

REPORT ON
 TRIBUTE AT NORTH MOUNT FARREL
 MINE, TULLAH

In accordance with the telegraphed instructions of the 27th ult., I have to report that I visited the North Mount Farrel Mine in connection with the tributors and the amount of pay they are receiving.

I called upon Mr. Doran, the mine manager and also met three members of the Committee controlling the tribute including Mr. Dutton who is in charge of same.

The tribute party includes all men involved in the mining of the ore and raising it to the surface e.g. miners, winding drivers, smiths and timbermen. The pumpmen, mill-men, wood-cutters (at present 30 but likely to be reduced to 20), and all other surface men.

The tribute party includes 75 men and the remaining employees number approximately 60 men.

From the ore raised, a certain amount is picked and marketted in that form. The remainder is concentrated in jigs and the jig concentrates marketted. The flotation unit is not being operated and the jig tailings are being stored in dams. The picked ore has a content of 58% lead and 70ozs. of silver per ton, while the jig concentrates contain 60% lead and 60ozs. of silver per ton.

The tribute party receive 24% of the gross value of the picked ore and 21% of the gross value of the jig concentrates. The gross value is taken at £11 per ton, but for some time it has been below that figure owing to the low prices of lead and silver.

The only other source of revenue for the tribute party is the allowance of 30/- per foot for driving on the Old lode at No. 10 level about 20 feet per fortnight.

The following table shows the number of men in the tribute and the wages received since the beginning of the year.

Fortnight ending	No. of Shifts	No. of Men	Total Wages			Remarks
			£.	s.	d.	
January 14	10	64	6	2	4	
" 28	11	63	7	10	9	
February 11	11	60	8	0	9	
" 25	11	61	4	9	5	
March 11	11	60	4	3	2	
" 25	11	63	5	5	6	
April 8	11	60	4	13	7	
" 22	11	73	4	0	0	Made up to £4
May 6	11	73	4	5	2	
" 22	11	75	4	0	0	

The increase in the number in the party in April was due to the absorption of the shaft sinking party in the tribute whereas previously they were on contract.

For the fortnight ending 22nd May, the sum of £78 had to be provided to make the wage per man equal to £4 per fortnight, or £2 per week as provided for by the Mining Act, 1929. From the £4 deductions of 3/9 for hospital and 1/- for contribution to occupational diseases fund, were made, so that the amount actually received was £3/15/3 per man.

The accounts for the above fortnight were as follows:-

Ore Produced.

	Tons	cwts	Qrs.	lbs.
Firsts 690 bags =	36	3	1	9
Jigs 1305 " =	69	10	0	8

Gross Value of Ore at £11 per ton.

Firsts.....	£397	16	7
Jigs.....	764	10	9

Revenue Received by Tribute Party

24% of Firsts (397.16.7)	95	9	7
21% of Jigs (764.10.9)	160	11	0
Driving 21 feet @			
30/- per ft.	31	10	0
Advance to make wages			
up to £2 per week	78	8	0
	£365	18	7

Charges & Deductions.

Stores (Dynamite,/ Candles, Carbide, etc)	80	16	5
Hospital	13	6	4
Occupational Diseases	3	10	0

£97 12 9

The balance of £268/5/10 provides £3/15/3 for approximately 71 men due no doubt to broken periods for some of the men.

As regards the low wages earned by the tribute party there are several reasons including the following:-

- (1) The low prices of lead and silver make the gross value of the ore very low (approx. £10 per ton). Actually the men are being paid at the rate of £11.
- (2) There are only a limited number of stopes from which ore can be broken. This is due to development work in the mine having been delayed. In addition to the stopes, ore is being won from such development work as rises (2 faces), winzes (2 faces) and drives (3 faces), but such faces do not permit of such rapid and economical mining as in stopes. Three shifts are being worked in order to try and overcome the shortage of stoping faces.
- (3) The ore in the stopes at present is apparently not so high grade as it has been in the immediate past.

At the same time the management is also suffering a loss to the extent of several hundred pounds a fortnight in addition to making up the wages of the tribute party to £2 per week.

From a brief survey it would appear that increased earnings can only be obtained by increases in the prices of lead and silver; increase in number of stoping places; and increase in the grade of ore. These factors might also make the working of the flotation unit profitable which is stated is not the case at present.

(signed)
P.B. NYE
GOVERNMENT GEOLOGIST

18/06/1931.