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TITANIUM BEARING MATERIALS IN TASMANIA

Titanium Bearing Concentrates : Concentrates containing titanium are not produced in Tasmania at the present time.

Rutile Deposits: The two most important localities are Clayton Rivulet in the north, and the Lewis and Hudson River Valleys near Rocky Cape on the West Coast. Other localities are Browns Plains (north-west) Rocky Cape and Penguin River (north) Moorina (north-east) and Lymington (south).

In the northern, north-western, and western districts, the rutile is found in alluvial deposits. Pre-Cambrian schists occur in the immediate vicinity of the alluvial deposits and the rutile appears to have been derived from these schists.

In the Lewis and Hudson River Valleys the rutile occurs in quartz sands associated with smaller amounts of cyanite and almandite. The value of the sands is not known but an analysis, of clean rutile concenttates gave a result of 99.2% titanium dioxide.

Ilmenite Deposits : Ilmenite occurs at many localities in Tasmania. It is found almost entirely in alluvial deposits associated with other metallic minerals such as cassiterite, chromite, picotite, magnetite etc. At the Mount Ramsay bismuth Mine, it was stated to occur fairly abundantly in a hornblende rock.

The chief localities are Naracoopa (King Island), Blue Tier, Denison and Georges Bay (north-east), Blythe River and Mt. Claude (north) Dundas and Heazlewood (north-west) Arthurs Lake (central) and Lymington (south).

The Naracoopa Deposits : occur at the mouth of the Fraser River and contain ilmenite, cassiterite, gold, monazite, molybdenite etc., the ilmenite and cassiterite being the most plentiful minerals. This deposit was worked for tin being known as the British Flag Tin Mine. L.L. Waterhouse in 1915 reported as follows:-

".....The deposit consists essentially of ilmenite, and carries both tin and gold, the cassiterite being very finely divided the gold fine and flakey. Monazite is also present. As a result of the small amount of work done it is said that about three (3) tons of tin oxide was sent away for treatment. The attempt to work the deposit failed, but the deposit is certainly worth further attention. The appliance used for concentrating appear to have been crude, and skilled labour unobtainable on the Island for this class of work. Values are said to have been proved for about a mile in length, and over a width of about 150 feet, but it is doubtful if the flat was ever properly prospected. The deposit forms part of a raised beached, and is about 15 feet above present sea-level...."

The land is held under lease 9620/M at present in the name of J.McK. Bowling.

The Arthur's Lake Deposit : consists of ilmenite and quartz sand and is stated to cover the floor of the upper lake. An analysis of a clean ilmenite concentrate yielded 25.74% titanium.

The other deposits generally occur as alluvial ores along the courses of the present streams.

Sgd. P.B. Nye
GOVERNMENT GEOLOGIST

Hobart. 9/6/26