

REPORT ON PROSPECT AT
NORTH END OF BLUE TIER,
BEACONSFIELD.

This prospect is situated on an area of 80 acres which is a portion of the State Forest at Blue Tier, but which has been made available for mining &c. under the Mining Act, 1929.

The mining operations are being carried out by a Beaconsfield Syndicate and two miners are employed.

The area is occupied by fine conglomerates (cabbage tree rock) sandstones and slates which strike N.W. - S.E. and dip to the N.E.

A quantity of detrital gold has been obtained in the past from parts of the area, while a number of shafts have been put down to shallow depths and it is stated that gold was mined from quartz veins, sandstone formation &c.

The most south-easterly shaft is an underlay one, 20 feet deep. This was sunk on a soft sandstone bed dipping N.E. at 45° and shallow surface stopes extend 10 feet to the north-west. It is stated that gold was obtained from this shaft and that it kept a miner working for over 12 months.

No quartz was visible in the sandstone bed but a few veins rise above it. A sample across sandstone bed near the bottom of the shaft gave a "Nil" return for gold and silver.

Another shaft (known as the Water shaft) was put down 80 feet to the N.W. of the underlay shaft. It was sunk to the east of the continuation of the sandstone bed but should have cut it at depth. The shaft is vertical, 30 feet in depth and contains water and it is stated that the water was cut in the last shots fired and cannot be pumped out. It is probable that the bottom of this shaft cut the sandstone bed and that the water is coming from that bed. It is not known if any gold was obtained from this shaft.

To the N.N.W. of the water shaft there are numerous trenches, a 20 foot vertical shaft, and 2 irregular excavations. The trenches have exposed a limonitic and iron-stained formation with a general bearing of 120° . Fine-grained conglomerates occur in association with the limonite, but it is not possible to determine the nature of the latter formation. This formation would be parallel to and 60 feet N.E. of the sandstone bed. The two irregular excavations occur near the N.W. end of the limonitic formation and exposed conglomerates and sandstones without revealing the nature of the formation. The 20-foot shaft is 20 feet N.E. of the limonitic formation and is stated to have been sunk on a 2 inch vein of quartz which cut out at the bottom of the shaft.

The syndicate have attempted to locate the source of the detrital gold and to intersect any of the formations described above. To achieve this they have driven an adit in a general E.N.E. direction from the western fall of the Blue Tier. It was driven towards the water shaft and would give approximately 65 feet of "backs" at that point. At the time of my visit, the adit was 219 feet in length and has passed 20 feet beyond the water shaft. The face was becoming moist and the adit will probably not drain the shaft until the sandstone bed is cut on the dip, which will necessitate approximately 25 feet of driving.

In view of the limited amount of knowledge of the sandstone formation, the limonitic formation &c. at the surface, the driving of an adit of such length was a rather unnecessarily expensive testing scheme, and I am in agreement with previous reports that assistance could not be recommended for such a scheme.

At the present time, however, the adit is 219 feet in length and is within 25 feet of one of its objectives, viz. cutting the sandstone, and conditions are more favourable to the granting of assistance. Assistance to the extent of not more than £1 per foot for 25 feet would enable the syndicate to purchase new drill steel, provide explosives, &c. and to cut the sandstone bed.

As regards an extension of 60 feet to cut the limonitic formation (that is, if it dips in accordance with the containing rocks) this cannot be recommended or otherwise until further work by deep drenching or shallow shaft sinking has proved the nature of this formation and whether it is gold-bearing or not. If the formation however, be vertical it would be cut in 30 to 35 feet from the present face of the adit.

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