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MEMORANDUMBRICKMAKING MATERIALS IN VICINITY
OF HOBART

The Division of Industrial Development through the Bureau of Mineral Resources, Canberra, is seeking information as to the location of possible brickmaking materials near the main centres of population in Australia. All they require is the indication of these localities on maps they have sent for the purpose. However, a brief account of such sources should be made for Departmental Records.

Companies now operating in Hobart District:

At the present time, three companies are interested in the manufacture of bricks at Hobart. Two are now operating and a third, while making bricks in the Dover District, has a plant in the course of construction at Hobart.

1. Crisp and Gunn Brickworks, Knocklofty

The Company is working two shale seams in the Ross Sandstone Series. Above these seams is a large overburden of sandstone which is sold for various purposes such as filling, building etc. The shale, plus the correct mixture of sandstone, is crushed and mixed with water and the bricks mechanically moulded. They are then dried and burnt in two continuous Hoffman Kilns. The Company has large reserves of shale.

Near Kingston a shale bed in the sandstone has weathered to a whitish clay with low iron content. The Company has in the past utilised this clay for making light coloured bricks. The Hobart Public Hospital is build of bricks made from this clay.

2. Hobart Brick Company is operating a quarry and making bricks at Giblin Street, New Town. The shales that are crushed for brickmaking differ from those at Knocklofty in that they belong to the Felspathic Sandstone Series or the Coal Measure Series of Tasmania. Indeed bands of inferior coal are visible in the face. These shales are more sandy than those of the Ross Series and break with a more conchoidal fracture. They do not appear to be as suitable for brickmaking and the Company is also utilising Ross Series shales

which they obtain from a quarry at the end of Poets Road on Knocklofty and which they mix with the New Town Shales in a proportion of roughly one to three. In portion of the quarry at New Town, the sandstone overburden is increasing and that portion may soon have to be abandoned. The bricks are dried and burnt in a continuous Hoffman Kiln.

3. Granton Brick Pty Ltd.

This Company is already manufacturing bricks at Dover; and at Granton is erecting a large plant for the manufacture of bricks and pipes. Several small Beehive Kilns are in the course of erection and the site has been cleared for the building of a large Tunnel Kiln. This like the Hoffman is a continuous process, but here the bricks themselves move slowly through the different heats. Shale beds in the Ross Sandstone Series occur on the Company's property and these they intend to utilise for the production of bricks. Pipes will be made from a weathered shale seam near the East Coast Road, two miles beyond Bellerive.

Further Supplies

On the attached map is shown the Ross Sandstone Series and the Felspathic Sandstone Series of the Triassic. These rocks contain beds of shale suitable for brickmaking but these beds do not of course always show on the outcrop. The position of some outcrops adjacent to roads is shown on the accompanying plan. The shales are very brittle, particularly near the surface and easily break into small hackly pieces.

In the vicinity of Hobart are large areas of Permian Mudstones. As far as I can ascertain, these have never been tested for brickmaking and seemingly because of their extremely siliceous nature and hardness they would not prove suitable.

In the vicinity of the aerodrome at Cambridge are large areas of Tertiary sediments; sands, clays and gravels. It is reported that at one point, near the Seven Mile Beach Road, a well was sunk to a depth of 30 ft. in clay. This clay may be suitable for brickmaking.

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Hobart.