

NOTES ON THE NORTH - EAST MINES

UR 1957/13-14

D O F M	S & A	C G	CC & M	13 & E
RECEIVED				25 JAN 1957
ANSWERED				
DEPT. OF M. & L.				
REF. No. opened up				
REGISTRAR				
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ABERFOYLE TIN - WOLFRAM MINE

The veins were discovered in 1916 by prospectors in 1926 by pitting and costeening. The Company took over and began production in 1933.

STOREYS CREEK TIN - WOLFRAM MINE

Discovery was made in the eighties, the veins being worked for tin until 1900 when a market was found for wolfram. Small parties of miners carried on until 1913 followed by a syndicate until 1928. The latter's operations then became unprofitable but tributers were successful. The present Company took over in 1937, and has now reached the stage of building a new and up-to-date mill capable of treating 120 tons per day. Total production to 1955 has been 1390 tons of metallic tin.

SCAMANDER - ST HELENS

The Scamander field is one of considerable diversity, mining of gold, silver, copper, tin and wolfram having occurred in the early part of this century. However, no economic deposits have been discovered, and prospecting of wolfram lodes only continues to-day.

The St Helens tin fields have been worked in a small way since the latter part of the 19th century.

RINGAROOMA VALLEY

The district was originally opened up in the sixties from the port of Bridport for agriculture, particularly on the rich soils of the basalt which covers the deep tin leads. Mining began later. Specimens of cassiterite were found before 1870 but not followed up. Sporadic discoveries were made until 1874 but the next 2 years produced a rush of miners at Winiford River, Blue Tier, Weldborough, Cascade River, Moorina, Derby, Branzholm, Mt. Cameron, etc.

The fluctuating price of tin caused periods of activity and idleness and the rich shallow alluvials were gradually worked out.

Deep lead mining required larger resources and was undertaken by companies such as Arba, Pioneer and Briseis, and only one of which (Arba) is still being worked. The Briseis at Derby was abandoned after the great flood of 1929 (in which 14 lives were lost) by which time the overburden had become excessive. This Company continued working shallow ground and has produced 6,337 tons of tin to 31.12.1955.

worked from 1936 by Briseis (consolidated) Co. before abandonment

temporarily

The advent of mining brought more and better roads and the railway to the district, and greatly assisted the development of other pursuits.

THE LOWER RINGAROOMA

In 1906 the Dorset Bucket Dredging Company (later the South Mount Cameron Tin Dredging Company) was formed to work the Dorset Flats on the Ringarooma River,

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and operated until 1912. The Ringarooma Bucket Bredging Company operated in the same area during 1907-10. No further developments occurred until 1943 when the Department of Supply and Shipping took up the ground and erected the present dredge, which is still in satisfactory operation, having produced 1143 tons of tin at the end of 1955.

The Endurance Company was formed in 1922 to acquire the holdings of the Syndicate of the same name. In 1933 it absorbed the Pioneer Mine, and continues in operation today.

P. M. Johnston

Recently the Rio Tinto Company have joined in search for minerals on the West Coast and have