasmania.

The transport facilities consist of wooden tramways formerly used by timber millers. One of these has been repaired and diverted to serve the present mine workings in the northern part of the field. Others connect with the southern end of the field and could be used similarly. The ground traversed by the trams is flat and so grades are easy. The level country is somewhat swampy but this is overcome by closely spacing the sleepers so as to form a "corded" track. The trucks used are drawn by horses.

The Esperance Coal Mining Coy. N.L. hold the following leases on the field: 9651/M of 25 acres, 9747/M of 640 acres with a lessee's timber reserve of 120 acres, and application (10311/M) has been made for a further 640 acres.

These leases occupy a ridge with a general north and south direction for two miles and a width ranging from half a mile upwards. This ridge forms the greater part of the Esperance Coalfield.

The workings in the different parts of the leases are as follows:

- (a) South-western part -
 - Dip adit 45 feet, with cross drives
 - Dip adit 20+ " with cross drives
 - Main adit 72 feet
 - Strike adit
- (b) Eastern area -
 - A number of old shafts and adits are reported
- (c) Northern area -
 - Main dip adit 132 feet at present workings with auxiliary equipment, chute, pumps &c.
 - Adit 20 to 30 feet
 - Trench 40 chains to north

The above workings have revealed a number of seams, definite correlation of which cannot yet be attempted. Two or three seams occur in the south western area, while two appear to have been proved to exist in the eastern area. In the north one, and possibly two, seams have been exposed. Some of the seams in the different areas are possibly portions of the one seam or seams, but this cannot be proved in the present state of knowledge. Thus, at least two or three out of the maximum number of eight seams included in the Triassic coal measures are known.

Coal has been proved to exist over a length of two miles or a width of at least half a mile. The reserves cannot, however, be expressed in figures, owing to lack of knowledge of the correlation of the seams, their number and thickness, and the detailed geological structure. It may be stated, however, that the area over which coal occurs is sufficiently large to provide ample reserves for the scale of operations likely to be attained by the mine.

The quality of the coal will of course vary

from seam to seam. Some of the coal has shown an ash content as low as 8 percent., while others have given ash contents up to 20%. The former coal might probably be suitable for steaming purposes and the latter for domestic and general use. It must be pointed out, however, that all samples have been taken from outcrop coal or coal close to the surface. The normal quality of the coal will not be ascertained until the workings have advanced sufficiently far to expose coal unaffected by weathering agencies. The normal quality will of course be better than that already obtained.

Practically all the seams have been found outcropping in positions from which they can be worked by adits or dip adits, thus tending towards conditions for cheap mining.

As regards the present workings, the immediate objective should be to continue the drive in order to expose the seam in its normal section and where it has been less affected by weathering.

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