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Notes on Bulong Vermiculite,
Western Australia

by

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DEPARTMENT OF SUPPLY AND SHIPPING.

Mineral Resources Survey Branch

NOTES ON BULONG VERMICULITE, WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

Report No. 1945/63.

The Bulong vermiculite deposit, which is situated 20 miles east of Kalgoorlie, was not visited, although it was discussed with members of the West Australian Mines Inspection Branch who were familiar with it. The lode apparently is exposed in only two places, the remainder of the outcrop being covered with soil, etc. The width at one place is about 3 feet, but in the workings off the shaft, which is 27 feet deep, the full width of the lode is in places not exposed and is apparently considerably more than 3 feet. The vermiculite is green in colour, with a somewhat chloritic appearance, and bears little resemblance to samples seen of the Young River vermiculite.

Bulong vermiculite has been sold to Non-Porite Ltd., Melbourne, to Re-Nu Synthetic Products Co. Pty. Ltd., Melbourne, to Newbolds, Sydney, to Hannan's Brewery, Kalgoorlie and to the Lake View and Star and South Kalgarli mining companies. Norman Hill & Co., Sydney, have recently been making enquiries from the owner of the deposit - R. L. Jones, Box 166, Kalgoorlie - regarding prices, conditions of production, etc., with a view to establishing an export market. Cartage from the mine to Kalgoorlie costs £1 per ton, and freight from Kalgoorlie to Fremantle 18/6 per ton.

Non-Porite Ltd., reported that although a sample gave satisfactory results, a bulk shipment was not of such good quality. H. A. Ellis, West Australian Geological Survey, considers that the Bulong vermiculite is not up to the Young River standard.

Hannan's Brewery, Kalgoorlie, used 60 tons of Bulong vermiculite, which they apparently processed themselves, for insulation. Lake View and Star have used it in lagging for boilers, etc., and the South Kalgarli Company have used it mixed with cement and some other ingredient for making cupels.

Jones stated that he has produced 150 tons from his shaft and that he has 400 to 600 tons developed ready for stoping. Mines Department records give total production from Bulong at 95 tons valued at £677. The accompanying photographs were provided by Mr. Jones.

CANBERRA, A.C.T.
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