

48

IRON ORE DEPOSITS OF TASMANIA.

URMISC3/48-50

1. Location and Access

(a) Blythe River:- Situated on both banks of Blythe River, about 5 miles inland (south) from its mouth, and some 7 miles south-south-east from the port of Burnie. The present means of access is by motor road from Burnie (11 miles) to within short distance of the deposits and thence by foot track.

The Government railway line to Burnie passes 5 miles to the north of the deposits at 4½ miles east of Burnie.

(b) Penguin and Dial Range:- Situated 3 and 6 miles respectively to south of Penguin, on north-west coast. Accessible by means of road from Penguin. From Penguin to Burnie (nearest port) the distance is 10 miles by road or railway.

(c) Beaconsfield:- Situated 3 miles west of Beaconsfield (Tamar River on North Coast). Access to within 2 miles of deposits by means of road for 3 miles from Beaconsfield, and 6 miles Beauty Point seaport.

(d) Long Plains:- Iron ore belt 25 miles in length in which numerous large disconnected bodies of magnetite occur. The area lies midway between Waratah (north-west of State) which is connected by rail and road with the seaport Burnie, and the port (unused at present of Corinna on the Pieman River + 11 miles from mouth. The present access is from Burnie by rail or road to Waratah, thence by road for 21 miles and by pack track for 5 to 10 miles.

The more natural outlet for the district is through Corinna. The Waratah - Corinna road (41 miles) is now nearing completion.

(e) Zeehan:- The deposits occur about 5 miles west of Zeehan, in the west coast district. The main road from Zeehan to Trial Harbour passes on the south side within a mile of the iron ore field. The latter is also accessible by means of Zeehan Comstock tramway, the terminus of which is a little over a mile east of the deposits, Zeehan is connected by railway with the seaports of Strahan (29½ mile and Burnie (88 Miles)

(f) Nelson River:- Occurs 6 miles north-east of Whale's Head, Boat Harbour on Nelson Riv. (West Coast). This harbour is accessible for small boats in suitable weather. There is no provision for land transport to the deposit but no difficulties would prevent ore from being carried by rail to the harbour.

(g) Hampshire Hills:- These deposits lie 4½ miles south-east of Hampshire Siding, in the north-west of the State, the latter being nearly 20 miles south of Burnie (seaport) on the railway line to Strahan. A road from the siding terminates at one mile and three quarters to north-west of the ore bodies. The ~~deposits~~ by railway route, are 6 miles from Hampshire, and the intervening country presents no serious obstacle to railway extension

Particulars of Ore Reserves in Long Tons

Locality	Proved Reserves	Probable Reserves	Possible Reserves
Blythe River	Undetermined	7,000,000	11,000,000
Penguin and Dial Range	"	considerable	700,000

2. Particulars of Ore Reserve in Long Tons (cont.)

Locality	Proved Reserves	Probable Reserves	Possible Reserves
Beaconsfield	Undetermined	15,500,000	20,000,000
Long Plains	"	900,000	22,500,000
Zeehan	"	very considerable	3,700,000
Nelson River	"	Considerable	1,000,000
Hampshire Hills	"	considerable	1,000,000

3. Composition of Ore.

	Blythe River	Penguin & Dial Range	Beaconsfield	Long Plains	Long Plains	Zeehan	Nelson River	Hampshire Hills
Metallic iron	63.49	42.56 - 69	39.81	67.23	58.79	66.80		67.48
SiO ₂	7.54	0.4 - 30.9	14.72	0.91	12.51	1.29		1.62
Al ₂ O ₃	1.19		11.63		3.83	Trace		2.40
CaO	0.12							0.11
MgO	Trace		0.78		Trace			0.32
S	0.039	Trace - .15	0.103	0.045		0.19		Trace
P	0.044	Trace - .08	0.003	Trace	Trace	Trace		Trace
C	Trace							
As	Trace							
TiO ₂	Trace		0.20	Trace	Trace	Nil		Trace
Mn	Trace		0.16					0.60
H ₂ O	0.577		8.90					
Cr			4.22					
NiO			0.06					
FeS ₂					1.118			

REMARKS.

Blythe River:- Average of better class ore.

Beaconsfield:- Average of 21 assays.

Long Plains:- Average of 17 assays from Northern Area.

Long Plains:- Average of 7 assays from Southern Area.

Zeehan:- Average of 4 assays.

Nelson River:- No data.

Hampshire Hills:- Average of 5 assays.

4. Present Production:- No iron ores are being produced at present in Tasmania

(50)

2. Further details are contained in Mineral Resources No. 6, The Iron Ore Deposits of Tasmania. Copies of this publication are filed among other places in the Melbourne Public Library and the library of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, Melbourne.

Blake

ACTING GOVERNMENT GEOLOGIST.

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