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COAL AT MEADSTONE

When the Coal Measures of Tasmania were mapped in 1922 for the publication "The Coal Resources of Tasmania", an area between Lewis Hill and Dalmayne in the Eastern part of the State, was not included in this mapping. This area contains numerous occurrences of the Coal Measures Series, that is the Felspathic Sandstone Series, and seams of outcropping coal had been reported, principally in the vicinity of "Meadstone". In December of last year a commencement was made in mapping this area. This investigation is not yet complete but an examination of the outcrops on Mr. C.C. McShane's property "Meadstone" was sufficiently complete to write a preliminary report.

In order to assess the possibilities and recommend future development of an outcropping coal seam, it is first necessary to consider three factors, namely:-

Accessibility.
Width of Seam.
Quality of Coal.

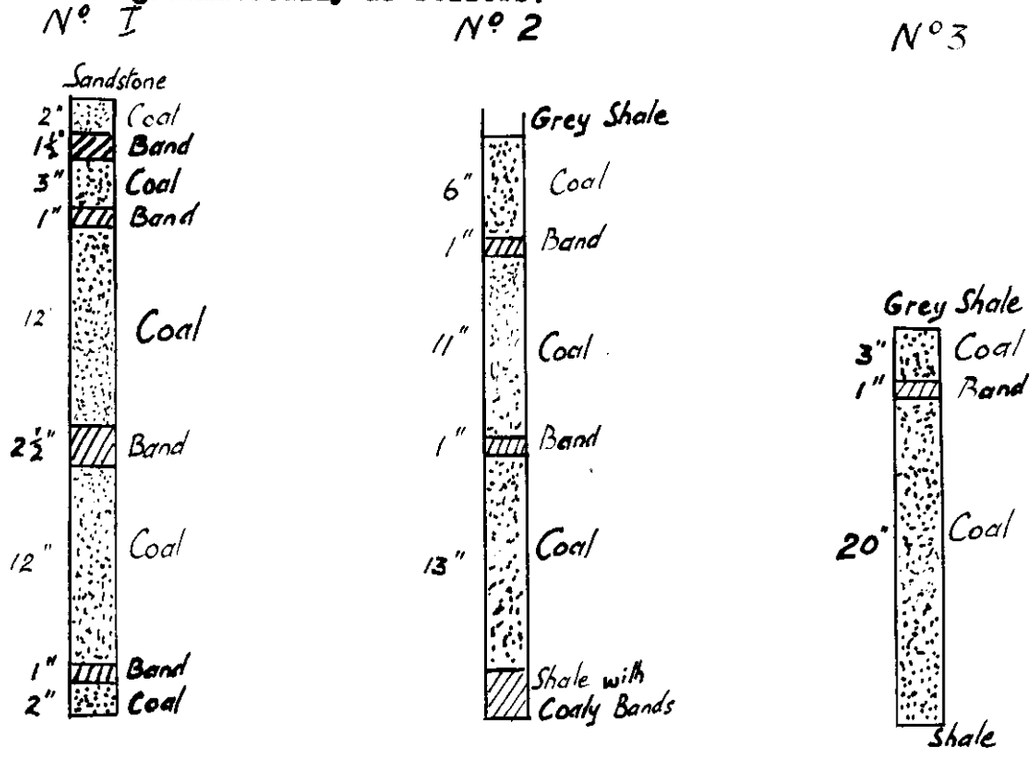
Accessibility.

Although the name of the property, in which the coal outcrops, is "Meadstone", it is marked on the Land Chart (Glamorgan 2C) as "Nowhere Else", an appellation which conveys something of the remoteness of the place.

From Avoca, the nearest railway town, Meadstone may be reached by following the old Swansea Road (passing through the village of Royal George at eleven miles) for seventeen miles, where a turn off to the left follows a rather rough road a further six miles. At the end of this road is Meadstone Homestead, and the coal outcrops - three in number - occur within a radius of three miles from here.

Width of Seams.

The width of the three outcrops measured are shown diagrammatically as follows:-



It will be seen that I and II correspond fairly closely - moreover they are approximately at the same level. No. III is a lower seam, occurring perhaps 200 feet below I and II. No correspondence to other known seams has been worked out but it can be seen that the effective width of Coal is only 2' 6" (including two bands) in the first case and 2' in the second.

Quality of Coal.

A channel sample, about six inches in from the outcrop was taken across each seam. The bands were not included in these samples which gave the following results:-

(251)

	I %	II %	III %
Moisture at 105°C	6.1	9.1	13.1
Volatile Combustible Matter	26.7	25.4	25.0
Fixed Carbon	27.9	33.4	23.9
Ash	39.3	32.1	38.0

Even if the ash content were to diminish by 20% in the hard coal, away from the outcrop, it would still be very high.

Conclusions.

In considering the three factors mentioned above, it can be seen that not one is really favourable. In order to recommend any future developmental work in proving a deposit, it is necessary that at least two of these factors should be favourable. These three seams, therefore, of narrow width, high ash content, and situated far from markets or railhead, can not be recommended for future development.

This does not mean that good seams may not be found on this property. A thickness of four hundred feet of the Sandstone Series occurs above the higher outcropping seam and it is quite possible that richer seams may occur in this.

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GEOLOGIST.

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