

FB/3

6th April, 1956

MEMORANDUMSupposed Iron Deposit in Catamaran District.

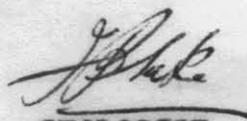
Following a letter from Mr. M. D. Everall of Geeveston concerning iron deposits in Southern Tasmania I discussed the matter with him yesterday.

It appears that some years ago he had dug a stick into the soil and on pulling it out found that a quantity of hydrated iron oxide covered the wood. The iron material could not be seen on the surface and no prospecting was done to ascertain the extent of the deposit. This was located about three miles inland from the mouth of Catamaran River. The rock in the vicinity was ironstone or blue-stone (local names for dolerite). Similar iron oxide was also seen near the mouth of a creek running into Recherche Bay between Catamaran and Cockel Creek.

This area was geologically mapped by W. H. Twelvetrees in 1915 and he showed ~~coal~~ measure sandstones and shales intruded by dolerite. Several bore holes have also been sunk in this vicinity in prospecting for coal.

It would appear from Mr. Everall's description that the occurrence represents a leaching of hydrated oxide of iron, the original source being the usual small amounts of iron oxides contained in dolerite rocks and to a less extent in sandstone. These rocks in Tasmania are younger than those in which primary metallic minerals were deposited and the likelihood of an appreciable deposit of iron ore in this district is extremely remote.

Mr. Everall worked at the Catamaran Coal Mine for several years but has little knowledge of metallic minerals. He is a badly crippled pensioner and cannot walk unaided but he would be prepared to go with an Officer from this Department by car to the nearest road point and from there indicate the locations. He stated that if the deposits proved of value he would appreciate a monetary reward from the Government.

  
GEOLOGIST.

The Director of Mines,  
Department of Mines,  
HOBART.