REPORT

ON MINERAL LEASE No. 9497/M, 80 ACRES MOORINA MINERAL DISTRICT, CHARTED IN THE NAME OF A.B. INNES.

SITUATION AND ACCESS -

The lease is situated within ¾ miles almost due east of the Herrick Railway Station at the terminus of the North East Railway from Launceston.

From Herrick Station the area can be reached by following the Main Road to Gladstone for about ¼ mile, at that distance the Pioneer Company's wooded tramway is followed for half a mile in a south-easterly direction, when it crosses the boundary line of the section near the north-western corner, thence passing diagonally through the Section to the southerly boundary. The tramway through the property is used for transport of timber.

David Creek, a tributary stream of the Ringarooma River, flows roughly parallel to the west boundary and is seven chains distant therefrom.

The Ringarooma River Valley lies at a similar distance of the south-east corner.

TOPOGRAPHY -

There are no outstanding topographical features on the property. The central portion includes the apex of a wide flat ridge which slopes gently to the valley of the Ringarooma River and David Creek lying to the south-east and west respectively. Going northerly and easterly from the highest point the land surface maintains a fairly level aspect through the section.

ECONOMIC GEOLOGY -

The area is occupied by normal east coast granite. On the eastern and western portions the country rock has a shallow covering of alluvial or detrital material. Towards the higher ground a run of pebbly drift occurs. So far as prospected this lead takes a northwesterly course commencing a few chains of the south-east corner peg. At the highest point in the saddle a face of wash is exposed in the old workings, the average depth of the drift in the higher ground is about 20 feet, lying on soft granite bottom. Hard granite outcrops to the south-west, south and east of the lead.

The lead consists of fine waterw orn pebbly drift interbedded with clayey material. The tin present appears to be confined to the gritty layers which are irregularly distributed through the lead. The exact width of the drift has not been determined; the outcrops of granite surrounding it in the directions referred to indicate that it is confined to a comparatively narrow channel 2 to 3 chains in width. Samples of the drift tested show prospects of very fine tin oxide considerably finer than the average grain size of the tin occurring in the east coast drifts. The lead is practically free of overburden, a shallow layer of recent fine siliceous wash material is the only covering of the drift.

OLD WORKINGS -

Commencing at a point about a quarter of a mile to the north-west of the south-east corner peg, the lead has been worked in that direction over a distance of 500 feet, the width of ground worked varying from 50 to 100 feet, the average depth being 20 feet, a tail race of sufficient force to discharge tailings by gravitation connects with the Ringarooma River Valley. From the manner in which the ground has been worked it would be concluded that the distribution of tin in the drift is very irregular.

A short distance north-easterly of the point where the face has been worked a line of shafts have been sunk through the drift. The dumps of these shafts indicate that the drift here is similar to that exposed in the face of the old workings. Samples tested from a number of the shaft dumps gave results below payable value in tin oxide. A number of samples tried from various points in the old workings gave very poor returns of tin.

The results obtained in sluicing the ground are not known, it must, however, be concluded that the prospects were sufficiently encouraging to the operators to warrant a continuance of work to the point where discontinued.

It is obvious that the shafts referred to were sunk with the object of endeavouring to locate the northerly extension of the tin bearing portion of the lead. The shafts are well placed and the work has been carried out systematically, apparently without success.

WATER SUPPLY -

The siltation of the Ringarooma River by tailings from sluicing works along its course has blocked the mouth of David Creek, where it joins the former, and has been the means of impounding a fairly extensive area of water on David Creek extending three quarters of a mile from the Ringarooma River. The south-west corner of the section is situated in the water backed up in David Creek. The quantity flowing in the latter was not measured; considering the large volume conserved, there should be quite sufficient for all requirements for working the drift of the lead.

The nearest point on David Creek to the old workings is 1400 feet. The difference in height by aneroid reading from water level to bottom of tail race in face is 25 feet.

The highest point on the section by aneroid reading is 115 feet above the valley of the Ringarooma River at a point due south of the section.

The lease is favourably situated with regard to water supply and facilities for disposal of tailings by gravitational methods.

GENERAL REMARKS -

The present prospects as disclosed in the old workings as not sufficiently encouraging to justify any expenditure on plant with the object of working the ground abandoned by former operators.

The future of the property will depend upon prospects

obtained by further prospecting with a view to locating payable portions on the extension of the lead.

The prospecting shafts referred to above have been placed at fairly close intervals so that there is not any likelihood of them missing enriched portions of the drift should such extend in the direction which the lead assumes. Prospecting further north-west beyond the area tested by the shafts may be successful in locating payable ground within the area of the lease. Without any definite data, nothing further than this can be said of its prospective value.

(J.B. Scott).
STATE MINING ENGINEER.

Mines Department,
HOBART.

1st May, 1928.