

REPORT ON BORING FOR COAL AT MUSK VALE NEAR GEORGE TOWN.

After an examination of a shaft sunk in the vicinity, exposing two thin seams of coal at 15 feet below surfaces, Loftus Hills (Government Geologist) in 1920 reported that certain rocks at Musk Vale Estate represented Trias-Jura coal measures, and recommended the drilling of bore holes to penetrate the coal measures to ascertain the thickness and number of coal seams.

This boring campaign commenced in December 1935 was designed to that end.

The sites were fixed by Mr. J.B. Scott, Secretary for Mines, several of which being in the positions marked out in 1920 by Mr. Hills, and the boring was carried out under his control and direction.

Six holes were bored to a total depth of 833 feet in all by means of the Departmental surge Power-drill and these are shown in their approximate positions on the accompanying plan.

Sections of each bore-hole are given in the table below.

NO 1 BORE			NO 2 BORE			NO 3 BORE		
Depth in feet.	Strata Thickness	Strata.	Depth in feet.	Strata Thickness	Strata	Depth in feet	Strata Thickness	Strata
0 to 34	34	-----	0 to 8	8	Clay	0 to 16½	16½	Clay
34 to 42	8	Mudstone	8 to 22½	14½	Sandstone	16½ to 26	9½	Sandstone
42 to 43	1	Conglomerate	22½ to 201	178½	Mudstone	26 to 73	47	Mudstone
43 to 61	18	Mudstone				73 to 110	37	Sandstone
61 to 63	2	Conglomerate				110 to 142	32	Mudstone
63 to 105	42	Mudstone						
Total Depth 105 feet			Total Depth 201 feet			Total Depth 142 feet		

NO 4 BORE			NO 5 BORE			NO 6 BORE		
Depth in feet.	Strata Thickness	Strata.	Depth in feet	Strata Thickness	Strata	Depth in feet	Strata Thickness	Strata.
0 to 19	19	Clay	0 to 29	29	Clay	0 to 4	4	Clay
19 to 144	125	Sandstone	29 to 85	56	Mudstone	4 to 17	13	Sandstone
144 to 155	11	Mudstone				17 to 85	68	Mudstone
155 to 156	1	Sandstone						
156 to 167	11	Mudstone						
167 to 186	19	Sandstone						
186 to 215	29	Mudstone						
Total Depth	215	feet	Total Depth	85	feet	Total Depth	85	feet

In no instance was coal intersected although the holes were drilled to an average depth of 139 feet through alternate beds of sandstone and mudstone (probably shale) without passing into another series of rocks.

It seems probable that for the most part the bores were sited below the horizon of the coal seams as exposed in the shaft examined by Mr. Hills.

The drilling campaign has proved that coal seams do not occur in the area bored between surface and the depths to which the drill penetrated.

F. Blake

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Mines Department.

HOBART.

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