MUNNING'S COAL PROSPECT AT YORK PLAINS

Location and Access

The area is situated 2½ miles north-east of York Plains railway station. Access is gained by means of the road from York Plains to Eastwood, which passes along the northern boundary of the property.

Geology:

Felspathic sandstones (coal measures), belonging to the Trias-Jura system, are exposed with a thickness of several hundred feet on both sides of York Plains-Eastwood road.

A sill of diabase (Upper Mesozoic), overlying felspathic sandstones, occurs on top of a hill rising to 200 feet above the road on south side.

Coal Seam:

A coal seam outcrops in a small road-side quarry, at the saddle to the south of Mt. Pleasant, on the northern boundary of 238 ac. 2 rds. 31 pchs. (Lot 2 Mt. Pleasant Estate) leased to C. Munnings.

The seam dips into the hill at an angle of 8° to the south and has been followed on the dip, from quarry face, in an adit bearing 215° for 40 feet and southerly for 20 feet.

The coal is hard to distinguish at outcrop where, owing to surface alteration, it resembles decomposed shale. In the adit it is only slightly weathered and near the face it assumes a hardened condition and can be broken out in lump form. Within a short distance further under the hill all surface effects should be absent.

The average thickness of seam in adit is 5 feet but this includes two clay bands each 3 inches thick. A general section of the seam is as follows:-

Felspathic sandstone roof:

Shale with a little coal	3 - 9 inches
Coal	11 "
Clay	3 "
Coal	1 ft.11 "
Clay	3 "
Coal	2 ft. 4 "
Shale	1 - 3 "

Felspathic sandstone floor.

This seam occurs at an elevation of approximately 100 feet above those worked at York Plains Coal Mine (Gregg's) and appears to represent a separate occurrence higher in the felspathic sandstone series.

Quality of the Coal:

The coal contains numerous bright bands and in general appearance suggests a good quality coal.

An analysis of a grab sample of the coal gave the

following result:-

	Per Cent
Moisture at 105° C	8.40
Volatile Combustible matter	21.30
Fixed carbon	48.82
Ash	21.48
Sulphur	0.43
Calorific value	8366 B.T.U.
Fusion point of ash	1200 C.

This analysis can only be taken as a slight indication of the quality of the seam as a whole.

The percentage of volatile combustible matter is much higher and the fixed carbon content lower than that of the coal from York Plains Coal Mine.

The fusion point of the ash is remarkably low indicating that clinker will readily form. The calorific value (heat value) shown in British Thermal Units is less than that of other Tasmanian coal generally.

Quantity of Coal Available:

As the seam has only been proved at one point any reliable estimate of the quantity of coal available is impossible.

If the coal has not been effected by the diabase sill on top of the hill, or by faulting, then the seam should extend over an area of 50 acres at least. The quantity of coal available would then be about 240,000 tons.

Conclusion:

A coal seam from 4 to 5 feet in thickness has been opened up from outcrop in a short prospecting adit. The quality of the coal, as indicated by result of the treatment of a grab sample, is below that of other Tasmanian coals used for domestic purposes. It also appears to differ from the coal mined in the same district which has been found suitable for use in hop drying kilns.

Before proceeding with any otherwork it is recommended that arrangements be made to have samples of the coal tried out under working conditions in kilns to ascertain whether it has a special use in the drying of hops and cereals.

F. Blake
ACTING GOVERNMENT GEOLOGIST

Mines Department,
HOBART
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