

PRELIMINARY REPORT ON MINING OPERATIONS

CARRIED ON BY MR. TUCKER NEAR FINGAL

The mining is being carried out on a 10 acre lease (11040/M) in the name of A. Tucker and T.E. Bantick, situated in Little Hospital Creek. The operations are being carried out in an old mine. The first workings were performed some 50 years ago, a shaft being sunk to a depth of 50 feet on a body of quartz striking N.E. and S.W. and dipping at a high angle to the S.E.

About 20 years ago, further work was performed an adit being driven in a general N.E. direction with a cross-cut to connect with the shaft and numerous other crosscuts and drives.

Recently further work has been carried out in the adit level and also above the old slopes, which were boarded over.

The collar of the shaft exposes a body of quartz striking N.E. and S.W. and dipping at a high angle to the S.E. This was followed down in the shaft. At the surface and also at the adit level this body cannot be traced to the south-west. At the surface several veins trend off the above body in a general westerly direction and have been cut in trenches etc. immediately west of the shaft.

On the north side of the collar of the shaft a narrow vein (3" - 4") trends to the N.E. and gradually curves till it strikes E. and W. This has been followed in a long trench or cut to the north-east. It will be referred to as No. 1 reef.

Several feet north of the shaft, there appears to be a reef trending to the south, about 1 foot wide and practically vertical. This will be referred to as the No. 2 reef.

The old adit was driven as a cross-cut until it cut a reef at 108 feet from the entrance. This was followed to the north and eventually petered out.

The same reef (to be referred to as the No. 3 reef) was of-course also followed in the recently cut adit above the old stopes.

In both the old adit and the new one a formation was cut which had a general trend towards the shaft and which corresponds to the No. 2 reef. The eastern end of this reef is also seen at the bottom of the shaft at the adit level.

A south drive at the eastern side of the shaft at the adit level followed a vein and a branch also went into the western side. One of these will correspond to the No. 1 reef at the surface.

The above three reefs are the principal ones revealed in the workings. The No. 1 reef is narrow and has been proved over approximately 60 feet. The No. 2 reef ranges in

width from 1 to 2½ feet, but its length is limited to about 20 feet or between the Nos. 1 and 3 reefs. The No. 3 reef is the only one that has been stoped. Its northern end as shown by the underground workings is approximately the No. 2 reef which branches off it. It may be proved to extend to the south, as may also the No. 1 reef. One vein has been cut in a trench some 2 chains to the south of the new adit and is considered to be the continuation of the No. 1 reef.

In view of the narrowness and the limited extent (so far proved) of the veins, the question of continuing the workings should be carefully considered and the following procedure is recommended:

(1) The above three reefs, together with other veins exposed, should be systematically sampled to determine the gold content of the reefs. The present procedure of crushing in the one-head battery can be considered as part of this programme. In addition, representative samples should be taken from the reefs at short intervals and assayed to determine their value.

The values will then prove which reefs are worthy of further proving.

(2) The Nos. 1 and 3 reefs might be proved further south by surface prospecting.

Not far from the above mine is another old mine known as the Great Fingal. Surface workings and shafts have exposed a reef ranging in width up to 10 or 20 feet. Another narrow but reputedly rich reef joins with this wide one. As it is stated that payable values occur in one shaft, it is recommended that all available exposures should be systematically sampled and the samples assayed. If satisfactory then some of the existing shafts could be cleaned out or others sunk and the reef tested underground. The width of the reef would be very satisfactory and providing values are payable, then testing of this reef would probably be preferable to that in the present workings described above.

(Sgd.) P.B. Nye,
GOVERNMENT GEOLOGIST.

Alberton.
17/7/33