

MINING SECTIONS OF THE  
 "X" PROPRIETARY SYNDICATE, HOBART.

The numbers and areas of the sections held under lease by the above Syndicate are as follows:-

No. ~~5004/M, 80 acres~~

No. 5004/M, 80 acres; 5003/M 80 acres; 4974/M 66 acres; 5014/M, 89 acres; 5013/M, 36 acres; and 4975/M, 80 acres; the total area being 381 acres.

These sections are intersected by the E "X" rivulet, a tributary of the Pieman River, and are situated close to the Beau Bay C o. railway, distant about 14 miles from the well known mining centre, Mehan. The "X" is a stream capable of supplying ample water for all pressing purposes even in the driest summer. Water rights are secured for nearly its full supply.

A brief study of the district plans, and the map forwarded will show the location of the field, and the positions of the chief mines. It will be seen that the streams flowing into the larger river, the Pieman, have a general direction of flow, running somewhat to the West of North. The mineral bearing formations have the same general trend, and discoveries of tin come right through from the great Mt. Bischoff mine, a little over 20 miles distant in the same geographical line, shown by the discoveries at Stanley field, and Mount Lindsay. As the map shows the "X" field is situated about S.E. of the Bischoff mine in this direct line.

The ridge forming on the one side the water-shed of the "X" and on the other that of the Colebrook rivulet seems to be a large tin lode system. The parallel range of hills on the Eastern side of the "X" also gives evidences of the existence of rich lode formations. Splendid large nuggets of tin ore similar to those found in the early days at Mt. Bischoff have been taken from the creeks on each watershed. The lode discoveries so far however are on the Western side of the "X", and they exceed in richness anything yet found in Tasmania in the shape of tin deposits in a well defined formation. The report of Mr. Bakhap, M.H.A. a thoroughly qualified expert in tin mining, with 25 to 30 years of Tasmanian experience, describes the character

188  
(2)

of the deposits, and the evidence of their richness. The country rock is a kindly slate similar to the Cornish "killas", and the tin is found with quartz and fluoer spar in veins of from a half an inch to <sup>a foot</sup> nearly in thickness of high grade ore. There is a little pyrites in places, and this is often found to be rich in tin contents. The water courses down the sides of the ridge all carry tin and are now being profitably for alluvial. They furnish ample evidences of the existence of numerous lodes or rich veins by the nuggetty "wash" and boulders of tin stone of the same character as the lodes already uncovered. Considerably over a half mile of the ridge passing through the sections has been tested, and although in places the percentage is low tin is found over the whole distance. Mr. Baknaps report gives the results of bulk tests made by him, but since it was written the new ore body which he pointed out to be opened up has been trenched through and has disclosed seams of almost solid cassiterite. A further and even more critical examination has since been made with the result that an independent expert recommended the property in high terms. A signed copy of Mr. Baknaps report is supplied herewith for the information of your clients.

The situation of the property is a particularly favourable one in every way. The sections are, as will be seen by district plan, within a short distance of a railway. The Tasmanian Government has surveyed a tramway to tap these and other properties, and an excellent grade has been obtained, a distance of about a mile and a half connecting the very centre of the "X" blocks with a railway siding. Mining can be carried on for many years by adits, the conformation of the ridge being very suitable for reaching the lode systems by short tunnels, <sup>for cheap and easy mining</sup> making available about 230 feet of depth of the ridge and furnishing level areas at the foot for machinery sites.

Notwithstanding the very high metal values of the veins referred to the syndicate holding this property, among whom is the Hon<sup>ble</sup> Ed E Mulcahy, a former Minister of Mines of Tasmania, regard it as rather a low than a high grade proposition. There is a very large area of tin bearing country, and the probabilities are that the enrichments referred to, will make the enterprise one thoroughly worthy of large

capitalization. There is an ample area, a great deal of it unprospected yet, owing to the densely timbered nature of the country, but in almost every instance where tried showing either payable tin, or evidences of the near vicinity of rich veins. The timber which is at present a drawback, and which has made prospecting and even superficial examination very costly, will when mining operations are in progress be of great value both as fuel and for mining purposes.

All the developements up to the present are in favour of a really large scheme. With cheap power, ample crushing and dressing plant and the very best of modern saving appliances there are great possibilities. The mine should be a certainty from the start as a sound and payable investment, while with the rich occurrences proved to exist there are probabilities of very large profits indeed. As showing what can be made with very low grade tin carrying material when it is worked economically and as indicated above, the last return of the Bischoff Mine is forwarded. (See Mt. B. Co's last half year's report). The yield of tin ore from 113,441 tons of dirt mined was 550 tons. This ore yielded 67% of tin. Compared with the whole bulk this works out at a recovery of 10.86 lbs of ore per ton which is equal to 0.325% of metal. On these results the Company made a profit in the half year of £43,376. Some portion of this large sum has to be credited to the smelting operations of the Co. but the fact remains that rightly handled a splendid return was made from very low grade material. The market value of the Bischoff at this time is over ~~£~~ £600,000. The district referred to in this memo offers promise of equally successful working.

On behalf of the "X" River Syndicate.