

NOTES ON THE DORSET FLATS

(Statistics are taken from the Reports of the Secretary for Mines and from the Mineral Industry).

The Dorset Flats are situated on the West Bank of the Ringarooma River near its Junction with Corduroy Creek, two miles north of Pioneer. Attempts have been made by the following Companies to work them for tin ore by dredging.

1. The Ringarooma Bucket Dredging Company commenced dredging operations in 1907 and produced the following amounts of tin ore and gold.

	<u>Gold</u> <u>Ozs.</u>	<u>Tin</u> <u>Oxide</u>	<u>Material</u> <u>Treated</u>
1907		29 tons	242,800 c. yds. (0.27 lbs/cu.yd.)
1908	89.90	53.30 "	
1909	119.50	31.90 "	

2. The Dorset Bucket Dredging Company. This Company was formed in March, 1906. It first instituted a boring campaign and the following results were obtained from the Company's report. 47 Bores were put down in three lines on lease 4332/93M.

- (1) Line along northern boundary.
- (2) Line in centre of lease.
- (3) Line along south boundary.

The bores three quarters of a chain apart. The average depth of the ground was 16 feet, and the average content of tin oxide per cubic yard was 1.19. The values ranged up to 4½ lbs./cub.yard.

Further boring was carried out on leases 1667/M and 1668/M, 33 bores being put down toward the high ground. The average depth was 19 feet and the average content of tin oxide was 0.6 lbs./cub.yard. Of these eight bores gave "nil" results.

As the bores gave satisfactory results dredging was commenced. Beside the tin oxide a certain amount of gold has also been obtained.

The following amounts of tin oxide and gold were recovered:-

	<u>Gold</u>	<u>Tons</u>	<u>Material</u> <u>Tested</u>
1907	48 ozs.	42	234,000 c.yds. (- 0.40 lbs/cub.yd.)
1908	58.95 ozs.	61.55 (65.55)	
1909	111.60 " (41.60)	31.90 (26.05)	
1910	19.85	18.10	

The figures in brackets are alternative statistics for the same period.

In 1910 a new company, the South Mount Cameron Tin Dredging Company was formed from the Dorset Bucket Dredging Company and the plant was altered and repaired. The Company, however, had very disappointing results. In 1911, according to Annual Report of Secretary for Mines, 4.65 tons of tin ore and 9.75 oz. (7.8 oz.) gold were obtained. Statistics in the Mineral Industry for 1911, however, point to a recovery of 8.5 tons. In 1912 the Company evidently ceased operations, 2.75 tons of tin and 1.5 oz. of gold being won in the first quarter.

From the above statements, it is evident that although the reported boring results were satisfactory, the dredging results were much lower. If a payable lead, therefore, exists on the property it has not yet been discovered and further boring would be necessary for this purpose.

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24th March, 1931.