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STOREYS CREEK MINE

The Mine is situated in Avoca district on the south-western slopes of Ben Lomond mountain range. It is connected by road with the township of Avoca. The railway at the latter is 600 feet above sea level, whilst the mine is at an elevation of approximately 2400 feet. The distance by road from Avoca is 14 miles.

The object of this brief report is not for the purpose of describing in detail all factors connected with the mine, but to touch on the present developments of the ore body and the prospects generally of the property.

The mine is at present being worked by Mr. E. Egan under some form of contract with the lessees.

MINE WORKINGS:

The ore bodies consist of white quartz occurring in country rock of slate, quartzite and sandstone. They dip westerly at an angle of approximately 37 degrees. The workings are approached by means of a short tunnel from the valley of Storeys Creek. It has been worked out from point of intersection to the surface.

Operations are at present confined to driving on the lode at depth of underlie of 600 feet below surface. At this point the lode is particularly well defined, and is carrying approximately one per cent tin oxide, and wolframite respectively. The vertical distance below surface is about 250 feet.

At the lower (No. 4) level, the lode has been driven on for a distance of 513 feet without reaching its lineal extension. It varies from 7 to 14 feet in thickness, the average being from 8 to 9 feet. The ore bodies have been exploited from surface to within 75 feet of the lower level. The lode, as disclosed at the latter, represents the junctioning of two separate veins of lesser thickness. These were explored in the upper workings.

Exploratory work on the lower level has revealed a considerable accession to the ore reserves by the intersection of what appears to be parallel formations in the footwall country of the main lode. Further exploratory work is required to prove the extent and value of these.

In the upper levels the separate lodes referred to were worked over a length of 1200 feet to 2000 feet. Taking into consideration the branch lodes formed into one well-defined body of stone, it can be safely assumed as indicated by the length over which it has persisted that it will continue to a very considerable depth below the present workings. The thickness of the sedimentary rocks overlying the granite is very great. It can with confidence be expected that it will continue least to the latter. It offers excellent facilities for its development by means of a vertical shaft from the surface to intersect the lode at any point desired below the present workings.

The lode consists essentially of white quartz. The tin oxide usually occurs on the margins, in vein form of brown coloured well developed crystals. The wolfram is present in crystal aggregates, although inclined to the marginal portions; it is often regularly distributed through the lode. The same to a lesser extent can be said of the tin-oxide. In addition to cassiterite and wolfram other associated minerals in small proportion are iron-pyrite and hematite.

The output of ore from the mine for the half year ended June last was 5232 tons of crude ore which yielded 16.75 tons of metallic tin valued at £3875 and 90.2 tons of wolfram valued at £12,075.

The mine at present gives employment to about 70 men.

MILLING:

A feature of the ore is that fine crushing is not necessary to effect a satisfactory recovery of the tin-wolfram concentrate.

In concluding these observations being the result of a brief visit to the Mine on the 24th ult., it may be stated that its prospects are very encouraging. It is capable of being developed on a much more comprehensive scale than is now being done.

On the present limited scale of operations a good margin of profit is made. It is a matter worthy of consideration whether it is not advisable to develop the mine or more comprehensive lines and thereby take advantage of the present favourable metal prices.

To double or treble the output would not tax its resources to any extent. The prospects of the ore body fully warrant consideration being given to this important matter.

The comparatively limited depth of sinking required for a main shaft to intersect the ore body, say at 100 feet on dip of lode below the present level would open up sufficient ore - providing the lode continues as at present - to warrant expenditure necessary to do this.

Any work designed to arrange for an enhanced output of ore would involve increasing the capacity of the concentrating plant as well as the subsidiary treatment units.

Signed J.B. SCOTT

SECRETARY FOR MINES.

Mines Department,
Hobart.

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