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POSSIBLE DREDGING AREA, LOWER RINGAROOMA RIVER

by R. Jack.

To determine the approximate area of river flats available for dredging, a traverse was run for 4½ miles along the lower Ringarooma River starting three mines downstream from Gladstone in NE Tasmania. (See Figure 13).

The flood plain along this section of the river varies from a few feet to over 300 yards in width. It consists of a series of

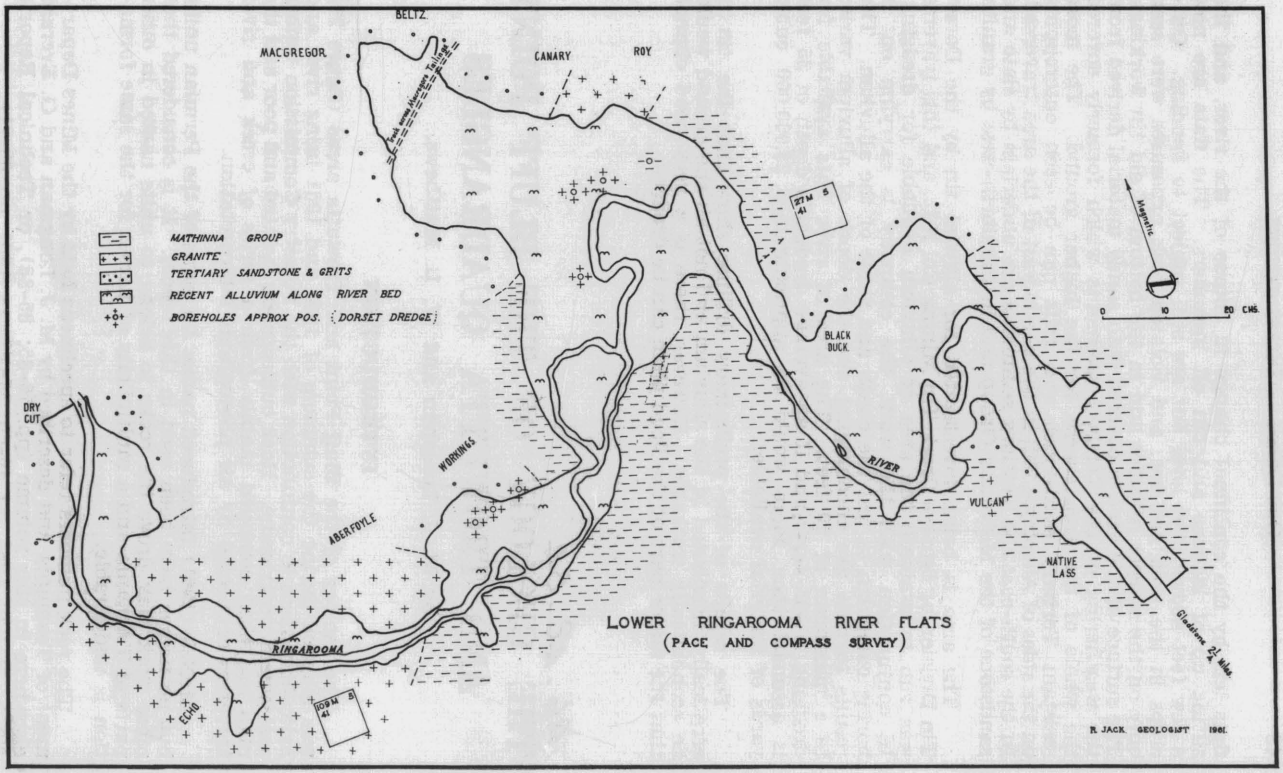

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FIGURE 13.

flats left by the continual change in course of the river, and the silting up of lagoons and cut off meanders. The flats are now a few feet above river level but are still subject to flooding. Outcrops in the area are few, and isolated rock exposures were seen only on the steeper hillsides and in the bottom of old tin workings. The surface of the area is covered with sandy material derived from the weathering of the Tertiary sediments which formerly covered the whole of the area except for the higher ground. The more resistant Tertiary sandstones and grits can be seen outcropping on the sides of Aberfoyle Hill in the north-west of the area traversed. In the south-east the Tertiary sediments are underlain by slate and sandstone of the Mathinna Group and in the north-west by granite.

The area is being investigated for alluvial tin by the Dorset Tin Division of Storeys Creek Tin Mining Co. N.L., and this traverse was run to evaluate the area of alluvium available for dredging. In conjunction with the work, the company is carrying out a boring campaign to test the depth and value of the alluvium. The results to date are encouraging and the depth of alluvium varies to a maximum of 50 feet. The area of river flats available for dredging is 485 acres and if an average dredgable depth of 35 feet is assumed then there would be approximately 23,000,000 cubic yards of material available.

The results of the preliminary drilling show that the tin is erratically distributed in the alluvium and not all the ground would be economically workable. However, there is a very good chance that the major part of the flood plain can be dredged.