

REPORT

38

on

THE PROSPECTS OF OBTAINING PETROLEUM
ON THE PROPERTY OF W.J. ARMSTRONG, CRADOC.

This property is situated along the back road from Cradoc to Cygnet. It is about 2½ miles east of Cradoc and at considerable altitude above it.

From Cradoc the road passes over white siliceous mudstones of the Permo-Carboniferous system for 1½ to 2 miles. Nearing the property these give place to the overlying sandstones of the Ross series of the Triassic system.

The supposed occurrence of oil indications occurs on the bank of a small creek to the north of the road and several hundred feet below it. A shaft has been sunk to a depth of 3 to 4 feet on the south bank.

The shaft passed through one foot of surface sand on the south side and then through three feet of coarse grained sandstones and grits. These contain irregular and discontinuous interbedded seams of coal and coaly material up to one eighth of an inch in thickness. These are of no importance from the point of view of coal as the main coal measures are some 500 to 700 feet above this horizon. Further they have no significance as regards the occurrence of petroleum.

It was stated that the brownish sand at the top of the shaft was an indication of oil. This was tested for liquid petroleum and also for a yield of crude oil after distillation, but gave "Nil" results in both cases.

It was also stated that gas rising through the water in the shaft represented an oil seepage. Only one bubble was noticed during the writers visit. However, even if gas is present it could quite easily be marsh gas evolved from decomposing vegetation associated with the sand etc. which had accumulated in the bottom of the shaft. Being situated in the bed of the creek it is the very place where marsh gas would be expected to form from the decomposing vegetation in the creek bed.

In conclusion it may be stated that there is no evidence of a seepage or indication of petroleum in any way.

Signed P.B. Nye,
GOVERNMENT GEOLOGIST.

Mines Department,
HOBART.

February 10th, 1931.