

REPORTONGOLD AREAS PORTLAND AND GLADSTONE

Pursuant of instructions I made an investigation of the gold bearing areas during my visit to the North-East Coast at the end of July last.

GLADSTONE:- It is many years since any attention has been given to the development of the gold bearing reefs which occur near to the contact of the granite sedimentary rocks a short distance west of the township. To all intents and purposes the idea of continuing work has long since been abandoned. The situation in this regard is the same today as when Geological Survey Bulletin No. 25 by W.H. Twelvetees was issued in the year 1916.

In that publication a record of the gold mining activities in the earlier days of the field to that time is given.

It is now 47 years since the Royal Tasman Co. ceased operations. This company had some successful crushings, but gradually the stone became too poor after operations had extended over a period of two years. Some phenomenally rich occurrences of gold were found but these proved to be very limited in extent.

In later years a little attention by way of prospecting the reefs exposed in the old workings has been given to the locality but nothing to warrant a continuance of this work was discovered.

The reefs consist of strong bodies of quartz which in places carry small quantities of gold.

Former work on these reefs proved that the gold was confined to rich shoots of limited extent but of frequent occurrence. There is nothing to show that a recurrence of rich sections equal to those formerly worked will not take place with development.

Samples of quartz from the reefs exposed, assayed at the Mines Department Laboratory gave the following results:-

NORTH TASMAN SHAFT WORKINGS.

Trench nereby.

1. Reef 2 feet wide, 3 feet from surface
Gold nil. Silver nil.
2. Reef exposed in tunnel 2 feet wide,
Gold ozs. 1 dwt. 20 grs. Silver nil.
3. Dump heaps of shaft Old Mount Cameron
Gold nil. Silver nil.
4. Quartz veins exposed coarse gold creek
near Gladstone.
Gold nil. Silver nil.

The large quantities of barren quartz in these reefs have tended to prevent their further investigation following the time of active mining work on them.

BLUE BELL AREAS.

The gold bearing reefs in this area are situated about 5 miles north easterly of Gladstone about a mile on the south side of the Portland Road on low lying plain country.

A number of old shaft workings, the result of work carried out over 50 years ago, mark the spot where quartz reef outcrops have been located.

In more recent years some shallow shafts were sunk on the northerly extension of the reefs. At the time of my visit all shafts and excavations were filled with water.

The only indication that quartz reefs occur there was shown by the dump heaps where the material excavated from the shafts was stacked.

Samples from various points along the workings were taken and submitted to the Mines Department Laboratory for assay with the following results:-

Shallow Shaft (Murray)	Dump heap sample
	Gold 1oz. 2dwts. 5 grs.
	Silver 11 " 18 "
" " (Richards)	Dump heap sample
	Gold Ooz. 3 dwts. 22 grs.
	Silver 3 " 22 "
Old Blue Mine	Quartz from Dump
	Gold Nil. Silver nil.

The reefs found in this area are small and carry irregular quantities of gold. In the early days of the discovery of the reefs preparations were made for the erection of a stamp battery and after putting in foundations the project was abandoned.

The general prospects of the locality are not encouraging owing to the small size of the reef or veins and the flat low lying nature of the ground in the neighbourhood.

On the Portland road a large body of silicified sandstone is crossed which can be traced for a considerable distance. A sample taken from the outcrop gave a negative result for gold and silver when assayed at the Mines Department Laboratory.

PORTLAND MINE

A visit made to this Mine which has been abandoned for many years.

The shaft was full of water and very little remains excepting the overhead gear to mark the spot.

The position is now the same as when visited by Mr. Twelvetees in the year 1916. The reefs are too small and irregular to be of any economic value. According to Geological Survey Bulletin No. 25 the average gold content from a number of samples from the west end of the reef in the shaft working assayed from one to three ounces of gold per ton. The main shaft was sunk to a depth of 210 feet. The lower levels, however, showed a marked decrease in the proportion of gold in the stone.

Other gold bearing reefs in the neighbourhood are described in Geological Survey Bulletin No. 25 including those of the Mussel Roe River. The general prospects of these are not sufficient to warrant attention with a view to their development.

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