

REPORT ON EASTBURN AND BARWICK PROSPECT AT MYRTLE BANK.

Near the south boundary of $28\frac{3}{4}$ acres purchased by E. Imlach are outcrops of white quartzite and light brown sandstone, exposed over a length of three chains, from which prospects of gold and native tin are said to have been obtained.

The strike of the beds is north-north-west and they dip easterly at angles ranging from 19' to 45'.

A shallow trench and a narrow open cut 6 feet deep have been excavated about the centre of the outcrop in an endeavour to prospect the rocks.

Bedrock is not exposed in the trench and only loose surface sandstone is showing.

The small cut has been opened on the east side of the main outcrop of quartzite and exposes some bands of brown cherty slate, heavily impregnated with oxides of iron and showing a little manganese oxide staining.

At the southern end of outcrop, quartzite is also impregnated with iron oxide.

A few minute veins of quartz occur in the main quartzite outcrop. In beds of sandstone three chains further west the veinlets become more numerous and ramify the rock over a small area. Neither gold nor tin was visible in the rock along the line of outcrop nor in the excavations.

Four samples taken from different parts of the occurrence and submitted to the Government Chemist and Assayer for treatment returned the following results:-

- (1) Across iron stained cherty slate in open cut.
Gold, Silver and Tin, NIL
- (2) General sample of quartzite between trench and open cut, where gold was said to have been obtained.
Gold, Silver and Tin, NIL
- (3) General sample of quartzite along length of outcrop excluding area covered by other samples.
Gold, Silver and Tin, NIL
- (4) Iron stained quartzite from south end of outcrop,
Gold, Silver and Tin, NIL

Two further samples submitted by Mr. Eastburn also gave negative results.

Three quarters of a mile further south of the above occurrence a little prospecting has been carried out in the northern part of 1089 acres 2 roods 34 perches leased to J.W. Wilson by the Soldiers Settlement Board.

Here a shallow shaft has been sunk on a quartz reef to a depth of three feet. The reef is not exposed elsewhere, so that the lateral extent could not be determined.

The quartz near the surface is broken and stained by oxides of iron. In bottom of shaft it is more solid

and of a white colour with no visible evidence of mineralisation.

The reef which occurs in purple slates appears to be striking at 160° and dips to the north-east at 60° ; its average width in the shaft is 21 inches.

A sample of quartz taken across the width of the reef and assayed for gold, silver and tin by the Government Chemist and Assayer returned Nil results.

From the results of the samples tested the probability of finding gold or tin in these prospects, in profitable proportions, appears to be remote and further expenditure in exploration is not justified.

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