

SCHEELITE PROSPECTS IN THE CLOSER SETTLEMENT
AREA MT. STANLEY, KING ISLAND

During the past year a certain amount of prospecting work has been carried out by the King Island Scheelite Co. in the area held by Mr. J. Curtain under permission from the Closer Settlement Board and the Forestry Commission. This area is at Mt. Stanley, King Island, and lies to the west of the King Island Scheelite Workings and to the east and south of the Mt. Stanley Loop Road. The prospecting has been confined to cleaning out an old adit and some surface pits and bulldozing the granite contact but does not include drilling. Some drilling has been carried out immediately west of the Closer Settlement Boundary. The Company has for the time being abandoned any prospecting for the following reasons:-

1. Insecurity of tenure of the ground concerned.
2. Results of prospecting to date have been disappointing,

but they are of the opinion that it should be available for future prospecting.

In this opinion, I strongly concur, and a brief account of the geological factors involved in the deposition of the scheelite may help to indicate why.

Three main factors are concerned in the formation of payable scheelite deposits at King Island. They are:-

1. Favourable host rocks. The scheelite occurs as a replacement deposit in certain altered calcareous beds which are themselves included among altered lavas.
2. Source Rock. The scheelite has originally come from the granite and, as it is a high temperature mineral, deposits of it may be looked for close to the granite contact.
3. Passage ways (faults, breaks, etc.) for the mineralizing solutions to find their way into the host rocks.

In order to assess the prospects in the area concerned, a glance at the accompanying map should be sufficient. The granite is shown in red and the lavas in blue so that it can be seen that the first two conditions for scheelite deposition are satisfied in portion of the Closer Settlement Area. As to the third factor it is not possible to determine without further investigation, but it could well be favourable.

Thus I think it would be a great pity to reserve against occupation for mining purposes for all time any of that area outside and close to the granite contact, and particularly so because of the great strategic importance of scheelite.

The Forestry Reserve may be cited as an example. The Commission are apparently concerned at

the delay in arriving at a definite conclusion and wish to commence tree planting in their area. There can be no objection to any work being done by them in the southern part of the reserve, that is the area shown in red on the map, but I do feel that anything done by them in the northern part (the area shown in blue) should not be of such a nature as would preclude future prospecting and possible mining.

(Sgd.) Terence D. Hughes
GEOLOGIST

15th June, 1955.