

# RECENT GOLD DISCOVERY REPORT ON WESTERN TIERS

The writer made a brief examination of the locality in the Western Tiers 3rd inst on which a recent discovery of gold was reported by W. & P. Flaherty of Cressy. The examination was necessarily brief being a day trip only from Cressy, the time actually occupied on the spot was about four hours.

## Situation and Access

The area is situated about 6 miles due east of the northern extremity of Arthur Lakes. It can be reached by road from Cressy to the Glen Estate, by car for the first stage of the journey, a distance of 14 miles. The last section of a few miles of the road is in a rough unformed state. From the Glen the remaining distance is 10 miles following the route of the old surveyed road to the Steppes. This portion of the road can be negotiated on horse back.

A track branching south westerly from the Steppes road at a point near the summit of the ridge leads to the site of the discovery. The distance therefrom is about a mile, descending to the Valley of Lake River.

The altitude at the highest point on the road is approximately 1200 feet above sea level.

The discovery was made on purchased land, owned and charted in the name of G.W. Casey. This block of land is bounded on the Southern side by Lake River which at that point flows in a direction nearly due east for about a mile thence assumes a northerly course to join the South Esk near Longford. The locality could also be reached by following the road from the Steppes towards Cressy and turning off at the point referred to. The distance from the Steppes would be less than from Cressy.

## Geological Notes.

The deposit consists of Tertiary drift composed of ironstone grit, water worn pebbles of sedimentary rocks, quartzite etc., with an appreciable mixture of white quartz rubble in a more or less angular condition. The largest sized pieces of the drift would not exceed 1½ inches in diameter and represent but a small proportion of the whole.

The free drift as distinct from the underlying clayey material so far as is at present known is confined to a very shallow surface deposit, free of any superficial covering. It contains sufficient earthy material to promote growth of native grasses and shrubs. Its width has not been definitely established but from information supplied by the prospectors it covers a strip of about a chain wide over a considerable distance in length.

It would appear from the brief investigation made that this strip of ground represents material deposited on a former course of Lake River forming the inner part of a

flat terrace now represented by lightly timbered grass land. The terrace at its widest part is about 10 chains or more from the present course of the River. From there in a South-westerly direction it contracts in width until it converges with the River where the latter emerges from a gorge in the hilly wooded country in that direction;

Dish prospects of the drift indicate considerable variation in the distribution of gold which occurs in fairly coarse, more or less irregularly shaped grains of varying sizes, some pieces exceeding the size of wheat. The surface where the drift occurs is not more than 15 feet above River level. The gold appears to be confined to the strip of ground referred to on the inner edge of the terrace, beyond this the ground rises westerly from the River Valley on diabase covered slopes.

The country rock exposed on the opposite bank of river consists of grey slate. Several white quartz reef outcrops have been discovered here on which some work has been carried out many years ago. A sample of stone from one of these assayed at the Mines Department Laboratory, Launceston returned, Gold 1 dwt. 13 grs. Silver 5 dwts. 17 grs. per ton.

Small boulders of fine grained granite occur in the vicinity. Mr. Casey, the owner of the land on which the gold occurs states that an outcrop of this rock occurs at a point about a mile away to the South.

The geologic relations and the classification of the rocks referred to can only be determined by a close examination of the locality and surrounding country, which would occupy some considerable time to complete.

#### Prospecting Operations

At the time of my visit about a dozen men were engaged in preliminary prospecting operations. The gold bearing drifts being apparently limited in depth, prospecting work was not sufficiently advanced to warrant preparations being made for work of a permanent character.

The brown clay underlying the drift has been tested only in one place by sinking to depth of 9 feet. It is stated that it carried prospects of fine gold but the shaft did not reach bottom, consequently its depth and character have not been proved.

It is possible that the surface drift material is a residual or concentrated deposit derived from the underlying clay. Further investigation is necessary to determine this question.

The prospects obtained are sufficiently encouraging to justify a continuance of prospecting work in the vicinity of the discovery as well as a comprehensive examination of the mineral possibilities of the district/of determining the extent of the alluvial gold and the source whence it was derived.

with a view

On the eastern extremity of the gold bearing drift falling into the valley of the River a prospector was engaged

in testing the bed of a small stream.

Some very encouraging prospects of coarse slugs of gold were being obtained here. The drift material being very scant, lying amongst the broken surface of outcropping diabase rock.

Some small streams on the higher ground would afford a limited water supply for sluicing purposes but this source would probably be intermittent.

Evidence of former prospecting work stated to have been carried out 50 years ago can be seen on the Southern or opposite side of the River where the gold was recently located.

A good deal of the land in the district consists of purchased areas, consequently prospectors cannot investigate these without the necessary permit in order to comply with the provisions of "The Mining Act, 1929".

In conclusion I consider that it would be unwise for prospectors to proceed there with the hope of winning sufficient gold to make a living. Others who might be in a position to go and carry on without depending on that should make sure of having the necessary authority to enter and search on private land.

The recent reported discovery is not the first time that gold has been known to exist in that locality. The owner of the land (Mr. Geo. Casey) states that it was found there over 30 years ago. There are however, no indications of former work on the drifts now being tested by Messrs. Casey, Flaherty and others.

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STATE MINING ENGINEER

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