

UR 1952/17-19

Mr. L. Teakle of New Norfolk, and his associates, while prospecting in that district, have discovered some coal seams, south of Mount Lloyd. The locality, some fifteen miles by road and track from New Norfolk, lies near the headwaters of the right branch of the Plenty River, nearly 2,000 feet above sea level. The road from New Norfolk ascends rapidly in the first six miles to the plateau edge and continues a further four miles to the settlement of Mount Lloyd. From here a motor road can be followed a further mile and this then gives way to a thoroughfare for rough vehicles only, which ends at a hut near the southern limit of purchased land. Mr. Teakle and party have cut a track through rough country to the coal seams, a further mile and a half southward.

The outcrops investigated are on Crown land.

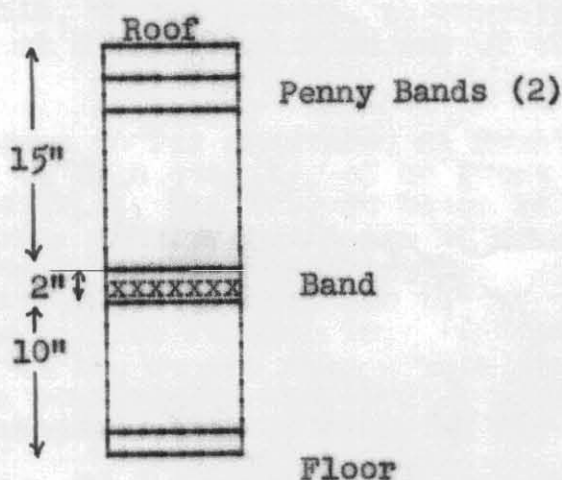
This is the first record of coal in this district, although a seam has been described as outcropping in the Derwent River near the Plenty Railway Station some twelve miles to the north.

GEOLOGY:

No geological survey has yet been made of this District, but it can be seen that the Mount Lloyd Range is composed of dolerite which here intrudes the New Town Coal Measures of the Triassic. As usual, the scree from the dolerite hills has rolled down over the contact and it is only in the creek beds that the felspathic sandstone outcrops in almost horizontal beds. Where the seams have been exposed there is about a foot of dolerite talus on the surface.

THE COAL SEAMS:

Two seams, and a possible third have been discovered by Mr. Teakle in this area. On the northern bank of a creek flowing westward from Mount Lloyd Range to the right branch of the Plenty River, a small cut has been opened to expose a seam 27 inches wide (including bands as under)



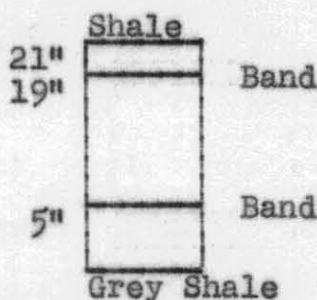
A sample taken across 25" (not including the 2" band) showed:-

Moisture	5.3%	Calorific Value	6890 B.Th.U's
V.C.M.	19.2	Sp. Gr.	1.72
F.C.	32.7		
Ash	42.8		
S.	0.3		

2.

There appears to be another seam of coal, less than one foot below this, but owing to the cut being near water level, it cannot be investigated here. However, another cut could be made farther down the creek.

Some 40 chains North West and at a lower contour level a second seam has been opened in a small bank. This is a narrow seam of 21 inches containing two small bands viz:



A sample across the seam showed.

Moisture	2.9%	Calorific Value 11,850 B.Th.U's
V.C.M.	16.6	
F.C.	64.4	
Ash	16.1	
S.	0.7	

The analysis show that these two seams are low-volatile coals. The analysis of the second seam is very close to that being worked at Sandfly.

This second seam is so situated in relation to the topography that, if it were wider, it perhaps could be developed as an opencut proposition. This however could only be determined by instrumental survey. The topography in the vicinity of the first seam is made up of steep sided valley walls; and this seam could be developed by adit openings.

The nearest coal measures that have been intensively investigated (at Lawrenny) contain eight distinct seams of which four have economic potentialities. Boring has indicated that these seams do not maintain constant width, nor are they a constant distance apart. It is not possible, at the moment, to correlate the two seams uncovered at Mount Lloyd with any of those known at Lawrenny.

The seams so far uncovered at Mount Lloyd are in one case not of high quality, of no great width and not easily accessible; but they do occur in the normal coal measure series and further seams of greater width may be discovered by further prospecting. The samples taken were almost at the outcrop and better figures may be obtained from samples further in. Although the place is inaccessible at the moment only a mile or two of road would need to be constructed and about 4 miles reconditioned to bring the deposits within 15 miles of New Norfolk.

Although the time may not be ripe for an accurate survey of the district, the interest in the area should not be allowed to lapse altogether. If more prospecting is undertaken it should be in the direction of uncovering further seams and the first step in this direction should be the investigation of the coal which appears to occur below the shale, forming the bottom of No. 1 Seam. This should be looked for a few chains further down the creek from the present opening.

It is of interest to note that the analysis of No. 2 Seam is very similar to that of Sandfly Coal. This coal because of its high percent of fixed carbon is largely used for hop drying. The main centres of the hop industry in Tasmania are within easy reach of Mount Lloyd.

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GEOLOGIST

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