

NOTES ON REPORTED IRON DEPOSIT AT GAWLER RIVER

The occurrence is situated in Gawler District on land consisting of 100 acres owned by L. J. McCulloch (A. McCulloch, Purchaser), which extends from Upper Gawler road westerly to Gawler River.

The property is accessible from Ulverstone in a southerly direction by way of Upper Gawler road in a distance of approximately six miles.

The area represents a basaltic plateau dissected to a depth of several hundred feet by Gawler River, which flows northerly to join Leven River near Ulverstone. The greater part of the area consists of Tertiary basalt. This rock extends westerly down the valley slope to a height of approximately 50 feet above, and to within 10 chains of the river. Quartzites of Lower Palaeozoic age underlie the basalt and are exposed in a low cliff on eastern bank of the river.

In a ploughed field, 5 chains north-east of the cliff, angular pieces of quartzite and hematite (iron oxide) are scattered through the soil on either side of the northern boundary of the property. These extend along an indefinite line bearing north-north-westerly over a length of about seven chains and from one to two chains in width. At three chains south of the boundary a heap of boulders, having a central depression, is said to be the side of an old shaft sunk many years ago on an outcrop of iron. The latter is not visible at present and no other outcrops are available for inspection.

Some of the detrital boulders and shaft spoil are made up of massive and micaceous hematite containing numerous siliceous blebs and bunches, and a few quartz veins. Others consist almost wholly of hematite, while pieces of ferruginous quartzite also occur.

It is indicated from the presence of hematite in close relation with quartzite that an irregular vein or lens of the former is contained in the latter below the surface. Owing to the inclusion of much silica in the hematite, the absence of iron outcrops, and the limited area over which the detrital iron occurs, this deposit cannot be considered as a source of iron ore.

From this view point no development is warranted.

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