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A NOTE ON THE REPORTED TIN LODE NEAR BATHURST HARBOUR

As a result of Mr. H.E. Brock's intention to undertake the testing and development of a reported exposure of a tin lode of considerable dimension, said to be exposed during sluicing operations carried on by the New Harbour (Development) No Liability, about the end of September last, the writer accompanied Mr. Brock's party to the area for the examining and recommending the best method of testing the occurrence.

The area is situated in the isolated south west of Tasmania, West of Moth Creek and about half a mile south of the lagoon at the head of Melaleuca Inlet, a part of Bathurst Harbour and reached only by means of small fishing boats. At the present time the area actually worked by the Company is included in a mineral lease of 80 acres charted in the name of H.E. Evenden, while the surrounding ground is held under a Special Prospecting Licence of 2,000 acres charted in the name of B. Morrison.

The only rock types exposed in the area are the Proterozoic schists and allied types. The most common type is a white quartz schist, with abundant development of mica along the schist planes. Another prominent type usually associated with the quartz schist is a dense, compact white quartzite. Argillaceous schists are also present. Where exposed in the workings the schists have a general north-north-east strike with a south-south-east dip at very high angles. Owing to the distortion accompanying minor folding and puckering there is considerable variation both in strike and dip.

The ground worked by the New Harbour (Development) No Liability Company, during sluicing operations for alluvial or more correctly detrital tin, is situated on a low prominence with a general north-south trend, approximately ten chains west of Moth Creek. The extent of the ground treated would not exceed one acre while the average depth is about eight to ten inches.

Numerous shafts and pits have been put down to test the extent of the detrital deposit and it is reported to cover an area of approximately six chains wide by a mile in length. Although fair prospects of detrital tin were obtained from the few shafts tried, the observed depth of material to be treated did not exceed one foot. It was this shallowness, combined with the difficulty of cleaning up the rough bottom presented by the upturned edges of the schists that forced the Company to abandon operations.

Although specimen tin is fairly abundant in the detrital material, not the slightest evidence of a tin lode in place could be observed. The reported "lode" apparently being masses of the dense, compact white quartzite associated with the quartz schists.

Therefore, as the source of the detrital tin appears to be in numerous veinlets, rather than in veins of economic importance, the only chance of locating a deposit of sufficient size and value to warrant further exploitation would be to discover a stockwork of veinlets of such intensity that they would be mined as a whole.

However, the prospects are not sufficiently encouraging to warrant any great expenditure in the search for such a deposit, but as the ground would be suitable for a small working party, sluicing operations may ultimately expose such an occurrence.

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