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REPORT
ON
RECONNAISSANCE OF
LOWER PART
OF
GORDON RIVER VALLEY

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Gordon R. Valley

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22nd January, 1957

Report on Reconnaissance of Lower Part of Gordon River Valley

Dates of Examination: 6th January to 11th January and 13th January to 18th January, 1957.

Party Leader: D. Sampey

Personnel Employed: P. Goscombe (Student) and J. White (Bushman)

Man Days in the Field: 36

Location of Camps: (1) At Eagle Creek. (2) Tourist Hut near Sir John Falls.

Means of Transport and Supply: Transport by motor launch "Yvonne". Supplies dropped by helicopter.

General Topography of the Area: The valley of the Gordon River is approximately one to two miles wide with heavily timbered ridges and river flats. The river serves as an excellent highway.

Geological Investigations and Findings:

(1) Gordon Limestone crops out along the river from approximately half a mile below Eagle Creek to about a quarter of a mile below Butler Island. This dips at 20° to 30° to the west. From Butler Island up to the first rapids (23 miles from mouth) Caroline Creek Sandstone dips approximately 20° to the west. Max Banks of the Tasmanian University states that fossiliferous Caroline dipping east crops out at Pyramid Island at the mouth of the Franklin River. Downstream from Eagle Creek quartzite is the only rock seen and it dips 10° to 20° to the west where

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dips can be seen. This quartzite looks like the Crotty Quartzite through binoculars but without a punt we were unable to collect specimens.

(2) A traverse was made up Cataract Creek for a distance of approximately 3 miles. This work was made much easier by the fact that we met two prospectors on their way to the Jane River goldfield for three weeks. These prospectors know of the Special Prospectors Licence and saw the Mines Department just before leaving Hobart. They had spent three weeks in January, 1956, cutting out old log tracks along Cataract Creek and gave me detailed instructions on how to follow these tracks.

The rocks here are all Caroline Creek Sandstones in which it is difficult to pick up bedding except near the mouth of the creek. In one locality there is a band of pyritic shaley sandstone with indefinite edges approximately 5 ft. wide. Parallel to the Gordon River and 200 yards south of it there is a low east west trending ridge of lignitic shale containing pyrite and hematitic staining. I think these are Tertiary shales. Old logging tracks expose these shales to a depth of 12 ft.

(3) A traverse was attempted up Aspro Creek which flows eastwards into the Gordon River one mile above Lake Point. One and a half days were spent here and since we made less than a quarter of a mile progress the attempt was abandoned as I consider that the information to be obtained would not warrant the expense. I did not attempt to traverse Ghost Creek as Jim White, who has worked there, assures me that the going would be even more difficult. From the look of the photos and the mouth at the Gordon I would agree with him.

(4) A traverse was made up Spence Creek to try to locate Bright Creek and find out what rock types are exposed. It took three days to progress one and a half miles from the Gordon though this is approximately four miles along the

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river, this is as far as one can travel and back again in one day. It would take at least three days to cut a track so that a pup tent and supplies could be packed to this point. At this point a medium sized creek flows in from the eastern bank and contains water which has a mineral taste. Since Ron Abel states that Bright Creek is four miles up the Spence this creek could be Bright Creek. The water was tested with dithizone and gave a negative result. The rocks here were quartzites dipping to the west at 10° to 15°. Further downstream interbedded quartzite sandstone and shaley limestones occur. Some fossils from this area were shown to Max Banks of the Tasmanian University and he said that they look like Silurian fossils.

D. Sempey
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