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McCOY'S WOLFRAM PROSPECT - LIENA DISTRICT

LOCATION AND ACCESS:

McCoy's prospect is situated on Berridale Creek, 7½ miles south-south-west of Liena.

The area is accessible from Liena by means of a metalled road (V.D.L. Middlsex Road) for a distance of four miles south-westerly to Butler's timber mill. From this locality Innes' pack track to Mt. Pelion is followed for seven miles to Field's property (320 acres - W.E. Field, Pur.) on Berridale Plains, through which Berridale Creek flows north-westerly to join Forth River. The creek is then traversed for one mile downstream to the prospect.

TOPOGRAPHY:

The chief topographical feature of the district is represented by a high level plateau, standing some 3,000 feet above sea level, between the deeply incised valleys of Mersey River to the east,and Forth River on the west. Berridale Creek flows on an even grade over Berridale Plains but on reaching the western edge of the plateau plunges sharply into a steep high walled valley to attain Forth River level over a thousand feet below.

GEOLOGY:

The bedrock of the area consists of light-coloured siliceous quartzites. These rocks assume a schistose character in places and are referred to the Pre-Cambrian era.

The quartzites strike between 236° and 262° and dip towards the south-east at high angles.

Basalt flows of Tertiary age, and probably corresponding with the older basalts of the State, overlie the Pre-Cambrian rocks about the plateau. The basalt is of no great thickness and it has been denuded in the vicinity of the deeper tributary streams.

THE WOLFRAM LODE:

This occurs on the steep hillside above the left bank of Berridale Creek. The lode consists of an irregular replacement of quartzites by quartz generally along the strike of the strata, bearing 236° and dipping 80° to the south-east.

At 3/4 of a chain from the stream along the trend of the lode, irregular quartz, interspersed with quartzites, outcrops over a width of 20 feet.

A shallow open cut on the north or footwall side exhibits a few minute particles of wolfram across three feet of quartz in the face. Quartz on the spoil dump contains some large blades of the mineral. No wolfram is visible across the remaining portion of the lode, but ten feet of solid white quartz occurs on the hanging wall side.

The lode again outcrops about 40 feet to the west where quartz, 12 inches to 18 inches wide, shows a little wolfram. At 10 feet further west the lode appears to be dying out as only six inches of quartz is present with no visible mineralisation.

Eastward from the open cut irregular bands and patches of quartz, interspersed with quartzite, outcrop at intervals as far as the right bank of the creek, at which point traces of wolfram are perceptible over a few inches of erratic quartz.

CONCLUSIONS:

The lode does not occur as a defined fissure and has little continuity either in length or width. The wolfram content of the lode appears to be extremely low and further development is not warranted.

F. BLAKE
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