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Report on Maintenance
Ora Banda United Mines Ltd.

by

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DEPARTMENT OF SUPPLY AND SHIPPING.

MINERAL RESOURCES SURVEY.

REPORT ON MAINTENANCE

ORA BANDA UNITED MINES LTD.

Report No. 1945/40.

Situation of Mine - One mile South East of Ora Banda, 22 miles by road West-Northwest, of Broad Arrow siding, which is 20 miles by rail North of Kalgoorlie.

Representatives - O'Dea & O'Dea, Union Bank Buildings, Hannan Street, Kalgoorlie.

Capital of Company - £400,000 Stg. incorporated in London. The State Mines Department has loaned the Company £17,400, which is secured by a mortgage on the plant.

Maintenance Commenced - June, 1943.

Average expenditure per month - (June 1943 to September 1944) £18.

Present basis of maintenance - One caretaker, who is paid £1 per week.

Number of men previously employed - 15 to 30. The production stage had not been reached, although methods of mining and treatment had been tested, allegedly with satisfactory results.

Number of men required to resume operations - 18.

Ore reserves - 350,000 tons, assaying 2 dwt. gold per ton. (Figures supplied by W.A. Mines Department).

Plant - Extensive system of dragline equipment attached to anchored masts, and a treatment plant designed for the application of a patent process, which consists of passing the oxidised ore over a bituminised roller to which the gold adheres. Other plant includes two diesel engines, other engines and mine equipment, stores and assay office.

Valuation of Plant - About £20,000 (Manager's rough estimate).

Capacity of Plant - 4,000 tons per month, working two shifts per day.

Mine Workings - The lode has previously been worked by underground mining methods to considerable depths. The present plant is designed to treat oxidised ore overlying and adjacent to the lode, presumably containing gold mainly of secondary origin. The overburden is stripped off and the soft ore hauled by overhead dragline scrapers to an ore bin on top of the treatment plant. Tailings are to be disposed of similarly by scrapers.

Comments - Data are insufficient to establish a satisfactory basis for the estimate of 2 dwt. grade for ore reserves, though a rough plan on the files in the Mines Inspectors' office shows a number of shafts and other samples averaging about 2 dwt. gold or a little more. Earlier reports on the files by Mines Inspectors indicate that these officers take a much less optimistic view than the Mine Manager of (a) tonnage and grade of ore reserves, and (b) efficacy of the treatment process. A trial run of 150 tons assayed 0.8 dwt. gold per ton.

No caretaker was on the job during our visit. The previous caretaker had died and his widow had applied for and was given the position, but she was at present absent on holiday attempting to restore her health. A local resident, living some distance away,

was "keeping an eye" on the plant. An adjacent property, only a few hundred feet away, was being worked (on surface only). There is much valuable equipment on the Ora Banda United property, which might easily be stolen.

Recommendation - Maintenance on the basis of one caretaker be continued, employment and payment of caretaker to be under the supervision of the Inspector of Mines Office, Kalgoorlie.

Date..... (Commonwealth Geologist).

Date..... (District Inspector of
Mines.)