

COPPER DEPOSITS OF TASMANIA

The known deposits of copper are shown on the attached map. The localities are restricted as far as possible to those occurrences where there are lodes (even though not economically important) and places where copper mineralogical interest only occur have been omitted. The deposits at the localities shown are not necessarily all of comparable economic importance.

In all, 25 localities are marked. Most of these have been described in one or more departmental reports, and much information on them is, therefore, available. A few localities have been marked because leases for copper have been granted there. There are no reports on five of the localities and these correspond (with one exception) to those marked because leases have been issued in those places.

The localities are shown on the attached list, and are grouped under the following divisions of the State - North-Eastern, North-Western, Far North-Western, and Western and South-Western. The reports for each locality are listed thereunder. All reports on any one locality are not listed, but only the more important and/or the more recent ones. References to the older reports are, in most cases, contained in the recent ones. The reports include printed and type-written reports and the latter are indicated by a "T" before the title.

On the 25 localities, there are five on which no reports are available. Apparently, the prospectors soon found that the deposits were of little value, so that little exploratory work was done on them and a visit by a departmental officer was not justified. Of the remaining 20 localities, I have personal knowledge of six- Waratah, Arthur River, Smithton, Blythe River (in part), Saxon Creek and Lewis River, in addition to the Mount Lyell field. The deposits in these are small and the grade of the ore is such that further exploratory and developmental work is not justified. A perusal of the reports on the remaining 14 localities indicates that most of them are of little or no important as potential producers of copper ore.

The Mount Lyell field has been the largest producer in Tasmania and is easily the most important field as regards future supplies of copper. Much work in the way of surface testing, detailed geological surveys and geophysical surveys has been conducted in recent years. As far as is known, the only discovery made in recent years was that of the outcrop of the West Lyell ore-body in 1934 by geological and geophysical surveys. Although it is difficult to make recommendations based on geological surveys and although surface testing has given unfavourable results in the northern and southern extension of the field, the whole field is worthy of further investigations. Such investigation should include detailed geological surveys, geophysical surveys with modern methods and a "leached outcrop investigation".

Of the other fields, the Balfour, Mount Pelion and Scamander are the most important, though not comparable to any extent with Mount Lyell. The more important lodes on

the Balfour field were tested by underground workings, but the results were not profitable. The reports on the Mount Pelion field are somewhat conflicting and, although it seems likely that the ore is low grade for the size of the deposits and the difficulties of transport, a geological survey is justified to determine the importance of the deposits. The Scamander field is producing small quantities of oxidised ore and may continue to do so, but the testing of operations in progress will determine the commercial possibilities of the lode in the primary sulphide zone.

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NORTH-EASTERN DISTRICT

SAXON'S CREEK (FRANKFORD) -

- Report on the Pandora Copper Mine, A. Montgomery, 1893.
- T. Geological Report on the Frankford District, P.B.Nye, 1924.

SCAMANDER -

- (Earlier reports are listed in Bulletin No. 9)
- Report on the Mining Districts of the Scamander River and St. Helens, G.A. Waller, 1901.
- The Scamander Mineral District, Bulletin No. 9, W.H. Twelvetrees, 1911.
- T Scamander Copper Field, Q.J. Henderson Jnr., 18/6/1941.

BADGER HEAD -

- Report on Coal near George Town, and Slate near Badger Head, W.H. Twelvetrees, 1904.

NORTH-WESTERN DISTRICT

BLYTHE RIVER -

- Report on North-West Coast Mineral Deposits, W.H. Twelvetrees, 1905.
- Gunn's Plains, Alma, and other Mining Fields, North-West Coast, Bulletin No. 5, 1909.
- T. Woodstock Copper Prospect, Natone, Q.J. Henderson, 1941
- T. Report on Woodstock Copper Mine, Natone, P.B. Nye, 1941

LEVEN RIVER -

- Report on North-West Coast Mineral Deposits, W.H. Twelvetrees, 1905.
- Gunn's Plains, Alma, and other Mining Fields, North-West Coast Bulletin No. 5, W.H. Twelvetrees, 1909

FORTH RIVER -

- Report on North-West Coast Mineral Deposits, W.H. Twelvetrees, 1905.
- Gunn's Plains, Alma, and other Mining Fields, North-West Coast, Bulletin No. 5, W.H. Twelvetrees, 1909

DOVE RIVER -

- T. Welcome Home Copper Area, vicinity of Dove River, Q.J. Henderson, 1941.

MOUNT PELION -

- Report on the Mineral Districts of Bell Mount, Dove River, Five-Mile Rise, Mount Pelion, and Barn Bluff, G.A. Waller, 1901.
- The Mount Pelion Mineral District, Bulletin 30, A.M. Reid, 1919.

FAR NORTH-WESTERN DISTRICT

BALFOUR -

The Mount Balfour Mining Fields, Bulletin No. 10.
L.K. Ward, 1911.

SMITHTON -

The Smithton District, P.B. Nye, K.J. Finucane,
and F. Blake, Bulletin No. 41.

ROCKY CAPE -

Report on North-West Coast Mineral Districts,
W.H. Twelvetrees, 1905.

FLOWERDALE RIVER -

No information.

ARTHUR RIVER (VICTORY MINE) -

Report on the Recent Discovery of Cannel Coal at
Preolenna, and the New Victory Copper Mine at Arthur
River, G.A. Waller, 1901.

T. Dolomite and Magnesite near the Victory Mine,
P.B. Nye, 1925.

SALMON RIVER -

No information.

WESTERN DISTRICT

MOUNT LYELL FIELD -

The Jukes-Darwin Mining Field, Bulletin No. 16,
Loftus Hills, 1914.

T. Report on the General Geology of the Mount Lyell Mining
Field, P.B. Nye, F.Blake, and Q.J. Henderson, 1934.

T. Report on the Economic Geology of the Mount Lyell
District, P.B. Nye, 1934.

T. Report on the Red Hill Copper Deposits, F. Blake, 1938.

T. Report on the Lake Dora Copper Deposits, F. Blake,
and Q.J. Henderson, 1939.

WARATAH DISTRICT (HEAZLEWOOD) -

The Silver-Lead Deposits of the Waratah District,
Bulletin No. 33, P.B. Nye, 1923.

WHYTE RIVER -

Report on the Mineral Fields between Waratah and Corinna,
W.H. Twelvetrees, 1900.

SOUTH-WESTERN DISTRICT

MOUNT MUELLER -

Geological Exploration of the country through which the Great Western Survey-line passes, Department of Lands and Surveys, W.H. Twelvetrees, 1905.

- T. Brief Note on the Geology of the Country in the vicinity of the Old Humboldt Mine, Q.J. Henderson, 1939.

NICHOLLS RANGE -

- T. Report on Nicholls Range Copper Deposits, F. Blake, 1938.

BIRCH INLET -

No report. Source of information not known.

ASBESTOS POINT -

- T. Report on the Asbestos Deposit at Asbestos Point, Macquarie Harbour, P.B. Nye, 1929.

NORTH OF PORT DAVEY -

No information.

LEWIS RIVER (LOW ROCKY POINT) -

- T. Preliminary Report on Low Rocky Point District. P.B. Nye, 1926.

LEWIS RIVER (LOW ROCKY POINT) -

Report on Low Rocky Point District (In manuscript form only, but cannot be found in office).

MAINWARING RIVER -

No information.

BIRTHDAY BAY (POINT HIBBS) -

Report on some Discoveries of Copper Ore in the vicinity of Point Hibbs, G.A. Waller, 1902.

Geological Reconnaissance of the Country between Cape Sorell and Point Hibbs, Bulletin No. 18, 1914.