

R E P O R TOnTrack to Devon Mine, Mt. Pelicon, Mineral District  
Middlesex Area.

Pursuant of instructions, the writer called in to inspect the locality on 29th inst. arranging with Mr. Horton-the lessees representative - to point out the proposed site of cage rope way across the River at the old Devon Mine and track to connect with road.

In an application of this kind the first question to be decided is the justification for the expenditure of money on a mining area which has been practically abandoned for many years.

The Dove River takes a southerly course through the lease to which the application applies. The land embraced in the lease is portion of the old Devon Mine; operations at which ceased 15 years ago. The Mine workings are situated on the Western bank of the River being on the opposite side to the termination of the old track which leads to the Lorinna Road. This old track, when the mine was working, was used for packing ore from the mine and taking in stores etc; distance to Lorinna about 4½ miles.

The track for which assistance is sought to cut and form, takes a northerly route, the starting point at the mine end being the same as the old one. The first section of it to the top of the hill has been formed but requires in places some attention to make it safe for horse traffic. This track joins the old Middlesex Road some three miles west of that to Lorinna. From the Junction of the track on Middlesex Road to Main Road the distance is 1½ miles half of which is cleared leaving ¾ miles yet to be completed the 1½ miles section will require forming.

Devon Mine Area. There are two leases each of 40 acres, one through which the Dove River flows is charted in the name of A.G. Omant and the other west and adjoining in the name of S. Crawford.

A brief examination of the old workings was made. From the appearance of these it is some years since any work was in progress. As stated it is now 15 years since productive work was in progress. The ore was then packed across the River and along the track to Lorinna, the River Forth is crossed by a substantial bridge near the latter settlement.

The extent of the Devon Mine workings are only limited. A cross-cut was drawn westerly from a point about 20 feet above the River bank. A comparatively short distance a lode was intersected and drives were carried along its course, some stoping work was undertaken.

It is very apparent the shoot of ore was of small extent and continued but a short distance lineally, as a shaft was sunk below tunnel level obviously to follow the shoot of galena which pitched under foot.

On the steep cliff like hillside, west of cross-cut a gossaneous formation 8 to 10 feet in width is exposed.

Samples from this are stated to have carried appreciable quantities of gold and silver. By continuing the main cross cut 60 to 80 feet the downward extension of the formation referred to would be intersected. The country rock in the face of the cross cut consists of very hard siliceous slate which would make the work of driving slow and costly. The extension of the cross cut is not warranted until further surface prospecting is carried out on the gossaneous formation to determine its continuity and prove its character by surface operations.

Ore Supplies. There are no visible supplies in the mine ready for extraction, a small heap of about 2 tons of mixed quality galena is lying at grass. I understand from Mr. Horton that he obtained this by picking over the old mullock dump near the mouth of tunnel.

To justify the consideration of any expenditure in the way of providing transport facilities, a good deal of exploratory work is necessary in the development of the mine in the first instance.

There is no guarantee that sufficient ore would be located to warrant the construction of a cage or track to clear the old one to Lorinna or via Main road to Wilmot.

Under the circumstances the obligation rests with the lessees to develop the properties, when the matter of expenditure on tracks and other transport conveniences could be considered in the light of such developmental work.

signed

J.B. Scott  
STATE MINING ENGINEER

Mines Department,  
HOBART.

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