

NOTES ON THE MOUNT MICHAEL MINE

Mineral Lease 11122/M, 64 ac. R.H. Major,

9162/M, 20 ac. W.A Walsh & Others,

WELDBOROUGH MINING DISTRICT.

The mining property known as the Mount Michael is situated on the Blue Tier Tin Field. It has road connection ($3\frac{1}{2}$ miles) to Lottah, a small settlement on the main St. Helens-Herrick road, 18 miles from the terminus of the North East Railway.

The purpose of these notes is to briefly describe the economic possibilities of the area and features related thereto.

A full description of the mine is contained in Bulletin No. 38 as well as interesting data concerning its past history, also general information of the surrounding areas.

It is now some years since productive work ceased and excepting for a very limited investigation by boring in the former workings no attempt has been made to make a comprehensive test of the deposit.

The past records of mining and milling and the general features of the area are such as to fully justify a thorough examination of the very extensive deposit of tin granite it contains.

The Deposit.

This consists of altered granite, occurring in sill like formation, the horizontal jointing dividing it into layers of 6 to 10 feet in thickness. The ore can be worked by quarrying methods. It is comparatively soft and easily pulverised. These features alone by comparison with the general hardness of granite are most favourable for the conduct of mining at minimum cost.

Tin granite formations in Tasmania are as a rule very variable in the distribution of ore, The Mt. Michael deposit is quite exceptional in that characteristic it occurring fairly regularly through the mass. What limits of variation present are not very marked. This unusual feature renders it a comparatively easy matter in determining the proportion of tin in the ore.

The tin occurs in the form of brown oxide of comparatively small though even grain size. Its concentration from the crushed ore can be effected by simple gravitational methods with little difficulty this was exemplified by the results obtained at the time productive work was in progress.

The extent of the deposit has not been defined either laterally or at depth consequently an expression of opinion cannot be given as to what its ultimate limits may be or the proportion of tin it carries.

The work performed by the Company about 10 years ago clearly demonstrated that it contained sufficient tin to render it payable if worked on a scale large enough to allow costs to be reduced to a reasonably low figure. The deposit is extensive and possesses sufficiently favourable features to warrant comprehensive sampling to determine its value. Its general features are such that by comparison a very close estimate of its extent and proportion of tin it contains could be made at minimum cost.

Former operations were conducted under most disadvantageous conditions in every respect.

Milling.

No useful purpose would be served by commenting on the work previously carried out other than to say that the design of plant could not well have been more unsuitable. An estimate of the grade of the ore treated based on quantity of tin ore recovered could not be accepted as a guide as to what proportion of tin it contained when delivered to the mill.

Water Supply

The facilities available from information supplied in Bulletin No. 38 indicate that in this most important matter the property is favourably situated.

In concluding these brief observations it can only be repeated that the Mount Michael property is one which fully warrants an investigation to ascertain the quantity and value of the stone. It rarely occurs that a mineral deposit presents features which offer such favourable facilities to test at comparatively small cost.

Signed J.B. SCOTT

SECRETARY FOR MINES

Mines Department,
HOBART.

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