

1 copy only

1957/55-56 copy handed to Mr Reid by Mr Hughes

ANNUAL REPORT OF SENIOR GEOLOGIST FOR 1956.

B8FM	SAA	G-6	CC&M	ACIN
RECEIVED				REGISTR
ANSWERED				E & IL
8 APR 1957				
DEPT. OF MINES				
REF. NO.				

Interest continued in the search for uranium minerals during 1956 and several visits were paid to various prospects. Adverse reports were prepared on prospects in the Heemskirk area and at the old Republic Mine near Avoca. During the year, a company, the Tasmanian United Uranium Co., was formed to investigate the uranium occurrence at Chwalczyk's Prospect. Several visits were paid to this area and a report prepared. In February, two visiting geologists from the British Atomic Energy Commission, Mrssrs. Ostle and Taylor, were escorted round the various uranium prospects on the north-eastern and western parts of the State. A technique for the identification of uranium in ground water by geochemical means, developed by Mr. Ostle, was investigated and several water samples were later collected and sent to Canberra. Later, the Mines Department Laboratory in Launceston was equipped to carry out this investigation and further samples were collected for testing there.

The two most interesting developments in the search for uranium in Tasmania during 1956 were the identification of pitchblende at Chwalczyk's Prospect and the discovery of uranium minerals in black carbonaceous shale of Permian age at Castle Carey Creek near Avoca.

In July a visit was paid in company with the Director of Mines to uranium and other mining fields in the Northern Territory and Northern Queensland and much valuable information gained in respect to uranium occurrences.

Several visits were paid to both the Langloh and Stanhope Collieries and advice given in connection with a boring campaign being carried out at both places. Further visits were also made to Mt. Lloyd in connection with the coal deposits there.

An alluvial chromite deposit at the Montagu Swamp and a nickel-bearing serpentine area near Beaconsfield were reported on.

Underground water possibilities were investigated at Hamilton, Bruny Island, Hollow Tree, Penguin, Triabunna, Devonport, Seven Mile Beach and Snug.

Geological investigations were carried out for other Departments and municipal councils. Information on geological conditions affecting dam sites was given to the Devonport and Glenorchy Councils. Bridge and road sites were reported on for the Public Works Department and a gravel quarry inspected for the Transport Commission. A report was prepared on a landslide over the Bass Highway at Penguin.

Liason has continued with officers of the Bureau of Mineral Resources. In April and May, flights were made in the Bureau's DC3, MIN, over iron-bearing areas in the west and north-west of the State. Later some of the anomalies picked up on these flights were examined on the ground. A visit was also paid to the track-cutting gang at the Rio Tinto iron deposits. Observations were made of Seismic Geophysical Prospecting by the Bureau at the Endurance Mine area.

Several visits were paid to Waratah to arrange various tin tributes there.

2.

A flight in A.N.A.'s helicopter was made to Port Davey and neighbouring districts.

Symposia conducted by the Geology Department of the University of Tasmania were attended at Hobart and Queenstown.

Visits were paid to Mines Department diamond drills operating at Mathinna and Dundas.

In the last quarter of the year, most time was spent in the preparation of the publication "Limestone in Tasmania" Mineral Resources No.10, which by the end of the year was in the hands of the Government Printer. Although this volume is largely a compilation, much writing, re-writing and editing had to be done as well as a small amount of field investigation.

Lawrence D. Hughes

(SENIOR GEOLOGIST)