

REPORT ON LIGNITE DEPOSIT - MUDDY CREEKWEST TAMAR.

Acting on instructions, an examination was made on 15th January last of a bed of lignite occurring in the Tertiary sediments of the Tamar Valley.

Location and Access. - The locality is reached by a branch road from the Launceston-Beaconsfield road, turning off easterly to Mr. Dean's orchard property about 8 miles from Launceston, the road leads to within a short distance of the foreshore where the deposit occurs.

Muddy Creek is a small stream which takes its source in the elevated country lying to the west of the Tamar Valley flowing in a north easterly direction to a wide reach on the Tamar estuary.

General Features - The bed of lignite is exposed for a length of 100 feet or more along the foreshore, which extends north easterly for a distance of about two miles from the mouth of Muddy Creek.

The foreshore here presents a cliff-like face of horizontally bedded sandstone and mudstone aggregating a depth of about 40 feet. On the western portion of the area examined the bed of lignite is approximately five feet thick, being slightly above high tide level; going easterly it dips slightly in that direction, the upper surface of the bed forming the strand for some distance, gradually dipping below water level further east.

The lignite is of distinct woody texture resembling crumpled masses of timber. A sample broken from the face where the widest exposure is seen, analysed at the Mines Department Laboratory, Launceston, gave the following result:-

		<u>Per cent.</u>
Moisture	-	7.5
V.C.M.	-	29.82
F.C.	-	15.98
Ash	-	46.70
Sulphur	-	0.36

With such a low percentage of carbon, and carbonaceous matter, the material would be of no value as a fuel.

The surface of the ground extending southerly is practically level, affording opportunity of testing the deposit where it is not exposed to weathering agencies.

The remains of an old shaft workings can be seen some chains inland, presumable for the purpose of prospecting this bed of lignite; the results of this work, which, by appearances, was carried out many years ago, is not known.

A hand boring plant would be a suitable means of drilling a few holes over the area as a preliminary test to determine the nature and extent of this deposit.

Mr. A.E. Evershed of Launceston accompanied me and pointed out the position of the deposit when the examination was made.

Signed

(J.B. Scott)  
STATE MINING ENGINEER

Mines Department,  
HOBART.

12/2/30