

While investigating rock formations at Black River opportunity was taken of sampling a deposit of dolomite there.

LOCATION AND ACCESS:

The dolomite occurs on either side of the road (Bass Highway) and railway line at Black River near the northern coast of Tasmania. The port of Stanley is distant about eight (8) miles. The deposit is thus immediately adjacent to road and rail transport and reasonably so to water transport.

EXTENT:

The dolomite occupies the centre of a synclinal basin of which the long axis trends at 80°. The dimensions of the deposit are approximately 1,500 feet by 600 feet with a maximum depth of 200 feet. The folding is overturned with steep dips to the south on the south side and shallow dips to the south on the north side. Thus the deepest portion of the deposit is on the south side. Outcrop is only intermittent and it is expected that quite a lot of the dolomite included in the estimated area will have been eroded away and its place taken by Recent river wash and silt.

QUALITY:

The grade of this deposit is very high. An aggregate sample was taken by chipping pieces from various beds on the outcrop and the analysis indicated -

CaCO ₃	54.3%
MgCO ₃	43.9
Al ₂ O ₃	0.3
Fe ₂ O ₃	0.4
Acid Insoluble	0.9

The ratio of CaCO₃ to MgCO₃ is a little higher than is shown in the theoretical percentages of these minerals in dolomite (i.e. CaCO₃ 54.35, MgCO₃ 45.65).

Although other factors are favourable, the value of this deposit is nullified by the difficulty of quarrying the dolomite. The outcrops are little above sea level on either side of the river and any method of obtaining the stone would have to be sub-surface which would mean considerable difficulty with water problems.

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GEOLOGIST

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For plan see 1303-21.