

Mines Department,

Geological Survey Office.

Hobart, 7th July, 1931.

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HOBART.

RE "WILLIAMSFORD DEEP LEAD.

Further to my report of the 7th February I wish to submit the following additional notes. In conversation with a Mr. Martin, who actually worked in the old shaft (see shaft "B" my sketch plan 7-2-31) I obtained the following information:-

"The shaft B was originally commenced by a miner or prospector named McCormack who had made two previous attempts to locate the lead. McCormack's first attempt was the sinking of a shaft situated some distance to the N.W. of "B" (position uncertain); he encountered bedrock at a depth of 15' without having encountered any wash. A second shaft was then commenced at a point a little to the S.E. of his first shaft; bedrock was met at 25' without disclosing payable wash. McCormack then commenced to sink a third shaft, "B", but for some reason did not complete it.

In 1905, during a strike at the Hercules Mine, a party of miners, of which Martin was a member, unwatered the shaft "B" and commenced sinking operations. According to Martin the shaft was deepened to 55'. The high reef country was met at 50'; this came in on the west side of the shaft and was dipping at a very steep angle to the east, the top of the wash was exposed in the bottom of the shaft. Martin stated that the party drove in a southerly direction from the bottom of the shaft; no mention was made of any northerly driving. The amount of gold won from the shaft was stated to be 11 ozs.

This account does not agree with the information I obtained previously. In fact there are so many contradictory accounts that one is in doubt as to which is the correct one. Martin also mentioned another shaft supposed to be located near the "Hercules Send Off".

Mr. J. Fox, who recently applied for assistance to drive an adit at Rosebery, informed me that it was he who drove the adit "C". He stated that the wash obtained from the adit was too poor to warrant further work.

In connection with the shaft being sunk by the "Deep Lead Prospecting Syndicate" the following notes may be of interest.

Sinking operations were commenced on the 30th March 31 and a three compartment shaft 10' X 4' was sunk to a depth of 32' through soft clays in which an occasional boulder was embedded. From 32' to 35' a band of wash was encountered which carried a little gold. At 35' clays were again met with and sinking operations continued to a depth of 53'; at this depth a heavy flow of water was

encountered which filled the shaft to within 15' of the surface; the country passed through from 35' to 53' was soft clay.

Up to this time a windlass was being used on the shaft but when the water filled the shaft it was decided to erect a poppet head and instal an electric friction winch. This work was in progress on the 18th May and was completed on the 4th June. Baling was then commenced, a 36 gal. bucket being used. The rate of baling was approximately 1000 gals. per hour. This lowered the water a little and also lowered the water in the old shaft by approximately 6', but the method proved inadequate and it was decided to instal a pump. Some few days prior to June the 16th a boiler and a three inch Cameron Pump (capacity 5000 gals. per hour.) were installed. After pumping for about two weeks, during which time some trouble was experienced with the pump and the boiler, the bottom of the shaft was reached. During this time the water in the old shaft had dropped to a distance of 11' to 13' from the surface.

On Monday the 22nd June, L. Thomas descended the shaft and found that the water was entering the shaft in a steady stream from the N.W. corner and that it was making at the rate of 32 gals. per minute i.e. approximately 2000 gals. per hour. This seems to indicate that the water is making along the contact of clays and the high reef country and that very little water is leaking in from the old shaft.

Matheson entered the shaft on Tuesday the 23rd and stated that he could feel the wash, by means of a jumper bar, some 3' odd below the bottom of the shaft i.e. at a depth from the surface of 56'.

When I left Williamsford repairs to the bottom of the shaft were being effected and it was hoped that sinking operations would be commenced in the course of a few days. I have sketched the site of the Deep Lead Syndicate's shaft on the plan forwarded on the 7-2-31. It is approximately 60' N and 40'W of the old shaft. The position has therefore been altered a little from the previous site selected. The fact that it is 110' further south is a distinct advantage but in moving further to the west I think that they may encounter the high reef country before reaching the bottom of the lead.

signed

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