

REPORT

on

F.G. BOND'S COAL PROPERTY, STRATHBLANE

I have to report that I made an examination of the workings of T.G. Bond, Prospecting Claim at Strathblane on the 8th instant in connection with his application for assistance under the provisions of the "Aid to Mining Act, 1927" to enable him to develop a coal seam occurring thereon.

Situation and Access.

The claim is situated four and a half miles south west of a jetty on the southern shore of Port Esperance to which it is connected by horse tram laid in alternate sections of steel and wooden rails. The tramway with a little attention in the way of maintenance work should prove suitable for transporting a reasonable quantity of coal daily from the Mines to the Jetty. Good facilities are stated to be provided for loading coal at the jetty to freight ships of fairly large capacity.

The distance from Hobart by road where it is crossed by the tramway leading from the mine to jetty is 57 miles. The distance by water is approximately 40 miles.

General Description.

A general description of the area is included in Mineral Resources No. 7 of the Geological Survey. The position is practically the same now as when that was compiled. A limited amount of work has been carried out recently by the applicant by driving a tunnel a distance of 100 feet in a southerly direction at a point a short distance east of the old workings.

The workings are situated on a ridge rising from the general level of the country traversed by the tramway the last section of which for a distance of a few chains assumes a fairly steep grade to connect with the bins on the hillside.

The application for assistance is for the purpose of extending a low level tunnel which is now in a distance of 300 feet to 500 feet when it is expected that the coal seam would be intersected. This tunnel is driven through a fairly solid sandstone. It is of roomy dimensions excepting for the last section of 50 feet which was contracted to small size.

The tunnel is considerably silted with sand caused through a vent to the surface allowing surface water to enter it. The tunnel is at an elevation of from 50 to 60 feet below the old workings. It is driven almost due west, its direction passing to the west of the latter by 100 feet or more; if, extended would serve a very useful purpose in prospecting the coal seam at a deeper level than it has hitherto been cut and in addition drain the workings, thereby facilitate the extraction of the coal without having to resort to pumping which was necessary under the former scheme of working.

The old workings consist of a dip tunnel following the coal seam in a southerly direction.

These workings being filled with water are inaccessible. The tunnel is stated to have been extended a distance of 90 feet.

A short distance easterly the applicant drove a tunnel, in a southerly direction a distance of about 100 feet. At about 50 feet from the entrance the coal seam was intersected and then followed on the dip of approximately 1 in 7 for a similar distance. The coal bed here ranged up to a thickness of 4 feet, in the face of the tunnel it had contracted to a little over 3 feet. The accumulation of surface water necessitates the provision of a small hand/to drain the tunnel.

pump

Quality of the Coal.

There appears to be no doubt regarding the favourable quality of the coal recently mined from the tunnel referred to. The correspondence on the file herewith deals with that question.

Application for Assistance.

Taking all factors into consideration the conclusion I have come to is that to open up and otherwise develop this coal bed is beyond the resources of a party of men without the necessary capital to carry out the work. The amount that could be advanced under the provision of the Aid to Mining Act would probably prove to be insufficient to develop and put the mine in a position that would enable a regular output of coal to be drawn therefrom.

I am of the opinion that an undertaking of the kind is one which calls for control by a Company or Syndicate with financial resources sufficient to meet all expenditure necessary as well as to organise the sale and distribution of the coal produced. The quality of the coal and thickness of the seam warrants its further development.

Signed J.E. Scott  
STATE MINING ENGINEER

Mines Department,  
HOBART.

21/10/31