

"BURIED TREASURE" - BROADCAST STATEMENT

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In the past, the prospector with his pick, shovel and panning dish have been responsible for most of the mineral finds; and he still plays a large part in new discoveries. The modern representative still has the same courage, love of adventure and determination, but in modern times he has added a geiger counter and other scientific aids to his pack.

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In the last year or two the methodical prospecting by individuals or small parties of prospectors has been responsible for the discovery of Uranium in Tasmania.

Mr. Pitulej who was rewarded for the first find of Uranium in Tasmania, has also discovered deposits of pyrites (which is a source of Sulphur for sulphuric acid) at Branch Creek, and he has now discovered a nickel bearing deposit near the old Gold Mining Centre of Beaconsfield.

Other prospectors have also discovered a number of deposits of the valuable minerals of Rutile, Zircon and Ilmenite in the beach sands on the Northern and Western beaches of the State. A large deposit containing the mineral chromite has also been discovered in the north western part of the State.

The larger mining companies operating in the State also maintain a prospecting branch in their organization. These companies are continuously seeking extensions to their known orebodies and in addition are searching the surrounding country for new orebodies.

The Mount Lyell Company and the E.Z. Company at Rosebery have added many years of life to their activities by their prospecting programmes.

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

joined forces with Mt. Lyell Company and E.Z. Company to conduct the largest and most intensive search for new mineral deposits ever made in this country. The use of aircraft and helicopter carrying highly specialised ore finding equipment has been introduced on a large scale, and this will be followed by rigorous prospecting programmes by ground parties who will investigate the areas indicated as potential mineral deposits by the airborne instruments.

The deposits located will then be explored and diamond drill used to locate and determine the grade of the mineral deposits discovered.

During the last two years the Bureau of Mineral Resources at the request of the Tasmanian Department of Mines have conducted a large scale search for Uranium bearing minerals with an airborne scintillometer, in an effort to define the parts of the State that are likely to be Uranium-bearing. The maps prepared as a result of this work have led to a renewed activity in certain areas, and have led to further discovery of uranium bearing material. This aerial survey is in progress at the moment and will continue for some time to come.

As a result of the interest in the Iron ores of this State portion of the West and North West Coast of the State were surveyed by an aircraft carrying magnetometer equipment capable of locating deposits of iron ore. The results of this survey have shown that large deposits of iron ore exist in these parts of Tasmania and ground parties are now preparing to examine the deposits in greater detail.

It is felt that these iron ore deposits could play a vital part in the future of Tasmania.

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The recent discoveries of new fields together with the proven extensions to known orebodies and the large scale exploration programme in progress at the moment augers well for the future of the mining industry in Tasmania.