

REPORT ON LIMESTONE AT KAROOOLA AND BANGOR

The general object of the examinations at Karoola and Bangor is to locate a bed of limestone that can be economically worked for the production of ground limestone or burnt lime. Such materials are required for the treatment of the soils of the north-eastern districts and it is stated that the soil requires one ton per acre. At present, the materials are purchased from Railton and have to be transported 84 miles from that district. It is stated that the cost at Karoola and Bangor is in the vicinity of £2 per ton. Railton lime is, I believe, now being advertised at £1 per ton, the buyer finding his own bags. The freight from Railton to Karoola is about 10/- per ton (but I understand that the Agricultural Department assists to a certain extent with the freight.

It is stated that it is necessary to have lime or ground limestone available at a price of £1 per ton to enable economical treatment of the soils to be carried out, hence the inquiries by the local inhabitants for limestone to enable them to produce lime or ground limestone locally and so avoid the payment of freight. By the avoidance of freight it is probable that locally produced lime or ground limestone could be made available at a price of approximately £1 per ton.

During the geological survey of the Lilydale district in 1923, limestone was located at four places viz. above the bridge on the Karoola-Bangor road, on Kent's blocks south-east of Bangor, a boulder to the south of Bacala, and to the south/east of Lilydale.

The first locality appeared to offer the best facilities for workings and attention has therefore been directed to it. A visit was made in May and arrangements made to have it opened up. During the recent investigation this locality was again visited and also two others one of which did not show any limestone and the other of which contained a newly-found deposit of a different nature to the others.

LOT 9839 - 110 ACRES - J. WALLACE. This deposit occurs immediately east of the bridge over the Piper River on the Karoola-Bangor road. In accordance with arrangements made previously a trench was excavated across the outcrop of the limestone bed. The results were disappointing as the outcrop appeared to suggest a thick bed; whereas only about three feet of limestone were exposed in the trench. The beds below the limestone are soft shales, apparently calcareous, but of no use for purposes for which limestone is required. The beds above the limestone are coarse, impure sandstones.

All these beds are fossiliferous and belong to the Permo-Carboniferous system.

The thinness of the bed renders it unsuitable for the economic production of ground limestone, quicklime, or slated lime on a commercial scale. Small quantities could of course be obtained by working along the outcrop of the bed.

LOT 2383-100ACRES - JAS. LOWE- An alleged deposit of limestone in the vicinity of this block was visited, the deposit being situated about 1 mile west of Lilydale.

The deposit consisted of quartz, associated with the Mathinna slates and quartzite series. Limestone is not known to occur in this series, nor was any found.

THIRD RIVER - A visit was made to a recently found occurrence of limestone on the Third River about 1 1/2 miles east of Bangor.

The country rocks consisted of slates and quartzites of the Mathinna series. The limestone consisted of a secondary, superficial deposit of impure carbonates of lime, magnesia, iron, manganese &c. It is only a shallow and irregular deposit formed on the present land surface. Twigs and land snails are enclosed in the rock as are also numerous pieces of quartzite etc.

The deposit is too small to be of value for production of ground limestone etc. in large quantities although small quantities might be obtained from it.

The following analyses shows the composition of the deposit-

	NO. 706 PER CENT.	1597 PER CENT.
INSOLUBLE	1.40	
FERRIC OXIDE & ALUMINA	1.60	
CALCIUM CARBONATE	90.27	81.7
MAGNESIA	1.40	
ORGANIC MATTER &C.	4.51	

Sample No. 706 was a grab sample submitted by Mr. W.H. Hammersley, while No. 1597 was a representative sample taken by the writer from a portion of the deposit which did not contain any included quartzite etc. The deposit is fairly satisfactory as regards its content of calcium carbonate, but without the rejection of the pieces of quartzite etc. it is improbable that this would exceed 80%.

CONCLUSIONS. As the deposits described above have not proved satisfactory, the only further step that can be taken is to open up the other deposits in turn. Of the remaining ones, the bed on the blocks charted in the name of Kent (situated some two miles south-east of Bangor) affords the most favourable opportunities and should be opened up ready for inspection.

signed
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HOBART 14/8/30