

REPORT ON GAS PROSPECT AT HENTY RIVER.

The following report is based on an examination made at the request of Mr. J. H. Robertson. The prospect was stated to occur on the track from Queenstown to Zeehan, and proved to be on the bank of the Henty River.

The only means of access is by means of the above track and the prospect is situated approximately 11 miles from Queenstown.

For the whole of the above distance the track passes over rocks of Lower Palaeozoic age. For the first few miles from Queenstown the rocks are definitely of Silurian age, but for the remainder the rocks may possibly be of Cambro-ordivician age. A number of outcrops of igneous rocks are passed over, the rocks being of intermediate to basic in composition and apparently intrusive into the above sedimentary rocks. Near the Henty River boulders of West Coast Range Conglomerate are common and these rocks (conglomerates and quartzites) appear to outcrop at the bridge and at the prospect which is situated 20 chains downstream. An alluvial flat occurs along this portion of the river.

The "gas" prospect was situated about 20 chains downstream from the bridge at a bend of the river where the alluvial flat gives place to cliffs. When sticks were poked down into the alluvium it was stated that a gas was given off freely and could be ignited. This procedure was followed and a small amount of gas was given off which burned with a blue flame. Efforts to collect a quantity of the gas were not successful owing to the gas being under a very low pressure. It is evident that the gas was "marsh gas" or methane, and that it was formed from vegetable matter in the alluvial flat, the bend in the river being an ideal place for the accumulation of such vegetable matter.

The origin of the gas is therefore definitely established and it is not an indication of either coal, petroleum, or petroleum gas. It was stated that when the water level was lower, larger volumes of gas were obtainable, but this factor has no bearing on the question except that it would have permitted a sample of it to be obtained.

(Sgd.) P. B. Nye.  
GOVERNMENT GEOLOGIST.

ROSEBERRY.

10/6/29.