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6th September, 1955.

MEMORANDUMROCK FALL ON RAILWAY LINE, SISTERS HILLS

On 31st August, last, an examination of the above occurrence was made in company with District Inspector Spooner of the Railway Branch.

A fall of rock recently obstructed the railway line about one mile south-east of Montumana Station in a steep cutting, some 30 feet in depth.

The rocks in the vicinity consist of an inter-bedded formation of quartz and mica schists. These rocks have a strike of 205° , parallel to the railway line, and dip to the west at a steep angle into the face of the cutting. Because of this attitude the rocks in the upper part of the cut have a tendency to slightly overhang the side of the line.

Recent continuous rains in this district have saturated a thick bed of mica schists along joints and schist planes, causing a softening of the rock. This, together with the extra weight of included water, allowed part of the overhanging rock, over a width of 30 feet and up to a height of 20 feet, to slump and fall onto the permanent way.

Following this fall the pressure has been relieved and water is now flowing from joint planes, but small quantities of soft and loose rock still remain on the face of the cut.

An existing drain, about 10 feet distance from, and parallel to, the top of the cutting is now largely ineffective owing to scrub growth, fallen logs and silting.

I have informed the District Inspector of the following measures for the prevention of further rock falls in the vicinity:-

1. Clear existing drain of all obstructions to allow the quick drainage of surface water from above the cutting
2. Break down and clear away loose and softened rock still remaining on the face of the cutting.

Sgd. (F. Blake)
GEOLOGIST

The Director of Mines,
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