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MEMORANDUM:

NOTES ON COAL AT MT. PAUL.

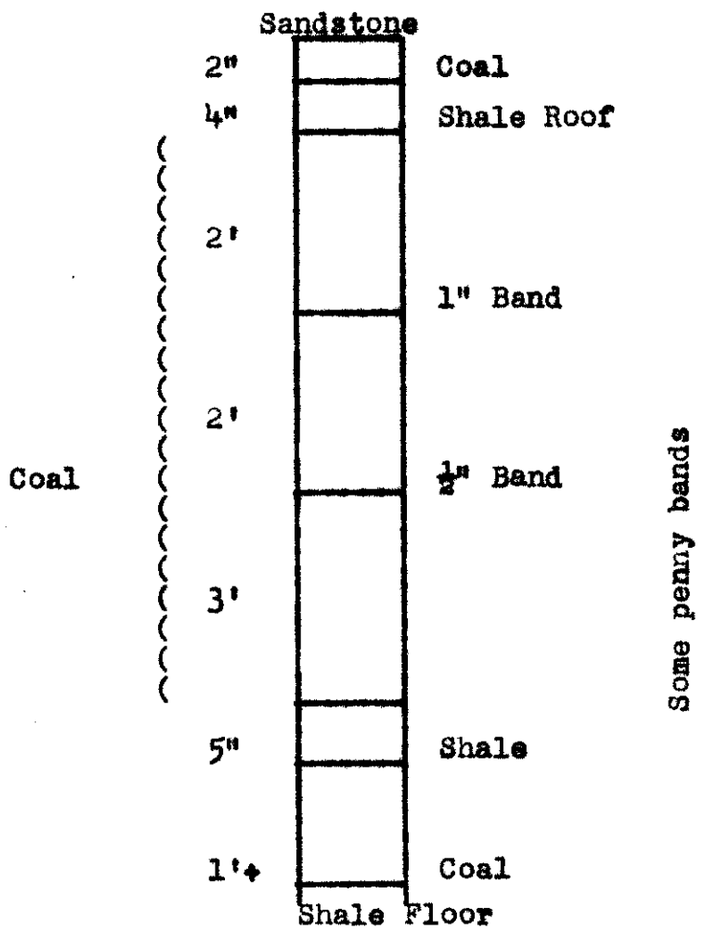
As the coal prospects in the Dover Area are disappointing as far as a supply for the proposed Rayon Works is concerned, it was decided to investigate known deposits in other suitable areas.

I should state at the outset that I was very favourably impressed by this deposit and it appeared far superior both in width of seam and extent than any seen in the south.

At the moment, the coal could be carted to the Coles Bay Jetty in a distance of seven miles, six along the main Coles Bay Road and one in from there to the adit. However, this distance could be considerably shortened and the Jetty could be reached within five miles. Roads could be constructed with great ease in this country. The jetty would need some minor repairs and of course a suitable ship would be necessary.

The coal seam is impressive but little development has been attempted. The adit has been driven in the coal for a stated 600 feet. At the time of our visit, there was water after 200 feet, but the adit is easily drained by means of a hand pump and syphon.

The seam may be measured in a cuddy about fifty feet from the entrance as follows:-



The adit is driven in a northerly direction with the floor the 5" shale band and the roof in coal about the 1" band. A sample taken from near the face by Inspector D. Besford in 1948 showed over 5'11" of coal and minor bands, the following analysis.

Moisture at 105°C	0.6 %
Volatile Carb. Matter	25.5
Fixed Carbon	51.6
Ash	22.3
Sulphur	0.46
Calorific Value	11,300 B.Th.U's.

The extent of the coal measures in this area is considerable to the north east and west of the adit. A fault into them off to the south; to the east is another fault 30 chains away; to the north the coal measures pass under a dolerite sill, 20 chains away from the adit mouth.

The coal could be mined by a series of adits along the outcrop on the southern side of Mt. Paul, but the possibility of open cut mining to the east of the present adit should not be overlooked. A short boring campaign in this area would determine whether an economic seam existed at a suitable distance below the surface. The presence of a marsh on a shelf of the eastern slopes of the mountain suggests that there is shale and therefore possibly coal not far below the surface.

The following points are favourable for the development of this field.

1. A wide seam with a good sandstone roof can be inspected.

2. Although the ash is not low it is not higher than that in the majority of coal mined in Tasmania and the Calorific value is higher than the average. This is based on the most recent sample taken by this Department and earlier samples have been poorer.

3. Faulting is almost absent in the 600 feet of the tunnel.

4. An extensive area of the coal measures can be traced in the surface.

5. Mining by adits can be readily accomplished.

6. Water will not be a trouble in the workings.

7. The possibilities of open cut mining should not be overlooked.

8. The climate and surrounding countryside are both delightful.

9. The land haulage of the coal should not exceed five miles.

10. Roads can be easily constructed and the area is practically free of undergrowth though there is a plentiful supply of mine timber in the trees.

Possible disadvantages may be:-

1. A suitable ship would have to be provided for transport of the coal.

2. It is not known how the ash reacts on fusion. A sample will be obtained and experiments carried out in the Department's Laboratory.

(Sgd.) Terence D. Hughes

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The Director of Mines,
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