REPORT 1946/3

PROGRESS REPORT ON TESTING OF BAUXITE DEPOSITS AT OUSE, TASMANIA NO. 2 AREA

by

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DEPARTMENT OF SUPPLY AND SHIPPING

Mineral Resources Survey Branch

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Testing commenced at the end of May, 1945, and 85 bore-holes and 24 shafts were put down in this Area under the supervision of Mr. H. B. Owen, Geologist of Mineral Resources Survey Branch of Department of Supply and Shipping. Seventy-four shafts had previously (1941 and 1942) been put down by the Mines Department of Tasmania - of these, 18 had either fallen in or been in-filled before the present testing campaign was started. Thus 165 bore-holes and shafts were available for sampling the bauxite.

Many of the bore-holes and shafts were sited to delineate the edge of the bauxite deposits and consequently some of them did not intersect bauxite. A total of 166 field log sheets (including one partly in-filled shaft) were prepared and sent in. Samples were taken from 119 bore-holes and shafts and sent to the Tasmanian Mines Department Laboratory. To date, 118 laboratory log sheets have been received and one (bore hole 85) has yet to come.

The campaign is almost complete, but two places have yet to be tested and possibly one shaft deepened to ensure the bottom of the bauxite was reached.

Progress reports including estimates of tonnage and grade of bauxite in No. 2 Area were prepared on the following dates -

18th July	(Nye and Owen)
17th August	(Owen)
11th September	(Nye)
25th September	(Nye),

and forwarded to the Commission.

The amount and grade have been calculated in the same manner as previously with the following results:-

Rejecting all bauxite with alumina content below 35% Al_2O_3.

Insoluble	...	6.2 per cent
Al_2O_3	...	41.1 " "
Fe_2O_3	...	26.6 " "
TiO_2	...	2.3 " "
Ignition Loss	...	22.3 " "
Thickness	...	7.5 feet
Amount	...	466,250 tons.

The amount is based upon 104 holes and shafts and the grade on 106 holes and shafts. Bauxite is present in 12 other holes and shafts but is too low grade to include in the calculations.

Rejecting bauxite in any one hole or shaft which would bring the average for that hole or shaft below 40% Al_2O_3.

Insoluble	...	7.3 per cent
Al_2O_3	...	42.5 " "
Fe_2O_3	...	26.2 " "
TiO_2	...	2.3 " "
Ignition Loss	...	23.1 " "
Thickness	...	7.4 feet
Amount	...	332,860 tons.

The amount is based on 75 holes and shafts and the grade on 77 holes and shafts. Bauxite is present in 41 bore-holes and shafts but is too low grade to include in the calculations.

Both amounts given on the preceding page are lower than the 479,500 tons of "solid" bauxite calculated by Mr. H. B. Owen in his report of 18th January, 1946, because he included all bauxite sampled without rejecting any because of its low grade. The amounts could be increased by adding Mr. Owen's estimates of 23,500 tons of boulders and 2,000 tons on Line 700N. They would then be 491,750 and 358,360 tons respectively, but the added amount of 25,500 tons would not have the same significance as regards grade as the original amounts.

OTHER AREAS

The drilling, shaft-sinking and sampling in the Ouse district will be completed by about the end of January. The amounts and grades of bauxite in each area will be calculated as analyses for each become available.

Mr. Owen has given, in his report of 18th January, estimates of the amount in most of the areas.

CANBERRA.
21st January, 1946.

(P. B. Nye)
Acting Director