

DRILLING AT MT. LLOYD

Up to this time, the Australian Newsprint Mills have drilled two holes in the Triassic Coal Measures at Mt. Lloyd. It was originally intended to drill one hole in this particular location to a depth of 600 feet, or to the estimated base of the Coal Measures. Drilling difficulties at 320 feet, however caused the abandonment of this hole and another was commenced 500 feet to the north west and 270 feet lower in elevation. The depth of this bore at present is 200' plus.

The question now asked is, should drilling be continued or, for the time being at any rate, abandoned?

In the first place I consider that drilling in this area was entirely justified and although no seam was exposed that suggested a profitable exploitation by the Company, the widest (3'2") is close to an economic proposition and could quite easily have turned out to be one.

However, I consider that this area has been sufficiently tested and no further drilling should be undertaken at present.

Although the information gained is not in one complete bore (but in two (500 feet apart), the apparent absence of faulting and the correlation of strata in the bottom of the 1st and near the top of the 2nd, makes the combined logs of the two holes the equivalent of one log. These strata of between four and five hundred feet in width belonging to the Triassic Coal Measures have been tested by boring.

Further boring may be undertaken to determine:-

1. If the seams already located increase in width naturally.
2. If there are any worthwhile seams in the coal measures above those tested by drilling.
3. If there are any worthwhile seams in the coal measures below those tested by drilling.

My opinion on these points is:-

1. It is not likely that in the area investigated the width of the seams will appreciably alter.
2. Two seams have already been revealed by surface prospecting in the measures above those bored, but these seams are too narrow to be profitably mined. About one hundred feet of coal measures probably exist above these and below the base of the dolerite sill which forms Mt. Lloyd itself. However, most of these strata have been eroded away, except below the dolerite itself and even if a wider seam existed in these rocks it could not be profitably mined because of the immense amount of talus which would have to be first penetrated.

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3. About one hundred feet of the coal measures exist below those bored and above the top of the barren Ross sandstones. It is not recommended that the bore continue through to these latter because in the last three hundred feet of drilling little or no carbonaceous matter has been encountered indicating that the environment was not suitable for the accumulation of vegetation in swamps. Further, no surface indications show any coal seams below those intersected in the bores.

Surface prospecting in the coal measures to the east and west of the area in question may reveal more favourable seams which could then be further examined by boring.

It should be noted that this is not a geological report on the results of drilling at Mt. Lloyd. This will follow in due course.

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