

UR 1957/192

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25th September, 1957

MEMORANDUMMineral Sands - I.J. Johnston, Wynyard

Returning from Smithton on 18th September, I called on Mr. Johnston to test his occurrence of mineral sands. I had previously visited his place and after a preliminary inspection with his son, advised him by 'phone to make certain tests. These were carried out by Mr. Johnston and he advised us of his results.

On my second visit, I met Mr. Johnston and discussed his find with him. In the bed of a deep and narrow gully he had obtained the sample previously forwarded to the laboratory and which showed rutile, ilmenite, garnet and some tin. We visited the spot in the gully where his best grade of ore had been won and prospects were washed, and, although Mr. Johnston assured me that what I recovered by panning was much better than his own, sampling, the result was disappointing in the extreme.

Mr. Johnston's prospecting originated from his desire to find gold, a little of which has occasionally been won from this locality. He found no gold but was curious to know what the black minerals were, hence the sample to Launceston.

He was advised that the grade of wash was far too low to be regarded as economic.



(H.G.W. Keid)
CHIEF GEOLOGIST

The Director of Mines,
HOBART.