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TWILIGHT GOLD REEF
by
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Twilight Gold Reef, Marshona
by
F.M. Clark 22/2/15.
2 copies.

It is about 28 years ago that the Twilight Gold reef was discovered and worked by a Launceston Company and a few years after taken over by an English Syndicate. The previous Company worked it to a depth of 160 ft and the latter to 300 or thereabouts, -(see plan of working which you have).

The reef was discovered outcropping in two places about 180 ft apart, and two surface winze were sunk upon the reef until 25 tons of stone was won from each, the same being carted to the Mathinna battery of which I was in charge. The result of the 50 tons gave a return of 1 oz 8 dwts per ton of retorted gold from boxes and plates only. A main shaft was then sunk just to the West of the Northern winze and a battery erected on the mine. A few about 2 thousand tons were crushed from the different levels, but the quantity is not obtainable, although Mr Stackhouse the legal Manager informed me at the last cleanup that the quartz had averaged upon 14 dwts per ton without any concentrated. Other small crushings by tributors and the English Co. ranged from $\frac{1}{2}$ oz to $2\frac{1}{2}$ ozs so I have been informed.

In the early days of discovery it was thought that the reef course was direct from the No 1 or North winze to the No 2 South but when pushing the levels South from the main crosscut the reef was found to give out in the faces, consequently as far as I can ascertain, no drive at any level has reached vertically below the No 2 surface winze, although ^{a short drive} was taken in off main drive to cut the East reef (as it is termed) and proved the reef small and poor after driving back North 12 ft, this was at the No 1 level 62 ft and distance about 80 South of Main shaft. Mr Dudgeon who was working on the mine states that the junction of these two reefs were discovered the day they were lifting the rails finally to closing down, this occurred at the deepest level, and he states in his letter to me, that both were showing gold, but the Co would not do anything more.

The work that I have carried out the last two years consisted in tracing the reef back North along the surface from the No 2 winze South by sinking holes upon the reef for a distance of about

100 ft and about 25 ft apart, in every instance the results have been satisfactory for this length as regards gold contents, both in the stone and rubble, but the reef is rather erratic and inclined to be small along the surface, from 18 ins in width down to as low as 4 ins., the deepest hole sunk is 9 ft and the stone when puddled and dished from this was averaging nearly one grain per shovel.

As the country is wet this was the deepest obtained as it was constant bailing, the ground being very open and soft. This shaft has since fallen in. The gold along this line for the most part is fine and much associated with iron, and the same line continues some hundreds of feet still further South of the No 2 winze from which gold can be obtained and the reef is a true fissure. If as Dudgeon states this reef is distinct from the Twilight reef near Main shaft, but junctions with it, and that it has been prospected both at the No 1 and No 4 level, how came the Company to leave highly payable stone along the surface for 100 ft in length, particularly as the Miners, tributors etc were all very shrewd men including the Goodalls and yet at the same time the two winzes were considered to be on the one line by the same people. Much caution is always considered necessary when considering an abandoned deep mine unless you are able to inspect the lower levels, which cannot be done at the Twilight until the shaft is repaired near the surface and a plant erected, or else to test the line on the surface by trying to sink 60 ft with three shifts, and then it is a question owing to the water if it could be carried out.

As it is stated that payable gold is still at the deep level in the Twilight or Northern portion, why should not this gold be down on the same level on this long portion which gives equally as good or even better results than the other.

Then again I have since discovered a new line of reef carrying a little gold a short distance East of this reef, and its bearing is North to the Twilight main shaft, the one place I sunk down 6 ft I obtained $3\frac{1}{2}$ dwts by washing the rubble only, the gold being extremely coarse but patchy.

About £600 would repair the shaft and erect a small winch to take the water from the No 1 level (62 ft) and if the reef was

found payable after driving crosscut, allowing this has not been already done, then there should be a long life for this mine, the other plan is to sink upon the reef from the surface if possible.

The country that this fissure lives down in is exceptionally easy and cheap for working, the best on Mathinna field, there is also splendid timber on level country and good roads from Fingal and Mangana, and in ordinary seasons a fair supply of water.

I may state that the general opinion of miners throughout the district has always been favourable to this property.

(sd) F. M. Clark,
Prospector.