

REPORT ON GRANITIC SANDS OF SCHOUTEN MAIN.

The samples submitted for examination were obtained by H. Beltz from Schouten Peninsula near the deep water port of Cole Bay. They consisted almost wholly of coarse grains of quartz derived from granite.

It is reported by the prospector that these surficial beds are from one to four feet in thickness and that the samples are truly representative of the material as a whole.

NATURE AND TEXTURE -

The particles are roughly spheroidal in shape with indented and sharp edged facets. They are well assorted and fairly even grain size.

The texture of the sands of each sample is shown in the table of granulometric analysis herunder: -

GRANULOMETRIC ANALYSIS.

Sample Number	417		418		419		420	
Mesh	Per cent	Cumulative per cent	Per cent	Cumulative per cent	Per cent	Cumulative per cent	Per cent	Cumulative per cent.
Retained on 10	75.70	75.70	19.50	19.5	37.4	37.4	71.0	71.0
" " 20	19.30	95.00	14.90	34.4	42.0	79.4	26.1	97.1
" " 30	3.20	98.20	4.70	39.1	9.7	89.1	2.0	99.1
" " 40	0.80	99.00	1.70	40.8	2.2	91.3	0.2	99.3
" " 60	0.45	99.45	5.10	45.9	2.1	93.4	0.2	99.5
" " 80	0.20	99.65	17.80	63.7	2.0	95.4	0.15	99.65
" " 100	0.15	99.80	17.10	80.8	1.9	97.3	0.10	99.75
" " 120	0.10	99.90	10.40	91.2	1.4	98.7	0.05	99.80
	0.10	100.00	8.80	100.0	1.3	100.0	0.20	100.00
Average fineness	4.207		50.49		13.69		4.32	

COMPOSITION -

The composition as given in the sub-joined table of analysis shows that the material consists almost wholly of silica in the form of quartz. The absence of lime and magnesia is remarkable, as is also the presence of only a very small amount of alumina. Ferric (iron) oxide is in higher proportion than apparent, but that will not effect its value for use in the manufacture of bitumen roofing or in ordinary construction work.

TABLE OF ANALYSES.

Registered number of sample.	Texture of sand	Silica	Ferric oxide	Alumina	Titanic oxide	Lime	Magnesia	Ignition Loss
417	coarse	98.10	1.56	0.94	trace	nil.	nil.	nil.
418	medium	97.66	2.13	0.27	"	"	"	"
419	coarse	98.04	2.27	0.17	"	"	"	"
420	coarse	97.60	2.49	0.01	"	"	"	"

The parcels of sand or fine gravel are remarkably clean and of fairly even grainsize. Material of this quality and texture should find a ready market in Melbourne and Sydney at suitable prices.

A. McIntosh Reid.

DIRECTOR OF MINES.

Mines Department,
HOBART.

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