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26th May, 1949

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MEMORANDUM

Limestone at C. B. Barber's, Sorell

In company with Mr. Barber I visited the limestone deposits near Sorell on 24th May.

The deposits are situated about four miles northerly from Sorell and quarrying operations have taken place at two positions.

(1) About half a mile south-south-east from the Cherrytree (Pawleena) State School where Barber has a two acre limestone reservation on land previously owned by him and since sold to Whyte.

The reservation is not a lease but is governed by an agreement at the time of the sales.

The limestone here is of Permean age and the quarry shows a face of about eight feet of limestone. It is a laminated limestone dipping at a low angle to the south. The quarry is not an extensive one although prospect holes prove the limestone for about 200 yds.

(2) The second area appears to be situated on a 200 acre block located to W. Wilson and now owned by J. Stokes, through which the Sorell Rivulet flows.

It is from this second area that present production is taken.

There has been no previous Geological Survey made in this area and the Geological Map of Tasmania is in error.

Under the conditions existing at the time of the visit only a preliminary examination was made but it appears from fossil evidence that the limestones are of Permean age

The operating quarry shows a present depth of about four feet six inches of material overlying a clayey band. There is nothing to show whether or not this is the only layer of limestone. More compact specimens were seen some 200 yards from the quarry and although no fossils were seen the rocks are similar in appearance to those at the former site, less than a mile distant, where Permean fossils were taken.

The country near the quarry is comparatively flat and the limestone occurs under a thin layer of soils. Prospecting has so far been confined to post hole digging to find the surface of the limestone. This work has proved an irregular surface without giving any information as to depth of the formation.

To determine the extent, depth and grade of the formation a number of test holes will have to be sunk either as pits or bores. As Barber, on behalf of the E.Z. Coy. is concerned only with the friable material, boring with the hand plant would be the quickest method of obtaining the data necessary for determining the reserves available. If the more compact material is suitable for the requirements of the E.Z. Coy. and it is desirable to sample it, pits will be necessary as the hand bore is only suitable for the softer friable material.

Signed H.G.W. Keid.

CHIEF GEOLOGIST

The Director of Mines,
HOBART