

27/4/50.

W. HART'S COMMENTS ON THE GEOLOGICAL QUEST AT ABERFOYLE MINE:

My thanks are due to the able work done on the Geology of Aberfoyle and the interpretation of the results with the problems of Aberfoyle Mine and district.

The objects in having Mr. Conolly carry out this quest were first to obtain a true picture of the possible downward continuation of the Aberfoyle vein system. Secondly to ascertain what chances there were of a remake of payable ore either in a northerly or Southerly direction.

With regard to the first, we have now got a Mine prospected to No. 10 Level as far as the vein system is concerned, but values have still to be proved. To date we have the impression that No. 5 Level is the poorest zone in the Mine. No. 7 is opening up as well as No. 6 Level, or No. 4 Level, although it is early yet as only 150 feet of driving has been completed.

The veins do extend to the south, but I am doubtful whether they are large or rich enough to be economic. When more manpower is available we must sink the locality and carry out bulk tests. To the North boring is being carried out at the Spartan leases, but towards Storey's Creek the boring results indicate no continuation of the S.C. lodes with those of our Mine.

To work Aberfoyle Mine to No. 10 Level, the shaft is in the right place, and the prospects very satisfactory. The programme calls for the next two years driving along the veins at No. 7 and 8 Levels, especially the latter on the western vein system, then drilling from the Western vein system on No. 8 Level to prove as far as No. 10, sinking the shaft to No. 10 in 1953 and crosscutting in 1954. Should manpower be available this programme will be speeded up by at least 12 months.

From the geology of No. 8 Level and the values coupled with the boring to No. 10 Level, I expect to obtain a far more satisfactory picture of below No. 10 Level, than has been obtained to date, and would then decide on the need for another shaft, & the best locality for serving the Mine at depth.

While the flattening on the orebody is a nuisance in mining, it must be remembered that a vein at 35° has double the ore reserves to one at 65° for the same width of vein.

I am at a loss to know why the proposal to sell our prospects below No. 10 Level for a £10,000 share in a drilling Company and I am very opposed to same; if successful this Company would have to repurchase the prospect, and it would, in my opinion,

lead to censure against ^m me as consultant if I advised in favour of the project. There are either six figures profit below No. 10 or none at all, and the odds are on the former. I think the other prospects should stand on their own merit and receive more consideration. They are a wild bet, I think Mr. Conolly told me a 15 to 1 chance against any of them being economic, making a 5 to 1 bet on the field.

Before a prospecting company is formed, there is a lot of field work to be done, and I agree with Mr. Conolly on this point; that intensive geological survey with a fair amount of labour in trenching, especially at Egan's and Biddelph's.

It must be remembered that Aberfoyle Mine has been much richer in the centre than at the extremities, and our dividends have come from probably less than 25% of the ore mined, the balance being just payable after paying its share of overhead.

The worst feature in the boring of the tin veins has been the inability to estimate values. Poor cores are obtained from veins and in view of the segregation of the metal contents, the estimate of values is impossible.

I think that prospect boring has to be done by Government Grant either part or whole, they share in our profits even to taking the major portion at present without providing any capital and until the Fed. Govt. offer better prospects for mining speculation, I am against investing my own or putting my name to the recommendation.

With the inflationary tendency in Australia, our costs have risen rapidly and we see no prospect of a drop in these costs, but the world picture gives us an impression that metal prices have passed their peak. Our only method of reducing costs to meet the drop is by getting more manpower and increasing the throughput to say 800 tons per week (an object we have been striving for the last two years). Consequently all our energies should be using any available labour in our present mine. There is no return to Shareholders with two mines working at half speed, and we do not want at the present time any additional mines on the field.

W. Hart's comments on the Geological Quest

My thanks are due to the able work done on the Geology of Aberfoyle and the interpretation of the results with the problems of Aberfoyle mine and district.

The objects in having Mr. Connolly carry out these quest were first, to obtain a true picture of the possible ^{downward} continuation of the Aberfoyle vein system. Secondly to ascertain what chances there were of a renewal of payable ore either in a northerly or southerly direction.

With regard to the first we have now got a mine prospect to No 10 Level as far as the vein system is concerned but values have still to be proved. To date we have the impression that No 5 level is the poorest zone in the mine. No 7 is opening up as well as No 6 level, or No 4 level although it is early yet at only 150 feet of driving has been completed.

The veins do extend to the south but I am doubtful whether they are large or rich enough to be economic. When more manpower is available we must sink on the locality and carry out bulk tests to the north boring is being carried out at the Spartan lease, but towards Storey's Creek the boring results indicate no continuation of the S.C. beds with those of our mine.

To work Aberfoyle mine to No 10 Level, the shaft is in the right place, and the prospects very satisfactory. The programme calls for the next two years driving along the veins at No 7 & 8 Levels, especially the latter on the western vein system. Then drilling from the Western vein system on No 8 level to prove as far as No 10. Sinking the shaft to No 10 in 1953 & crosscutting

in 1954. Should manpower be available this program will be speeded up by at least 12 months.

From the geology of No 8 Level, and the values coupled with the boring to No 10 Level I expect to obtain a far more satisfactory picture of below No 10 Level, than has been obtained to date, and would then decide on the need for another shaft, and ~~its proper~~ ^{the best} locality for sinking the mine at depth.

While the flattening on the orebody is a nuisance in mining, it must be remembered that a vein at 35° has double the ore reserves to one at 65° for the same width of vein.

I am at a loss to know why the proposal to sell our prospects below No 10 Level for a \$10,000 share in a drilling company, and I am very opposed to same; if successful, this company would have to repurchase the prospect, and it would in my opinion had to ensure against me as consultant if I advised in favour of the project. There are either six figures profit below No 10 or none at all & the odds are on the former.

I think the other prospects should stand on their own merit, and receive more consideration. They are a wild bet. I think Mr. Connelly told me at 15 to 1 chance against any of them being economic making a 5 to 1 bet on the field.

Before a prospecting company is formed, there is a lot of field work to be done, and I agree with Mr. C. on this point. That a ^{mineralogical} geological survey with a fair amount of labour in trenching, especially at Logan's & Biddell's.

It must be remembered that Aberfoyle mine has been much richer in the centre than at the extremities, and our dividends have come from

probably less than 25% of the ore mined. The balance being just payable after paying its share of overhead.

The worst feature in the boning of the two veins has been the inability to estimate values. Poor cores are obtained from veins - and in view of the segregation of the metal contents, the estimate of values is impossible.

I think that prospect boning has to be done by Government. Grant either part or whole, they share in our profits even to taking the major portion at present, without providing any capital and until the Fed. Govt offers better prospects for mining speculation, I am against investing my own or putting my name to the recommendation.

With the inflationary tendency in Aust, our costs have risen rapidly, and we see no prospect of a drop in costs these costs, but the world picture gives us an impression that metal prices have passed their peak. Our only method of reducing costs to meet the drop, is by getting more manpower, and increasing the throughput to say 800 tons per week. (an object we have been striving for the last two years). Consequently all our energies should be with the using any available labour in our present mine. There is no return to shareholders with two mines working at half speed, and we do not want at the present time any additional mines on the field.