

MININGTHE YEARS OPERATIONS

The total value of the minerals and mineral products won in Tasmania for 1930 was £1,270,114, compared with £1,790,653 for 1929. This represents a decrease of over £500,000. This decrease was brought about mainly by the low prices ruling for all mineral products but more particularly those of the base metals. Reduced production in view of the low prices was also responsible but to a smaller extent. The principal decreases were Zinc (£165,000), Copper (£120,000), Tin (60,000), Lead (57,000), Cement (60,000) and Silver (£38,000). As regards the quantities produced, increases were shown only in the production of copper, coal, nickel, limestone and shale. Increases in value, however, occurred only in the case of three non-metallics viz. coal, limestone and oil shale.

The details of the production for the year are shown in the following table.

RETURN showing the Quantity and Value of Minerals Produced in the State of Tasmania during the year 1930.

MINERAL	Quantity	Value
Bismuth..... (tons)	0.97	£ 475
Cadmium..... "	3.3052	1333
Carbide..... "	3297	51,437
Copper..... "	9940.78	620,578
Coal..... "	138,716	110,253
Cement..... "	37,412	115,520
Gold..... (oss.f)	4,466.61	18,976
Lead..... (tons)	4,237.84	77,590
Limestone..... "	100,251	94,977
Nickel..... "	117.6	1,999
Osmiridium..... (oss)	952.70	16,235
Shale..... (tons)	5,428	3,490
Silver..... (oss.f)	711619	56,068
Talc..... (tons)	13.35	53
Tin..... "	511.777	69,592
Wolfram..... "	112.60	12,216
Zinc..... "	943	19,322
TOTAL....		£1,270,114

The Electrolytic Zinc Co. of Aust. Ltd. recovered 53,958 tons of Zinc, valued at £1,015,610, and 224.1939 tons of Cadmium, valued at £76,275 from other than Tasmanian ores, and employed an average of 950 men.

METAL PRICES

The metal prices were the most important factor in the decline of the mining industry in 1930. The greatest falls occurred in the cases of tin, copper, zinc, lead and silver.

The effect of the fall in the price of tin was to cause operations to cease partly or wholly at numerous mines particularly those of the north-eastern districts. The fall in the price of copper reduced the value of the output of Mt. Lyell even though the output had increased in quantity.

The fall in zinc has resulted in the postponement of commencement of operations of the Electrolytic Zinc Company's treatment plant at Rosebery and the cessation of mining of the Read-Rosebery ores. The low prices of silver and lead caused the cessation of operations by the companies at the Magnet and North Mt. Farrell Mines and the working of the mines on tribute by co-operative parties (Since the end of the year the operations at the Magnet mine ceased and there was also the possibility of a similar result at the North Mt. Farrell mine).

#### COPPER

The Mt. Lyell Mining and Railway Company continues to increase the scale of its operations and the production for last year is in excess of that of previous years. This has been effected by improvements and alterations in the mining transport and treatment of the ore.

During 1930, the company smelted 8562 tons of ore and also the concentrates derived from 49658 tons of ore. The output of blister copper was 10,018 tons containing 9,934 tons of copper, 182,979 ounces of silver and 3793 ounces of gold with an approximate value of £650,716. The total production since the inception of the company is:

Copper.....	237,251 tons (fine)
Silver.....	14,160,488 ozs. "
Gold.....	397,884 " "

Dividends paid during the year amounted to £128,919-10-0, making the total dividends paid since the inception of the company equal to £5,135,319.

#### ZINC-LEAD-SILVER

The Electrolytic Zinc Co. continued their developmental work in the Rosebery and Hercules mines until October when underground work was largely curtailed. The tonnages of ore mined were 25,881 tons at Rosebery and 12,236 tons at Hercules.

Productive operations at the Zeehan treatment plant ceased early in the year in order to enable transfer of some of the plant and machinery to Rosebery. The erection of the large treatment plant at Rosebery was practically completed during the year.

The very low prices of the above metals during the latter half of the year caused the suspension of all operations at Rosebery and Zeehan.

At the Risdon plant, 943 tons of zinc and 3.3 tons of cadmium were recovered from the Tasmanian ores. From ores other than Tasmanian 53,958 tons of zinc valued at £1,015,610 and 224,1939 tons of cadmium valued at £76,275 were recovered.

#### SILVER-LEAD

The low price of metals caused a more or less general cessation of operations by silver-lead mining companies. The Magnet S.M. Co. ceased operations in February owing to shortage of water and did not resume operations. The mine was, however, operated by a tribute party until the end of the year. The production amounted to 15,912 tons of ore which yielded 2206.8 tons of saleable ore and concentrates

containing 998.08 tons of lead and 152,584 ozs. of silver with a gross value of £27,290.

The North Mt. Farrell mine was worked by a tribute party. The production of crude ore and concentrates contained 2749.7 tons of lead and 317,155 ozs. of silver with a total value of £75,164.3.

#### TIN

The abnormally low price and other causes greatly affected tin mining throughout the State.

The Mt. Bischoff Mine was worked by tributors. The tin oxide won comprised 83.82 tons from the surface and 9.83 tons from underground, the total net value being £6,456.

The Pioneer Tin Mining Company continued the unwatering of their mine after the flood of 1929 and salvaged all the plant worth saving, and also repaired all other damages done by the flood. Sluicing was resumed for a time and a total yield of 114 tons worth approximately £9,578 obtained.

The Briseis mine is still in the flooded condition and arrangements have been made by a Launceston syndicate to purchase the mine.

#### COAL

The coal production increased slightly over that of the previous year, the Cornwall, Mt. Nicholas and Jubilee mines being the greatest producers. The Seymour Company have shipped a small tonnage and during the year extended their jetty into deeper water.

#### CEMENT

The production of cement shows a slight reduction in quantity and a considerable reduction in value. The only producer is the Goliath Portland Cement Co. at Railton. The works of the National Portland Cement Co. at Maria Island have been dismantled and removed.

#### OIL SHALES

Operations were carried on a small scale by the Goliath Portland Cement Co. with the Crozier Retort, and by the Tasmanite Shale Oil Co. with the MacPherson retort.

A Shale Oil Committee has been established by the Commonwealth Government to consider the obstacles in the way of a Shale Oil Industry and how they may be removed.

#### CARBIDE

The Australian Commonwealth Carbide Co. Ltd., produced 3,297 tons of high grade carbide during the year.

#### LIMESTONE

Limestone is quarried in many places in Tasmania for various purposes such as the following:-

- Melrose:- For export to the Broken Hill Prop. Company's Steel works, Newcastle, N.S.W.
- Mt. Lyell:- For a flux.

Railton:- For cement making.

Ida Bay:- By the Carbide Co. for making carbide and for sale to the Electrolytic Zinc Co. for their metallurgical processes.

In addition there are numerous small lime kilns where the limestone is burnt and ground for use in building and agricultural industries.

OSMIRIDIUM

The sales of osmiridium (952.7 ounces) were considerably below those (1360 ounces) for 1929. The lower prices paid also considerably reduced the value of the production. Adamsfield continues to be the main producing field with 100 to 200 miners at work. The general unemployment has, however, resulted in increased activities in the north-western fields.

DRILLING OPERATIONS

During the year the two drills of the Mines Department were engaged continuously. The diamond drilling plant was used to drill portions of the Renison Bell tin field, the copper-nickel deposits near Zeehan; and later the West Comet ore-body.

The Victoria plant was engaged in determining the course and value of the Weld lead near the Echo mine, Moorina; and is at present engaged on the Branxholm Creek lead near the Arba Mine.

AID TO MINING

As is usual in time of unemployment numerous parties of men undertook prospecting operations. A record number of applications for sustenance allowance were received by the Department and a considerable portion were granted.

Assistance was also granted in many cases in the development of prospects &c.

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Owing to lack of funds the geological survey under the Development and Migration scheme is being suspended. Valuable topographical and geological maps of two portions of the Smithton district are in course of preparation, the field work having been completed.

Valuable results in connection with the geological structure and the occurrence of the ore bodies have been obtained in the Rosebery district.

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RETURN Showing the Value of Minerals & Metals Raised in Tasmania from 1880 to 1930 inclusive.

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Asbestos.....	7,105
Barite.....	6,933
Bismuth.....	23,527
Cadmium.....	20,914
Carbide.....	603,387

Cement.....	1,091,739
Coal.....	2,201,561
Copper (Blis).....	19,876,213
"    (Matte).....	133,736
"    (Ore).....	579,802
Gold.....	7,676,358
Iron Ore.....	25,701
Iron Pyrites.....	93,916
Limestone.....	954,454
Nickel.....	33,117
Ochre.....	375
Osmiridium.....	571,148
Scheelite.....	112,468
Shale.....	19,106
Silver Lead.....	8,827,422
Talc.....	194
Tin.....	16,151,783
Wolfram.....	254,729
Zinc.....	1,128,049
Unenumerated prior to 1894.....	31,988
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TOTAL.....	60,425,725
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Signed

(P.B. Nye)  
GOVERNMENT GEOLOGIST