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by J. T. Stubs, 4-10-1934

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The Lefroy Deep Lead

This lead being covered with basalt still remains to be proved - Any attempt to do so hitherto has not been carried far enough and the present price of gold certainly warrants a thorough systematic endeavor to prove its value once for all.

It has been most favorably reported on by Govt Geologists, Messrs Thureau & Montgomery, and in consequence a fair amount of boring has been done (8 bores in all). These bores have all proved much wash at depths varying from 175' to 270' from present surface. In one case gold was reported from 6" - 10" gravelly wash at 263' from surface. These bores of course are useful in having proved the existence of large bodies of gravel wash, but to prove whether deeper ground still exists, further close boring must either be done or shaft-sinking & driving resorted to. The latter method would of course be the more expensive but by far the more definite.

As an incentive for adopting the latter method it is only necessary to give a few facts of the past history of the field generally and the actual work done hitherto towards proving the Deep Lead by the means of shafts & drives, intentional and accidental.

The field itself comprises a zone of country about 3 miles long by 1 mile wide bearing approx. N.W. and S.E. Running across this zone are no less than 26 Gold bearing reefs, all more or less exploited. From these 20 reefs ~~no less than~~ 10 distinct ^{rich} reefs have handsome dividends and the remainder have contributed many thousands of ounces of gold. Total dividends paid approx. £285,000. Gold won about £800,000. The first evidence of gold beneath the basaltic area (other than that obtained from bore) was got in driving a xcut at 170' from the Golden Era main shaft for the purpose of proving if any parallel veins existed. At 600' N. an alluvial gutter was quite unexpectedly met with, this was 60' wide in which several blind shafts were sunk and bed rock reached at 185' ft. from surface. Very irregular gravel wash mixed with large boulders of quartz & sandstone. Prospects from side of gutter gave coarse heavy gold of a very high quality. No driving along its course was done as ventilation was bad & water troublesome.

The East Pineapple G. M. Co. bottomed their main shaft at 236' after passing through much hard basalt. Bed rock was slate and the gravel wash carried a little gold. Shaft continued to 343 ft. Crosscut driven south 170 ft. Wash cut in xcut and this wash eventually dipped to bottom of xcut where the New Pineapple reef was also met with 8 ft wide & carrying gold. The wash where first tapped carried payable, and at the bottom highly payable prospects of gold. Samples giving as high as 3/4 dust of heavy water worn gold per dish. As the wash was still dipping both south and east no driving could be done, and operations were confined to tracking the alluvial wash on north side of gutter, resulting in a good sample of coarse water worn gold being obtained.

At 343 ft level a xcut was driven 110 ft south & the New Pineapple reef again intersected & driven on 88 ft east and 310' west. The latter drive was large & well defined with some small patches of rich quartz. The eastern ^{reef in} drive

was not so well defined and was not persevered with chiefly through lack of capital and work was abandoned without probing the alluvial wash.

The New Pinafre ^{Reef} S.M. Co. from which upwards of 60,000^{lb} of gold were obtained and \$80,000 paid in dividends, was worked for a distance of 1400 ft along its course. The reef matter and enclosing strata were of a very soft nature and no doubt has been much denuded. The bed rock (Sandstone & slate) is first seen at 5 ft from surface where the alluvial wash contained good gold over a fair area. Going Eastward the ~~bottom~~ bed rock dipped very quickly under hard basalt and the wash was again seen at 200 ft from surface where it again carried good gold of a coarse, waterworn nature. This wash was worked out for a distance of 75' long by 65' wide, average thickness of wash 3' forming a well defined gutter with an easterly trend & dip. The best wash was crushed with the quartz obtained from slopes, & the poorer only was sluiced by which means 75^{oz} of gold was obtained. The wash having dipped under foot & being within 50' of boundary no further work was done Eastward.

Golden Heart Shaft - Diving east from this along East Clarence reef at 200 ft, basaltic clay was met with & driven across until bed rock was again met with, a blind shaft sunk in this to 56' proved the existence of heavy gravelly wash with payable prospects of coarse gold. To further prove this wash a new shaft was sunk sufficiently deep to work it a fair distance down the lead. In a rise from north went a heavy body of wash was met with and eventually connected with workings from Golden Heart Shaft. A well defined gutter was in evidence and the wash carried gold throughout, average thickness 6 ft but the prevalence of many immense boulders of sandstone and quartz, rendered the balance of wash too poor for successful working. Sluicing operations gave a splendid sample of water worn gold, the heaviest spec obtained being 2 dwts total gold obtained. Unfortunately the Big War broke out when work was being proceeded with, and being dependant on calls, which were not responded to, the lot was forced to close down.

The Leproy Deep Leads Co - Set out to prove the wash about a mile down the Lead and had sunk a main shaft about 280 ft with a view to cut when sufficient depth was reached. (This shaft is admirably situated not only to prove the Deep Lead in an easterly direction but also the many reefs in proximity in a southerly direction.) The Big War was also responsible for this mine closing down, as calls being required were not responded to.

It remains for a strong Co^y with sufficient capital to complete the job and if this is done in a systematic manner there seems little room for doubt that it will be repaid a thousand fold for their outlay. That this would be so is the considered opinion of all those conversant with the field, and this opinion I most decidedly endorse.

Mowbray, Tas
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