

3rd October, 1947

MEMORANDUM:ILMENITE AT GORDON

On the 26th September, I visited Gordon in company with Mr. Cecil Douglas of Snug, to inspect an ilmenite beach deposit, samples of which he had forwarded to the Department. The deposit occurs along about 120 yards of a beach, stretching one mile north of the Gordon jetty. The ilmenite is concentrated in small patches a few feet in diameter to a depth of 1 to 2 inches, and also occurs in smaller quantities disseminated among the sand, to a depth of from 3 to 12 inches.

The ilmenite is confined to the beach and does not extend into the bank which is formed of clay and peaty material. The country rock in the vicinity is sandstone, but the ilmenite has originally been shed from dolerite. It is not, as was reported, seeping out of the bank but is washed up at high tide, and, due to its high specific gravity, left on the beach when the tide recedes. Thus the quantities available would vary from time to time.

At the time of my visit, the tide was high and receding, and the ilmenite visible occurred over an area of 360 feet by two to three feet, with an average depth of 6 inches.

Samples were taken at 120 foot intervals and have been forwarded to Launceston for assay. From the very brief examination made, it would appear that the deposits would not contain more than fifty tons of ilmenite. It has since been reported, however, that ilmenite occurs on a beach in the vicinity of Flowerpot and a sample of ilmenite in the office collection is labelled "Woodbridge". It would thus appear that several of the beaches bordering D'Entrecasteaux Channel contain ilmenite deposits and a general examination of these may reveal greater tonnages.

Sgd. Terence D. Hughes.

The Director of Mines,
Department of Mines,
HOBART