000

913001 Q65 ,66

Warner L.D. Area.
Jane River.

71-727

Preliminary Report on E.L. 9/70, West Tasmania

for Dr. I. Stahle

M. Solomon

January 1971

AMG REFERENCE POINTS ADDED

INTRODUCTION

The exploration licence covers 126 square miles of rugged country between Mt. Elliott and the Prince of Wales Range (Fig. 1). Gold has been won from alluvial workings near Warnes Lookout (in addition to those in Reward Creek), along Ridge Creek and Peak Creek, and south of Algonkian Rivulet (Fig. 1). Aerial reconnaissance also indicates quite extensive old alluvial workings several miles south of the exploration licence and west of the Prince of Wales Range. Cinnabar has been reported from near Reward Creek and local prospectors are supposed to have found galena-bearing veins near the Jane River. Prior to visiting the area, considerable efforts were made to discover the precise location of this galena but without success.

The area was visited on January 6th and 7th, using helicopter transport, with the purpose of trying to find the reported galena mineralization and assess the economic potential of the licence area. It was decided to inspect the area south of Warnes Lookout for three reasons, viz. (a) most of the gold had been won in this region, (b) the galena was vaguely reported to occur somewhere west of Reward Creek, and (c) aerial photographs indicated fairly large cleared areas that would enable rapid geological reconnaissance. Unfortunately, it was found that the cleared areas were heavily overgrown with bauera, tea-tree and young eucalypts, and progress at all times was extremely slow and physically exhausting. The average rate of progress worked out at 500-600 yards per hour!

PREVIOUS REPORTS

Apart from reports on the Reward Creek gold workings, the only report on the area is a general review by Blake, written in 1936.

GEOLOGY

The rocks are of Precambrian age and consist of quartzites, breccias, quartz schists, phyllites, dolomites and argillaceous dolomites. The main ranges trend with the regional NNE strike and consist of quartzites and quartz schists with a strong foliation, and the lower areas consist of complexly interbedded phyllites, thin quartzites and dolomites. It was not possible to map the structure in detail but clearly the rocks are intensely and multiply folded on NNE axes.

Most of the alluvial gold occurs in gravels over dolomitic rocks, mainly because the dolomites occur in areas of low relief (Fig. 1). No primary gold sources have been reported but I suspect that the alluvial gold has been derived from numerous small gold-quartz veins in quartzites on the western flank of the Prince of Wales Range, where there is probably a major fault zone.

No metallic mineralization was encountered during this reconnaissance trip, nor was any evidence found that might indicate the presence of such deposits. One of the best possibilities for

mineralization in this area would be the presence of granitic rocks intruding the dolomite (such as occurs at King Island, Mt. Bischoff, Renison Bell, etc.) but no signs of granitic rock were found on the aerial photographs or during ground reconnaissance.

ECONOMIC POTENTIAL

It must be emphasised that the following conclusions are based only on minimal reconnaissance work.

The lack of observed primary mineralization, the absence of granite, and the highly deformed nature of the rocks all serve to highlight the general barren nature of this area. Some gold has been won from alluvial workings in several places and doubtless there is more gold in these areas but the total recovery has been relatively small and the richest workings appear to have been in Reward Creek, which I assume is already available to the syndicate.

Given easy access, I would recommend a more careful assessment of the alluvial gold potential south of Warnes Lookout (and extending down the Maxwell River) but the exceptionally thick undergrowth (even for the West Coast of Tasmania) and the necessity to use helicopters would make this a very expensive undertaking. In view of the relatively minor rewards to be won from such a programme, it is not recommended at this stage.

It is impractical to continue the search for the galena mineralization without further knowledge of its location, and it may be worth coming to some arrangement with the gentlemen involved

(Johnson and Clark) whereby activity is continued on a joint-venture basis.

M. Solomon.

AMG REFERENCE POINTS ADDED

Faults

Dolomitic

Structural Trends

Workings

AMG
418350mE
5309375mN

Jane River

Thirkells Creek

Lyell Highway

Track to

Warnes Lookout 1682'

Mt. Norway

Reward Creek

Algonkian Mt. 3500'

AMG
412288mE
5300477mN

Jane River

Peak Creek

Ridge Creek

Algonkian Rivulet

PRINCE OF WALES RANGE

Maxwell River

T N

913006

0 1 2
MILES

5 cm

005

EL 9/70