

SUPPOSED OIL PROSPECT AT ROSS

The following is based on an examination made at the request of Mr. Chris. Davis of the "Roseneath" property owned by Mr. F. Dowling.

The prospect is situated to the south-west of Ross, about the northern boundary of 65 acres, granted to M.G. Carrett, at 10 chains west of Hobart-Launceston highway.

The area represents portion of the flood plain of Macquarie River and is covered by deposits of Recent alluvium. The latter overlies level bedded sandstones of Triassic age. Half a mile to the west dolerite of Upper Mesozoic age outcrops on a steeply rising hillside bordering the valley.

Small patches of multi-coloured scum occur floating on a pool of water, along the course of a drain. It was considered by those concerned that the scum might be connected with oil but on examination this proved to be oxides of iron. The iron most likely originated from the dolerite rocks of the adjacent hills which contains a small proportion of that mineral.

On piercing the underlying alluvium by means of a shovel a few gas bubbles rose to the surface and caused the deposition of further iron colouration. It is probable that *the gas consisted partly of methane or marsh-gas formed from vegetable matter accumulated in the alluvial flat.* The low gas pressure did not allow a sample to be taken but there is no doubt that it has no association with petroleum gas.

It was stated that the gas had ~~previously~~ shown greater activity and larger volumes had been liberated. This circumstance has little relation to the investigated except that it might have allowed the collection of a sample.

In conclusion it may be stated that there is no evidence of a seepage or indication of petroleum in any way.

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