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MEMORANDUMCoal at Georgetown

I have today visited Georgetown and met Mr. E. Lambert and with him inspected and discussed the coal prospects at Musk Vale, which is about two miles north-east of Bell Bay. There is no new development in this deposit since the Departmental boring of ten or more years ago. Mr. Lambert contended that while the diamond drill was in the district it could gainfully be employed in testing these deposits.

This area has been inspected and reported on by Twelvetees and Loftus Hills. The former considered the coal bearing strata to be Tertiary and hence this seam to be rather lignitic; the latter was of the opinion that the coal measures were Triassic. Neither, apparently, weighed the merits of the Permian. However, it is my opinion that the deposits belong to this period as the rocks appear to resemble Permian mudstone and coarse ironstained sandstones or grits which bear little likeness to the typical felspathic sandstones, the coal bearer of the Triassic. The analysis of a sample of coal from this area closely approximates those of Permian coals from the north-west coast.

In his report Hills quotes the seams as being six inches and eight inches in width as passed through in Hackett's Shaft. The position of this shaft is wrongly marked on the map. It is closer to the top of the hill and consequently the proper lateral extent of the two narrow seams is only a few acres and not several square miles.

The more recent boring campaign (1935) could not have been planned with the idea of intersecting these two narrow seams as the bores are well below the level of the coal found in the shafts and creek bed. It was apparently hoped that wider seams occurred at a lower horizon in the series. However, the results from these bores were completely negative and indicated that no seams existed at any rate down to 200 ft. below the known ones.

It thus appears that the only coal at Musk Vale consists of two narrow seams of limited lateral extent .

Sgd. T.D. Hughes

GEOLOGIST

The Director of Mines,
HOBART