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HGWK/2 12th April, 1957

MEMORANDUM

Beaconsfield Nickeliferous Serpentine
Ben Lomond Mining Co. Ltd.

In September, 1956, the nickeliferous serpentine of the Anderson's Creek area near Beaconsfield was examined by the Senior Geologist, Mr. T.D. Hughes, at the request of Mr. Pitulej of the Ben Lomond Mining Co. Ltd.

Mr. Hughes reports:

"Although some nickel had been reported in the iron ore and pig iron analyses, its presence in anything like commercial quantities in the serpentine was not considered until within the last year, Mr. W. Pitulej and his associates have been actively prospecting. They have put in two trenches and taken numerous samples and have reached the conclusion that nickel in commercial quantities may exist in the serpentine in the southern portion of its outcrop. Consequently a brief visit was paid to the area on June 20th and 21st last and samples taken from the trenches and some outcrops."

The results of this sampling show that only low grade ore has been revealed by prospecting for of all the representative samples taken the highest grade was one of 0.65 per cent nickel. A specially selected sample of high grade ore showed only 6.70% nickel.

Mr. Hughes concludes:

"The results of the sampling are sufficiently encouraging to warrant further development, but at present, of a minor nature only. I would suggest a series of shallow bores at very flat angles drilled in a continuous line in a south westerly direction starting from the eastern boundary of the serpentine north of No. 1 trench."

A mineragraphic investigation was carried out for the C.S.I.R.O. by G. Baker (Senior Research Officer) and A.B. Edwards (Officer in Charge). The first specimens investigated were supplied by Enterprise Exploration Ltd. and received by them from Ben Lomond Mining Co. Subsequently the collection was augmented by a series of specimens collected during a short visit to the area.

This report states:

"The nickel mineral is a hydrous silicate that occurs along joint planes and slickensided surfaces in the serpentinite, and as such, is concentrated in patches."

The Director of Mines, Hobart.

Its mode of occurrence would therefore preclude any possibility of large high grade deposits of ore, but the boring of Mr. Hughes' conclusions could prove any low grade deposit which may exist.

(H.G.W. Keid)
CHIEF GEOLOGIST

The Director of Mines,
HOBART.