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29th November, 1957

MEMORANDUMROAD MATERIALS - ESPERANCE RIVER

Following a request from the Forestry Commission for advice on the possible location of suitable surfacing material along the route of a road under construction up the Esperance River Valley, an examination was made on 28th November together with the Works Supervisor.

The rocks in the proximity of the road from Huon Highway to the present end of construction consist of:-

- (1) Mudstones and siltstones for the first half mile. These weather rapidly to clay and fine sand and are unsuitable for road material
- (2) Dolerite (bluestone) follows for the next $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles. This is the best material occurring near the road both as a foundation and for surfacing. Owing to the hard nature of this rock a crushing plant would be necessary to break the stone into the required size for surfacing material. In places along this section concentrations of small boulders occur which appear to be of suitable size for foundation work.
- (3) Sandstones and Shales. These rocks occur over the greater part of the remainder of the route. They weather rapidly to sand and clay and are poor material for road construction.
- (4) Mudstones. These are situated in the lower part of the valley immediately east of the first crossing over Esperance River. They are exposed in low quarries from which material is now being used for foundations in the road construction. They are soft rocks which soon weather to clay and are unsuited for road surfacing. For the same reason they are not good foundation stone and will break down under heavy transport conditions.

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- (5) Dolerite boulders and gravel. This deposit is exposed in a high road cutting about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles past the first crossing of the Esperance River. It consists of dolerite boulders and weathered material overlying sandstones. It is possible that this material may be suitable for surfacing and it is recommended that a trial of the material over a short length of road be undertaken.

SUMMARY

With the exception of dolerite which would require crushing for use, rocks suitable for road construction are not present in large quantities along the route of this road.


(F. Blake)
GEOLOGIST

The Director of Mines,
HOBART