

MEMORANDUM:

LIMESTONE AT REKUNA.

At various points on property owned or leased by Mr. N. Gangell at Rekuna, near Campania, small outcrops of lime material may be observed. Although for the purposes of record this may be called a limestone, the name is not strictly accurate as the lime material is simply an alteration product, in situ, of the typical Jurassic dolerite. Consequently, although this material may be observed over a widespread area, no great concentration of it could be obtained from any one pit, quarry or other such working.

This alteration has probably been achieved by the action on the dolerite of carbonated waters seeping along jointplanes. The result of this action is well illustrated in an old quarry about a mile East of the Rekuna Siding, between the road and the railway line, where dolerite may be seen containing seams and crusts of lime material.

Mr. C. Barber of Sorell has been interested in working these deposits on a royalty basis for sale to the Zinc Works but I have advised him that the nature of the deposit is such that sufficient concentrations would not be available for his purpose.

However, these deposits would be of use, on a small scale, for agricultural purposes. The lime, being in powder form, should be more readily available to the soil than a crushed limestone. Mr. Gangell is aware of the value of the deposit from this angle and indeed has experimented in a small way with the material.

Three samples taken from different localities have been analysed with the following results:-

1. From a point at the summit of a ridge 40 chains East of Rekuna Siding one foot to three feet below surface:

CaO	39.6%
Acid Insoluble	18%

2. At a lower elevation but still near the ridge top, 60 chains East of Rekuna Siding, one foot to four feet below surface:

CaO	12.5%
Acid Insoluble	53.7%

A sample of the purer material from the same locality showed:

CaO	37.1%
Acid Insoluble	23.5%

3. Grab sample from fissure fillings at quarry, one mile South East of Rekuna Siding:

CaO
Acid Insoluble

37.3%
18%.

Thus this deposit, while not in sufficient concentration for large scale development, should be considered in relation to its value for local agricultural needs. Although the percentage of lime is not high, the acid insoluble portion would simply act as a diluent and should not prove at all harmful.

T. D. Hughes
GEOLOGIST.

The Director of Mines.