

SUMMARY REPORT ON RESERVES OF IRON, OIL,  
COAL, & SULPHUR IN TASMANIA.

IRON ORE.

The potential reserves of iron ore as given by Twelvetrees and Reid in Tasmania Geological Survey Mineral Resources No. 6 (1919) are:-

Blyth River	- 17,000,000
Dial Range & Penguin	- 700,000
Beaconsfield & Anderson's Creek	1,300,000
Long Plain	20,000,000
Zeehan District.	2,900,000

OIL

From a geological view point the position of prospecting for oil is no different at present from that during 1923-26. It may be stated that, as far as our present knowledge extends, the geological conditions are not favourable for the occurrence of oil. No drilling for oil is being carried out at present, while a considerable amount was performed during 1920-22.

OIL SHALE -

The tasmanite shale reserves in the Railton-Latrobe district were estimated by A. McIntosh Reid in 1924 to be -

Actual	- 10,140,900 tons
Probable	- 26,904,000 tons

the equivalent reserve of crude oil (40 gallons per ton of Shale) being -

Actual	405,636,000 gallons
Probable	4076,160,000 "

In 1924 (Report to the Oil Power Conference) the Tasmanite shale reserves (apparently actual and probable combines) are given for all fields as 42,800,000 tons or 1,771,200,000 gallons of crude oil.

COAL

BROWN COAL -

Brown coal is present in only thin seams about which little is known and which are not considered to be economically important at present.

BLACK COAL -

The reserves of black coal based on the scheme adopted by the International Geological Congress (1913) are:-

Actual	- 122,980,000 tons
Probable	- 121,044,000 "
Possible	- Ranges from small to large according to the field.

The reserves based on existing economic conditions are 132,287,000 tons.

SULPHUR

CHESTER MINE - Pyrite.

Ore with more than 20% sulphur.

Probable - 2,800,000 tons  
Possible - Large.

Ore mined and shipped contained from 35% to 37% sulphur, but the reserves of this ore are smaller than those given above.

Equivalent reserve of sulphur = 560,000 tons.

MT. LYELL & SOUTH LYELL MINES - Pyrite.

Reserves at 30/9/25.

Proved - 1,624,998 tons  
Probable) very small.  
Possible)

The sulphur content averages 44 per cent.

Equivalent reserve of sulphur = 714,999 tons.

READ-ROSEBERY -

The average ore is essentially a fine grained mixture of sphalerite (43.3%), pyrite (31.0%) and galena (10.4%), containing approximately 85% of sulphides and 15% of gangue. The average content of the ore is sulphur 36.2%, zinc 27.3%, iron 18.0%, silica 7.2%, lead 7.1%, etc.

The following estimate of ore reserves was made by Loftus Hills in 1919:-

Proved ore - 1,680,000 tons  
Probable " - 915,000 "  
Prospective ore

At 30th June 1927, The General Manager (H. St.J. Somerset) of the Electrolytic Zinc Co. estimated ore reserves at a minimum of 1,400,000 tons. The development work since that time has added considerably to these reserves and the amount of 2,000,000 tons could probably be taken as a conservative figure.

Equivalent reserve of sulphur on this bases = 720,000 tons.

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