

NOTES ON A. NEVILLES PROSPECT
WINKLEIGH

Situation -

The area is freehold property situated on the north side of the road about 6 miles from Beaconsfield.

The point on which prospecting operations have been in progress is situated within a few hundred yards of the road, passing through Winkleigh and Glangarry joining the Min Launceston-Beaconsfield Road at Exeter.

General statement -

For a considerable time past Messrs. A. Neville and party have been engaged in carrying out some prospecting work on a quartz reef outcrop on the property. So far as is known no prospecting work has previously been done on the locality, it being situated on the fringe of a fairly extensive area of cultivated land.

Messrs. Neville and party's operations have been confined to driving a shallow adit into the hillside on the course of the quartz reef which varies in width from one to two feet. This opening has been extended a distance of approximately 18 feet. The reef so far as driven on, although somewhat broken, is persistent. It assumes a strike almost due north with little or no underlie. The enclosing wall rock consists of light grey laminated slate. In the short distance driven on the reef a number of small lateral veins can be seen, these being offshoots from the main reef and dip away at varying angles on either side.

The work so far done has been confined to the work mentioned, nothing in the way of prospecting to trace the reef on its course has been carried out.

The quartz is of very vitreous character, the only visible associated mineral being small quantities of iron pyrites.

Samples of the quartz exposed at the outcrop and in the face of the drive were taken by the writer and assayed at the Geological Laboratory, Launceston, returned a trace of silver, gold nil.

The facilities for prospecting the reef by means of tunnelling on the line of strike in a northerly direction are very favourable.

There are no known records of any discovery of gold in the locality.

Mr. A. Neville states that some samples he took from the reef in the vicinity of the tunnel which were assayed at the Geological Laboratory, Launceston, contained appreciable quantities of gold.

Further prospecting along the outcrop is necessary before the extension of the tunnel is justified.

For a considerable distance above the tunnel on the hillside considerable quantities of quartz rubble is shewn about the surface indicating the extension of the reef in

that direction. At one point on the hillside above the tunnel, what appears to be the outcrop of a parallel reef has been exposed on the surface. A sample taken from this gave a negative result for gold.

Recommendations -

There is no definite indication or evidence that the locality is gold bearing. In carrying out prospecting operations on an area of this description, it is essential that the initial work should be confined to surface prospecting by trenching or sinking shallow holes along the strike of the reef and by that means tracing it along its course, taking samples therefrom at frequent intervals for assay, noting carefully if any increase in gold content occurs at any particular spot, and if so follow up with further work and sampling.

Unless by this means better prospects of gold are located it would not be advisable to persevere driving the tunnel with the hope of locating payable gold on it.

Prospecting in the locality should be carried out with a view of locating parallel reefs.

A useful method of prospecting for gold is to pan off dish samples of the rubble in the vicinity of the reef outcrops. If the reef is gold bearing it will invariably be shown by the presence of free gold in adjacent rubble.

The area warrants a thorough investigation in the way of surface prospecting.

J.B. Scott
STATE MINING ENGINEER

Mines Department,
Hobart.

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